

Milton reps like Halton

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Barry Lee. "They offer several suggestions but I think they ignored analyzing the model we already have," he said.

Mr. Lee accused Burlington of attempting a power grab while wanting to keep the comforts of the present system, such as the regionally run police services.

"I think they want the best of both worlds," he said.

Mr. Lee charged that a shortage of available development lands might be behind the city's desire for a change.

"It's all tied up with a possible deal with Flamborough, who probably don't want anything to do with it," said Mr. Lee.

"They (Burlington) want an opportunity to gain independence and more development land plus keep the goodies from the Region."

Mr. Lee said that all municipalities gain from being a part of the Region.

"I've never been one to deny that we in the north have benefited from being a part of the Region," he said. "I don't think there's a taxpayer in Halton who doesn't gain by having the Ford plant in Oakville."

Regional and local Councillor Rick Malboeuf said that while he doesn't agree with Burlington's approach, something should be done to pare down government.

Mr. Malboeuf suggested that Halton take a United States Senate style approach, giving each municipality equal standing — three representatives on council.

"I believe we have too many regional councillors," he said. "I think staff should look at reducing the size from 20 councillors to 12."

Mr. Malboeuf said representation should not be linked by population, with bigger municipalities having more councillors on board.

"It should be regardless of the size of the population," he said. "Each one should have equal representation."

Rather than the central services board proposed by Burlington, Mr. Malboeuf said council could look at eliminating the four municipalities in favor of one, amalgamated City of Halton.

"The Harris government has been saying we should have less and less government," he said. "So do we reduce one region or four municipalities?"

The three local politicians were united in their praise of Halton Region.

"The wheels aren't falling off of Halton, I can tell you that," said Mr. Krantz.

Mr. Lee said that few regions could boast the success rate of Halton.

"We have a triple A bond rating. We're in the top 10 of municipalities," he said. "They're maybe not perfect, but they can't be doing that much wrong."

Mr. Malboeuf agreed that Halton is a good deal for residents.

"The Region has proved to be cost-effective at a number of levels," he said.

All in place for contract vote

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per week. The board interpreted this by telling secondary school teachers they must teach seven out of eight classes, instead of the current six of eight like past years.

Teachers, who had been scheduled to instruct four periods in their first semester, had been teaching only three and were on strike for the fourth.

On October 13 the teachers resumed instructing the fourth assigned class they had been refusing

since the start of school. Teachers did not take part in any extra-curricular activities, such as sports.

The province then stepped in and told the board to devise a plan to make up 25 hours of lost instructional time. A scheme was subsequently created with input from the board, parent and school councils plus principals.

The union had been unwilling to discuss the plan since teachers felt make-up time was contingent on a negotiated settlement.

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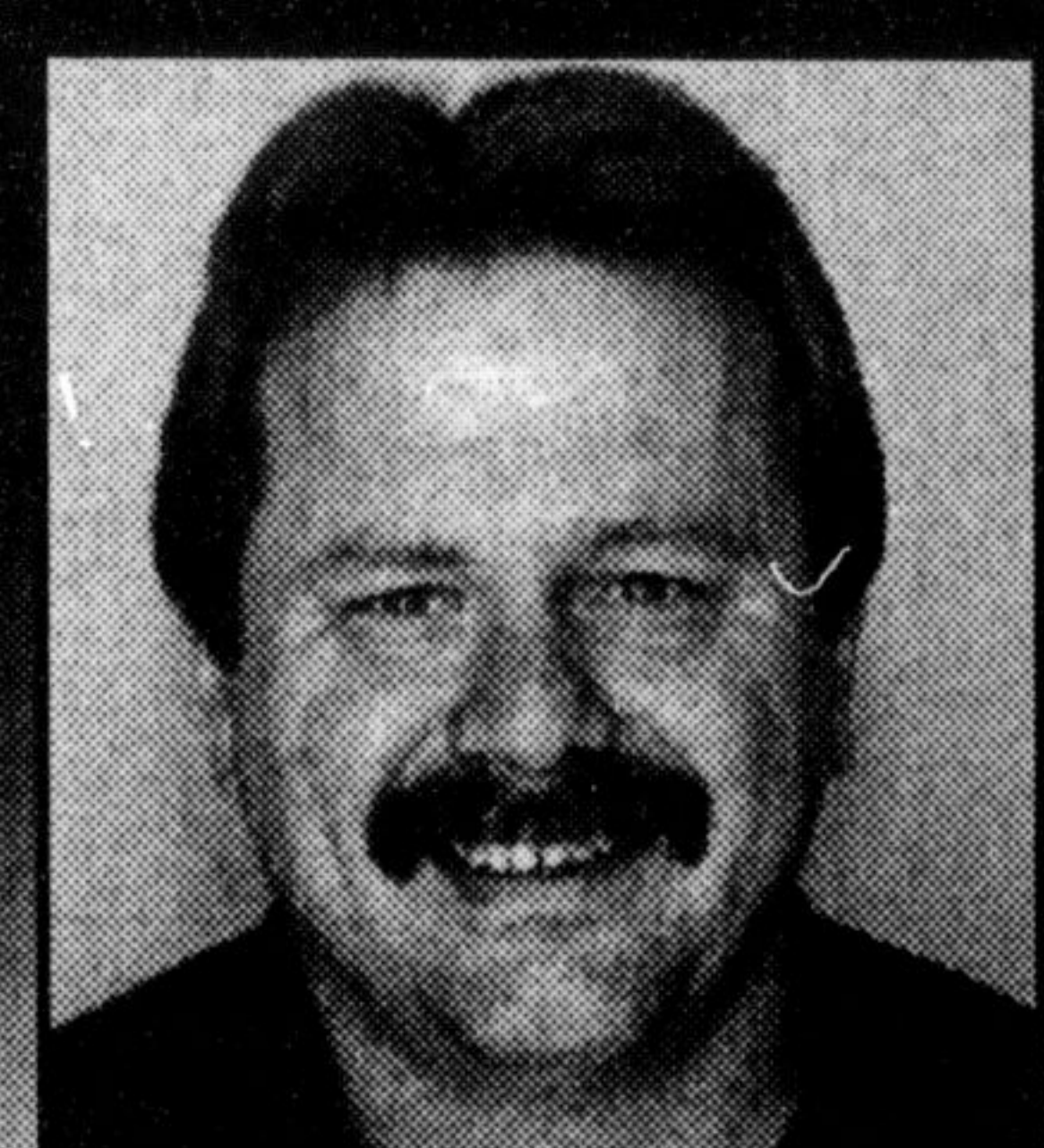
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