

# Tax bump coming Group counsels women on choices

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a clearer picture of the overall tax impact, though hard figures have yet to be finalized by staff.

"We're still working on the tax rates," said Town treasurer Jim McQueen. "They will be presented to council on May 17. At that time, we'll have final bottom line figures and final impacts on all classes of property."

The local picture could have been worse. Milton had a cushion of roughly \$200,000 thanks to a two per cent tax cut by Halton Region, announced last week.

Without that tax room, Milton's average tax levy - that is the average of all property classes - would have risen by 4.9 per cent.

With the regional cut built in, that goes down to one per cent.

Town staff faced several obstacles in drawing up the budget this year. One of the largest was the loss of Milton's Community Reinvestment Fund (CRF) grant.

The grant was devised by the Province to help regions and municipalities cope with down-loading costs.

The \$658,000 reduction in Milton's CRF would have hiked taxes by 7.5 per cent if it had been directly passed on to taxpayers.

"We're not proposing that in our budget," assured Town CAO Mario Belvedere.

Instead, staff has reduced its contributions to reserve funds by \$475,000.

Increased revenue from user fees plus \$70,000 in new property taxes due to business growth helped balance the books for the year.

Staff came to committee armed with a budget freeze as

well as budgets showing one per cent and two per cent increases.

Councillor Lieven Gevaert recommended the frozen budget, which was voted down without discussion at a Town administration and finance committee.

Councillor John Challinor then recommended approving the one per cent budget hike.

That won the support of Councillor Rick Malboeuf.

"I'd like to see the committee recommend the one per cent increase simply because of the firefighter part," he said. "I understand our overtime costs are very high. This may be a way to reduce costs there."

Though hiring three new firefighters would be a step towards eventually having a full-time, around the clock fire service in Milton, it will not likely help reduce overtime costs, said Fire Chief Harold Penson.

"The three people will assist in many areas. It will enhance our daytime response," he said. "It will have some impact on the over time but I'm not sure it will be a big impact."

Mayor Gord Krantz warned councillors not to get too carried away over what he termed a good news budget for 1999.

"I want to get all warm and fuzzy about it too, but there's another year coming," he said.

Beefing up services such as fire can lead to big bucks down the road, he warned.

Councillor Rick Day attempted to draw attention to the good news of the day.

"Only the financial department can take such exciting news as a \$320,000 grant and an increase in industrial assessment and make it sound boring," he said.

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Birthingright as an anti-abortion group, and anti-abortion groups think Birthingright is wishy-washy because of its less than forceful stance against abortion, Ms Platts said.

While it's the organization's philosophy that every pregnant woman has the right to give birth and it's the right of every child to be born, the decisions of all clients are respected, Ms Platts said.

"Birthingright's philosophy is based on the value of human life," she said.

"However, volunteers are committed not to impose their values on the woman, nor to force her into a 'Pro-life' decision. What a woman will receive at Birthingright is an experience of love and concern."

Operated solely by volunteers with financial assistance from private donations and gifts from local churches, Birthingright Milton opened in 1984 at 225 Main St. E., Suite 9.

Volunteers were just carrying in a desk, wondering how long it would take for people to know the office was open, when the phone rang.

A young woman worried by a possible

pregnancy had heard Birthingright was a place that could help, Ms Platts said.

An appointment was made for a free pregnancy test and follow-up counselling in the areas in which she needed assistance. That was the beginning of Birthingright in Milton and in the years that have passed, hundreds have found support.

Annually, Birthingright receives an average 200 calls from pregnant women, mostly teenagers.

## Referrals to agencies

Of those callers, less than half turn out to be pregnant, Ms Platts said.

"Not everyone who finds themselves in a crisis pregnancy wants to abort," Ms Platts said.

"For some a little help is all that is needed to carry their baby to term. And Birthingright will do everything it can to provide that help."

In addition to referrals to local agencies like the Children's Aid Society, T.E.A.M. and pre-natal classes, Birthingright has maternity clothes and layettes at its office ready for pick-up. The needs vary and each case

is given individual treatment.

Most volunteers work in the office answering the telephone and counselling those in need, Ms Platts said.

"Every kid thinks their parents are going to kill them, but we know they will usually get over it eventually," she said.

Others have been put in a position by the father of the child to either have an abortion or lose him, according to Ms Platts.

Birthingright International celebrates 30 years assisting women with crisis pregnancies. Founded in 1968 in Toronto, the organization now has 600 centres operating worldwide, serving more than 28,000 women each month.

Founder Louise Summerhill, a busy mother of seven herself, wanted to offer help to pregnant and distressed women. With others who shared her vision, she formed Birthingright to assist those who want to carry their pregnancies to term.

From the outset, services have been provided confidentially and without charge.

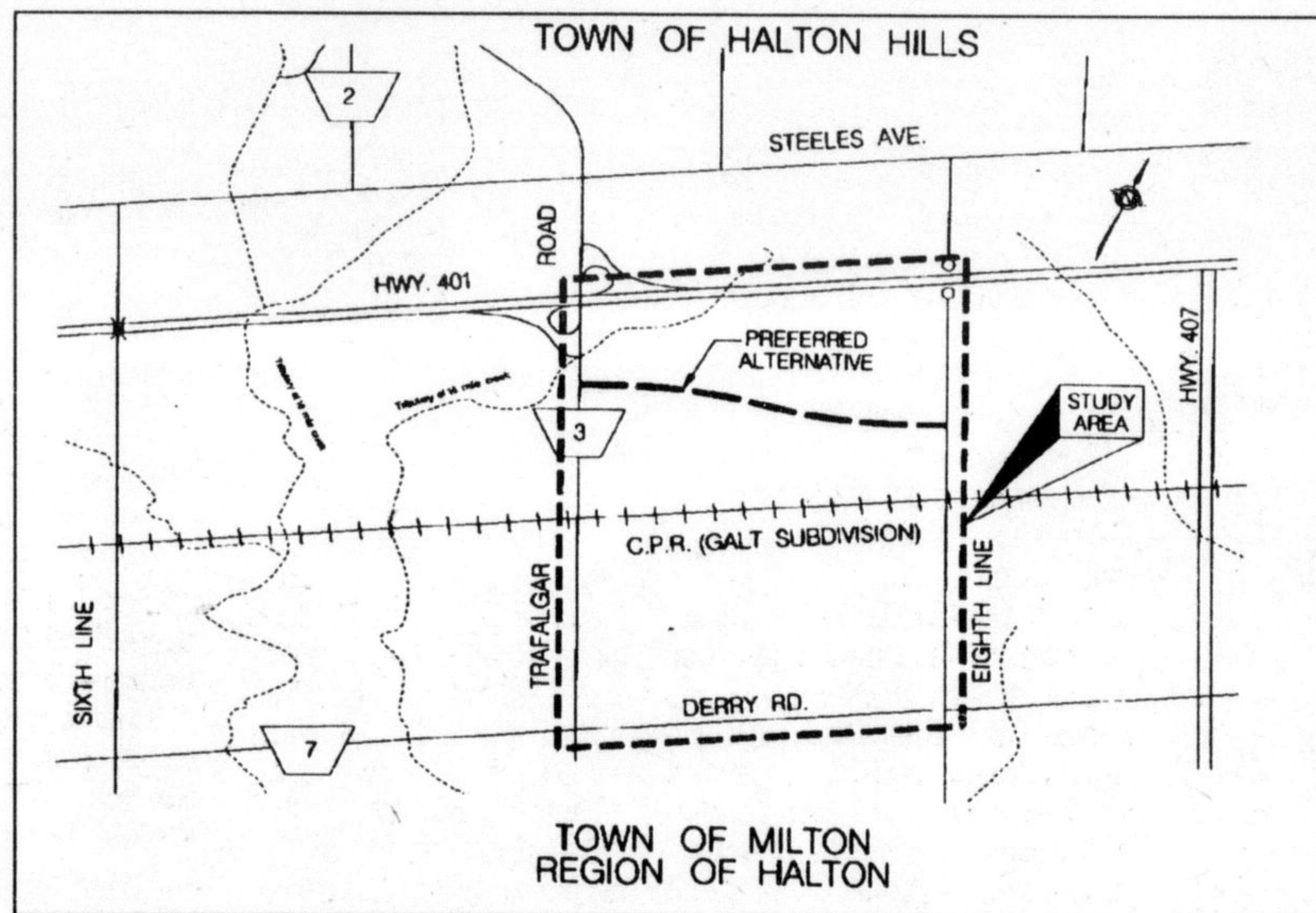
"I think it's a terrific place where we can really empower women to do what they want to do," Ms Platts said.

## Canadian Pacific Railway Class Environmental Assessment New East West Access Roadway, North of CPR Galt Subdivision, Trafalgar Road to Eighth Line, Town of Milton

### NOTICE OF COMPLETION

In May 1998, Canadian Pacific Railway initiated an Environmental Assessment Study to address access requirements for properties along Eighth Line, north of the existing Canadian Pacific Railway mainline. Alternate access is required to alleviate traffic delays at the existing at-grade crossing resulting from train movements in the area. Based on public input and detailed analysis, a recommended access roadway alignment has been identified.

This project has been carried out under Schedule 'B' in accordance with the Class Environmental Assessment for Municipal Road Projects (Class EA). A Project File has been prepared and by this Notice is being placed on public record for a 30-day review period. Subject to the comments received as a result of the Notice and the receipt of the necessary approvals, CPR intends to proceed with the implementation as outlined in the Project File.



The Project File is available for review at the location shown below.

Town of Milton Clerk's Office  
Victoria Park Square  
Milton, Ontario  
L9T 4B6  
Hours: Mon. to Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Town of Milton Public Library  
45 Bruce Street  
Milton, Ontario  
L9T 2L5  
Hours: Tues. to Thurs. 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For further information, please contact:

Mr. Tim Yamashita, P. Eng.  
Project Manager  
Canadian Pacific Railway  
1290 Central Parkway West, Suite 708  
Mississauga, Ontario L5C 4R3  
Telephone: (905) 803-3319

Mr. Scott Bowers, P. Eng.  
Project Engineer  
McCormick Rankin Corporation  
2655 North Sheridan Way  
Mississauga, Ontario L5K 2P8  
Telephone: (905) 823-8500  
Fax: (905) 823-8503

Interested persons may provide written comments to the Town Clerk within 30 calendar days from the date of the Notice. If concerns regarding this project cannot be resolved in discussion with CPR, a person may request that the Minister of Environment "bump-up" this project to an individual environmental assessment. "Bump-up" requests must be received by the Minister at the following address by Friday May 28, 1999. A copy of the "bump-up" request shall be sent to Canadian Pacific Railway. If no "bump-up" request is received by May 28, 1999, the project will be implemented as outlined in the Project File.

Honourable Norman W. Sterling  
Minister of the Environment  
15th Floor, 135 St. Clair Avenue West  
Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5

This notice issued April 28, 1999.

## The Canadian Federation of University Women Milton & District...

...invites all University Women Graduates to attend "Cancer Therapies, Past, Present & Future".

Nursing Prof. Denise Bryant - Lukosius will be presenting.

Please join us at 8:15 p.m., Thursday May 6, 1999 at Hugh Foster Hall.

For more details call 336-5519.

## ADVERTISEMENT Year 2000

By now everyone has heard of the Y2K bug and what it might do to the world. But there is another problem that is going to happen with the turning of the millenium and that is a shortage of champagne for all the New Year's Eve parties that will be happening. With this shortage I'm sure will come a price increase as well. However, there is a way around this. At Hogshead you can make your champagne for your New Year's party at a fraction of the price that it will cost you to buy at the LCBO. I also have a special edition year 2000 bottle for your champagne or your wine. For the millenium Hogshead is also offering a limited edition sparkling ice wine that would be a great addition to a New Year's party or a special keepsake momento for you and your friends. At Hogshead we do customized labels including millenium labels for your wine or champagne that will make a great addition to anyone's table or special event. Labels can be done in small quantities as well as large ones. The sooner you make your champagne the better it will be for New Year's. So come to Hogshead now and we can look after your champagne, wine, beer, and wine cooler needs.

### Specials for May:

Red Wine = Beaujolais White Wine = Leibbraumilch and White Zinfandel  
Please watch for our next column appearing Friday, May 14th.



Darren Goertzen



## HOGSHEAD BREW CLUB

100 Nipissing Rd.  
Unit #11, Milton

878-2646

goertzen@globalserve.net