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No primary school strike at least until early October

By DENNIS SMITH

Special to The Champion

Halton's public elementary teachers won't hold any walkouts at least until after negotiations slated for October 8, says a union leader.

Strike votes taken yesterday (Thursday) and Wednesday in Halton are being used to strengthen the position of teachers' negotiators, said the president of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario.

Results of the votes are expected to be made public today.

"A strike vote doesn't mean the next day teachers are out of classrooms," Phyllis Benedict said yesterday. "The talks would have to be at an absolute total impasse before we turn any type of sanction into action."

There would probably be no strikes until well after the October 8 date and then, only as a last resort, said Ms Benedict.

"No teachers want to trade their lesson plans for picket lines," she said. "But we need security in working conditions. And teachers and parents want to know how many kids will be in a class and how much preparation time teachers have."

Ms Benedict added the elementary teachers don't want to see their



Al Tanner

previous collective agreement stripped.

The union leader said earlier there has been agreement on most non-monetary items, but no deal was reached in areas of staffing, preparation time, benefits and salary. The board is also trying to reduce teachers' preparation time by 40 minutes per week.

She said Wednesday's information/strike vote meeting in Milton for north Halton teachers was well attended.

Teachers' comments strongly endorsed their negotiating team's approach, said Ms Benedict, but she would not speculate on strike vote totals.

The next negotiation date is a few weeks away because the

Halton District School Board is awaiting final numbers for its 1998 short-year budget.

"We're going to wait until they have a stronger financial picture," said Ms Benedict, who agrees with the delay.

Meanwhile, Halton's secondary teachers, who have threatened to participate in rotating strikes, aren't taking job action this week.

Local union representative Al Tanner said no strikes have been called and he's hopeful there won't be one before Tuesday's mediation talks.

Secondary teachers, in about 20 of 31 public school boards, are holding rotating one-day walkouts.

The strikes are being held on a board-wide basis, but are scheduled by the provincial union leaders. Halton's public secondary teachers have promised 24-hours' notice of any walkout.

"I would hope there's no strike before Tuesday, but personally, it's out of my control," said Mr. Tanner, president of the Halton district of the Ontario Secondary Schools Teachers' Federation. "I like to think we can go in and hammer out an agreement that day."

The public secondary teachers threatening job action work at boards where their workloads have been increased to seven classes from six over the course of a year.



TTY: 878-1657



2000

Celebration PLANNING MEETING

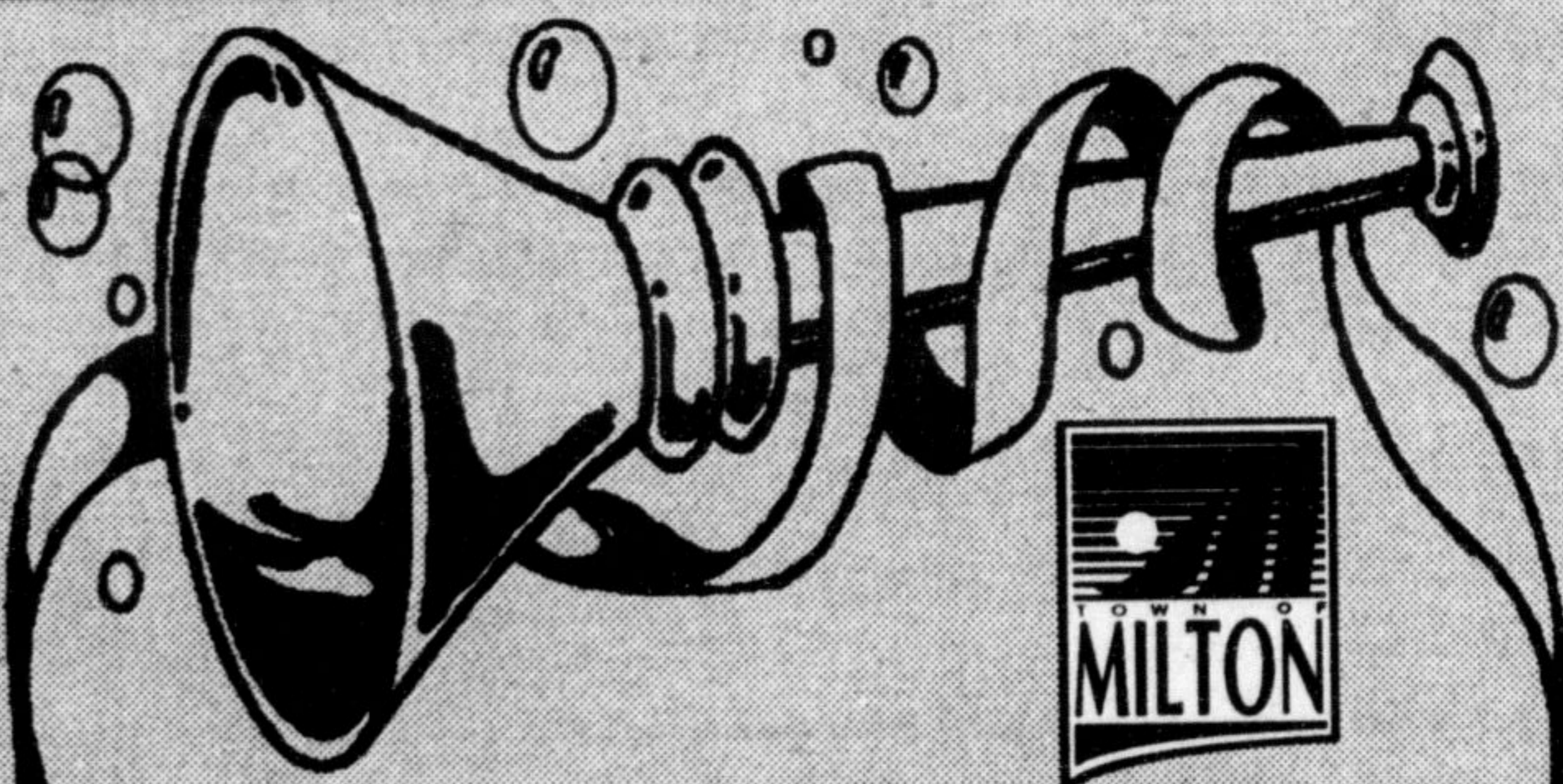
Tuesday
September 22, 1998
7-9pm

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invites all

interested individuals, service clubs, community organizations, businesses, faith organizations and sport groups to attend a

Planning Meeting for the Millennium Celebrations in Milton

The purpose of the meeting will be to organize a community team to coordinate the events and activities which will be held to recognize this historic event. Sub-committees will be formed and a workplan devised by those in attendance.

Please bring your ideas and suggestions!

For more information call
878-7252 x180

Property Tax Update....

The 1998 Final Tax due dates have been changed to October 30 and November 30, 1998. Tax bills will be mailed around the end of September. Should you not receive your tax bill by October 16, 1998, please contact the Corporate Services department at (905) 878-7252 ext. 393, and a statement will be made available to you.

Further to previous advertisements advising of the 1998 final tax rates, please be aware that a correction has been made. **The revised tax rates are as follows:**

Class	Rural	Rural with waste pickup	Urban Without waste pickup	Urban with waste pickup
1. Residential/Farm	1.272454	1.331012	1.311483	1.370041
-farmlands 1	.445359	.465854	.459019	.479514
-farmlands 11	1.102925	1.123420	1.116585	1.137080
2. Multi-Residential	2.445556	2.588666	2.540939	2.684049
3. Commercial	3.290484	3.375774	3.347330	3.432620
-vacant unit or excess land	2.303338	2.363041	2.343130	2.402833
-vacant land	2.303338	2.363041	2.343130	2.402833
-office building	3.290484	3.375774	3.347330	3.432620
-vacant unit or excess land	2.303338	2.363041	2.343130	2.402833
-parking lot	3.290484	3.375774	3.347330	3.432620
-shopping centre	3.290484	3.375774	3.347330	3.432620
-vacant unit or excess land	2.303338	2.363041	2.343130	2.402833
4. Industrial	5.334928	5.473120	5.427033	5.565225
-vacant unit or excess land	3.467704	3.557529	3.527572	3.617397
-vacant land	3.467704	3.557529	3.527572	3.617397
-farmland 1	.445359	.465854	.459019	.479514
-large industrial	5.334928	5.473120	5.427033	5.565225
-vacant unit or excess land	3.467704	3.557529	3.527572	3.617397
5. Pipeline	2.396682	2.458853	2.438119	2.500290
6. Farmlands	.318113			
7. Managed Forests	.318113			

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