

Flamborough could link up with Milton

• from FLAMBOROUGH on page 1 because we haven't done the studies," he said. "This could all change. That's why I want to have another meeting."

But time is short, and all partners must be in agreement for the province to consider any boundary changes.

"Looking at it, it seems almost like mission impossible to achieve that time line," said Mr. Kidd. "We'd be right down to the wire, if we make it at all."

Though he is urging all participants to meet the late winter deadline, an extension should be requested if that just isn't enough time, said Mr. Kidd.

He admitted he was just a little surprised by the results of the recent ballot.

Mr. Kidd's mostly-rural ward spans about 36 square miles, holds close to 4,000 residents and straddles Hwy. 6.

The ward touches on the fringes of Waterdown and reaches almost to the Milton/Burlington boundary by Carlisle.

It extends east to Millborough and west to Safari Road.

And while the reaction from the east side of Hwy. 6 may have been predicted, the avalanche of support for a Halton partnership on the west side was more of a jolt.

"I didn't think there was the same intensity and depth of feeling west of Hwy. 6," said Mr. Kidd. "I thought (support for Hamilton-Wentworth) would have been higher than it was on the west side."

But he stressed that if Flamborough decides to hook up with Halton, the marriage would be to the entire region.

"Everyone has been talking about Burlington, Burlington, Burlington," said Mr. Kidd. "I was the first one to say it's Halton, not Burlington."

And Flamborough could feasibly link up with Milton to become part of Halton, he added.

But Flamborough council is "all over the deck on this one," said Mr. Kidd, who admitted that letting Flamborough fly solo would have been his chosen route.

"My dreams disappeared when the Minister (of Municipal Affairs Tony Clement) announced Flamborough can't go it alone," he said.

Cops' calls up for first time in 10 years

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To help shore up his case for increased funding, the chief outlined a number of statistics and trends that together paint a picture of the backdrop against which Halton police carry out their duties.

Calls for service, for example, were up from 82,226 in 1998 to 85,372 last year. According to Deputy Chief Gary Crowell, this marked the first time in 10 years calls have increased after a steady decline. Pinpointing the cause, however, is a tricky proposition. Is growth the reason, asked Deputy Chief Crowell, or is it a combination of other factors?

Criminal offenses in Halton — such as robbery, auto theft and assault — have increased while murder, attempted murder and fraud are down. Deputy Chief Crowell explained that, given Halton's size, we could have expected six to eight homicides. Last year there were none.

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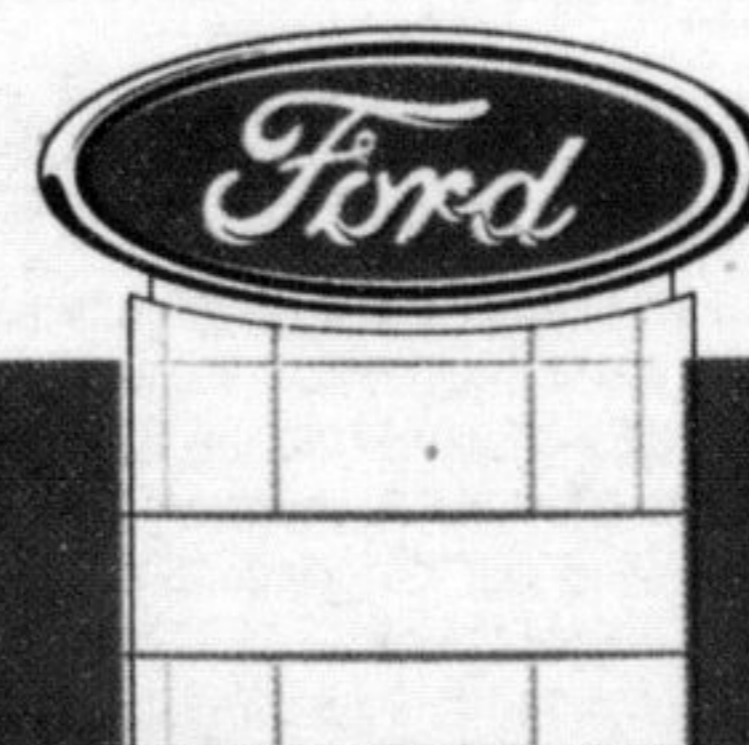
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