

Battling tax caps

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Mandatory capping would make Halton pay the price for other regions' inability to deal effectively with CVA, said Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale.

"If the government has trouble with other regions then deal with them, but don't put my region or municipality in with them," she said. "The bigger issue is it's too late in the day. If you want us to look at other issues, do it in subsequent years. You don't have to take an elephant gun to the Region of Halton."

The Province also got a black eye from Oakville Councillor Kathy Graham.

Queen's Park is orchestrating "one size fits all," legislation she said. "It doesn't work for Halton residents at all."

After an almost three-hour debate, council unanimously approved sending a message to the Province asking that Halton be exempted from mandatory capping in recognition that its final tax bills for 1998 have already been sent.

They also voted to ask the Province to exclude all PIL properties from mandatory capping.



Cindy Lunau

Milton pushes for changes

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The Milton committee has tried to equalize that power in their latest report, to be sent to Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Al Leach.

"I'd ask we send a strong message that we support the GTSB" said Ward 3 Councillor Cindy Lunau, provided "that certain conditions are met."

The committee's conditions include:

- That the Halton landfill in Milton not be used by municipalities outside Halton
- That the GTSB not be able to impose taxes or levies.
- That representatives from the provincial and federal governments be at the GTSB table, along with representatives from the private sector. This way it is hoped they would share in the costs of major infrastructure changes.

• That voting policies change. As it stands, if two thirds of the GTSB members support a motion, it's carried. Since GTSB representation is weighted by population, that puts greater power in the hands of larger municipalities. Milton will recommend that the two-thirds rule still apply, but to the 32 municipal councils in the GTSB area, rather than just to popular representation.

• That the GTSB's power be extended to include utilities other than transit, such as water and sewage. This last recommendation sets Milton apart from the rest of Halton Region, which has called for decreasing the power of the GTSB rather than enhancing it.

Part of Milton's reasoning was to climb over the hurdles that have impeded Milton's growth in the past.

Ms Lunau called for a strongly worded report to be sent back to the Province.

Dateline

Friday Oct. 30

The Milton Resource Centre, 310 Main St. E., offers business consulting — 'Get Individual Self-Employment Information' — in one-hour appointments. For more information, call 876-9828.

Milton District High School holds a reception following graduation ceremonies at the Optimist Centre on Commercial Street from 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Invited are all graduates and their family, friends and teachers.

Saturday Oct. 31

Bethel United Church on Trafalgar Road in Drumquin holds a bazaar from 2 to 4 p.m. The sale features a bake table, deli, mince meat, crafts, white elephant table, vegetables, homemade pickles, relishes, jams, meat pies and new anniversary cookbooks. Coffee and tea are available.

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