Developer loses this round of park fight

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

H.D. Investments suffered a first round knockout in the brawl over development of land at the E.C. Drury complex Wednesday night.

An often raucous public meeting marked by frequent outbursts from concerned residents ended with a vote by the Town's administration and planning committee to slam the door on the proposed development of condominiums on the 33-acre site.

A proposed nursing home remains under consideration for the site, which is the largest open green space left in urban Milton.

It's still up in the air whether the developer will pursue the condominium issue before the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), however.

Councillor John Challinor put forth a motion to can the debate over a subdivision of single detached condominiums for adults aged 55-plus after about four hours of often spirited declarations from the residents.

Committee chair Wally Hunter frequently fought for control of the clearly disgruntled crowd, which appeared to be unanimously against development of the land.

'A recommend that we end the discussion of residen-

tial development right here and now. I don't think it place. has merit," said Mr. Challinor. "I don't think the way to go is to spend more money when we already know what we want."

If that decision is backed by council in early June, the developer will be forced to either change plans or appeal to the OMB.

Not showing cards

H.D. Investments representative Dave de Sylva did not disclose if that would in fact be the next step.

"We'll have to see," he said.

Earlier in the evening, Mr. de Sylva had faced down about 300 residents who turned out at the meeting to fight development of the land.

The crowd appeared unimpressed by Mr. de Sylva's assertion that the developers were listening to local concerns.

"Someone says we need more trees, so we keep more trees. Someone says they don't like this, so we change it," said Mr. de Sylva, who is also a Milton resident. "The reason we keep changing the plan, we call it process." His offer to give 25 per cent of the lands to the Town for use as parkland was met with guffaws by the crowd, which seemed to believe the property should not have been purchased privately in the first

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According to Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh, the provincially-owned land came on the market due to a promised review of assets by the Tory government.

The government approached the E.C. Drury School for the Deaf — which is a provincial school — to learn if the property was being used for school purposes.

After being told the lands were surplus, the government approached the Town with a sale offer.

The offer came to council during an in-camera session, but the price was out of reach, revealed Mr. see PANS on page 11

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If students are unemployed and need a little help in marketing their skills come and see the Service Job Summer Representative about the availability of receiving a \$2.00/hr. wage subsidy for employers.

Firefighters are now hired

The Milton Fire Department's 11 new recruits hired in 1998 became official firefighters recently.

After a year of training and several months of responding to calls, the recruits have passed all the requirements to become full-fledged volunteer firefighters.

"This is the first recruitment class we've ever had," said Captain Mark Cross. "It's a big deal."

The men were presented their certificates during a special ceremony attended by fire officials and Mayor Gord Krantz at Central Station on Steeles Avenue.

They were also handed official black firefighters' helmets, replacing their yellow ones worn during training, and presented scrap books featuring photos of training sessions.

ADVERTORIAL BEER CANS

Summer is here and that means beer drinking weather to most people. There is something new at Hogshead for the warm weather. It is a beer canning machine. What this allows is a customer to can their beer instead of putting it in plastic bottles. For those customers still wishing to use their own bottles this option is still available. Being able to can your beer means no more bottles to bring in and sanitize each time, you just recycle the cans in your blue box. Canning takes 20-30 min. per batch; a batch is just over 6 cases of 355 ml cans (52L.) and costs approx. \$17.00 per case. There are small batches also available; these are 2 3/4 cases of cans (23L.). The cans also allow the beer to stay fresher longer than the plastic bottles previously allowed. The cans can be put into 6-pack rings for easy carrying and storing or they can be left individual in cases. A customer can also use the canning machine for their coolers. Hogshead has over 170 beer recipes to choose from; they range from lite beers to stout style beers. Whether cans or bottles, beer, wine or coolers let Hogshead look after your summer.

Please watch for our next column appearing Friday, June 11th.

Darren Goertzen



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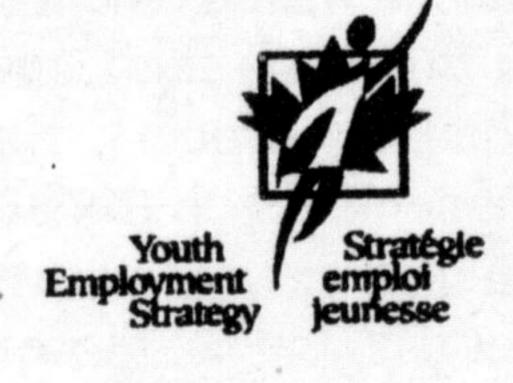
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