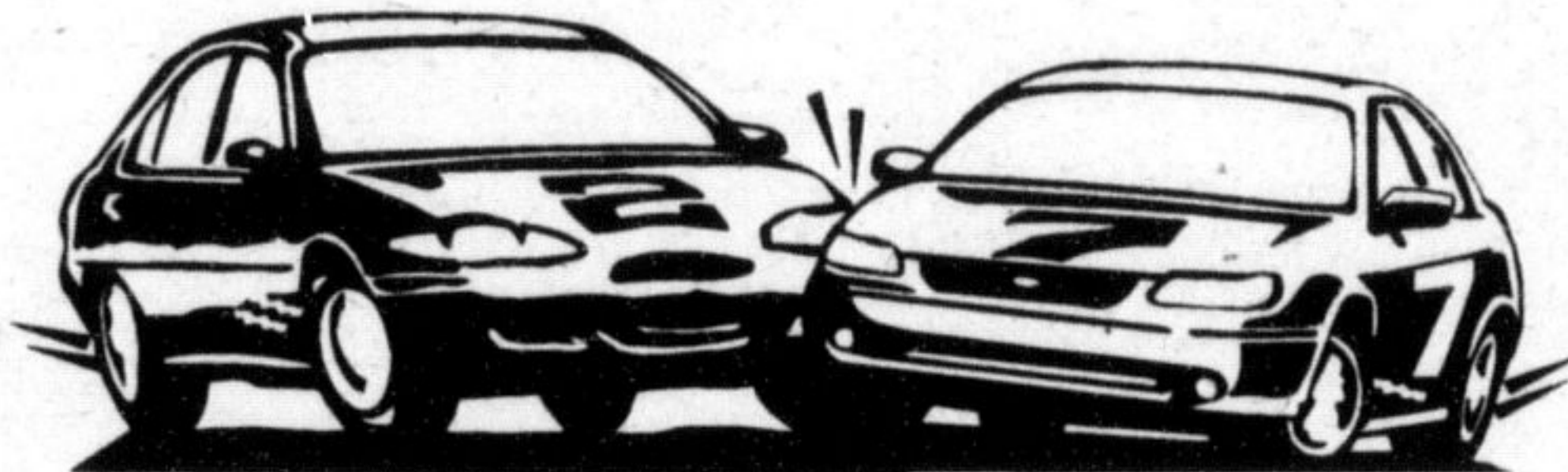




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Agriculture now exempt from development charges

*Farmer who paid Town
\$53,000 to rebuild barn
will get money back*

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

As farming stories go, young John Opsteen has a real barn-burner.

The Campbellville farmer's tale began when a fire demolished his chicken barn.

After deciding to build a new, expanded version on a second plot of family owned land, Mr. Opsteen, 28, was surprised to find himself slapped with a \$53,000 development charge (DC) fee.

He paid it, then promptly began lobbying town council to get it back.

And Monday evening, he got his wish.

In a review of the Town's current DC bylaw, council opted to exempt all bona fide agricultural buildings from the fees which are meant to front-end growth costs.

The idea is to prevent existing taxpayers from shouldering the burden of new development.

Until the Monday vote, Milton was the only Halton municipality to have farmers pay.

Overall, the newly-approved bylaw will increase residential DCs by \$167 per unit, and commercial/industrial DCs by .3 cents per square foot.

But an exemption has been granted to buildings of less than 300 square feet.

Formerly, the exemption was on buildings of about 144 square feet.

A waiver policy will be built into the bylaw to protect against abuse of any deductions or exemptions.

For example, a clear definition of bona fide agricultural interests will be included in the bylaw. Those that don't meet the criteria will have to pay full freight. The alterations came as a result of public input, said Town Treasurer Jim McQueen.

"As a result of meeting with the various interested parties, we're recommending a number of changes," he said.

Those include plugging the cost of a trails system into the DC bylaw, as well as the price of various studies and minor baseball diamonds.

Also, road collections will now be paid at the subdivision agreement stage, rather than at the issuance of a building permit.

If possible, the bylaw will remain as is until a mandatory review in 2004, said Mr. McQueen.

Halton Federation of Agriculture President Peter Lambrick urged council to vote in favour of a 100 per cent agricultural exemption.

The previous bylaw "puts farmers in Milton at a financial and competitive disadvantage," he said. "The Opsteen situation has brought this to our attention. Return John and his family all his money."

Originally, staff suggested granting the farming community a 50 per cent deduction on the charge.

But Councillor Barry Lee put forth an amendment, changing it to 100 per cent exemption.

"We want to maintain a level playing field here and we have to take this route to do so," he said. "Penalizing agriculture is plain contrary to our Official Plan. I think we have to do the right thing here."

That was supported by Councillor Brian Penman. "I don't think there's a need to belabour the point," he said. "We're moving in the right direction."

The amendment passed unanimously. After a six-month fight, Mr. Opsteen and his family will have their fee returned.



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MILTON

TTY: 878-1657

878-7211

MILTON
ON-LINE
<http://www.town.milton.on.ca>

TAX NOTICE

Ratepayers of the Town of Milton are reminded that the 2nd installment of the Final Tax Bill is due on September 29/2000.

If you require information about taxes, please contact the Corporate Services Department at (905) 878-7252, ext. 393, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Tax payments must be received in the Corporate Services Office on or before the due date to avoid penalty. Late payment charge of 1 1/4% will be charged on the first day of default and on the first day of each calendar month in which the default continues. It is the responsibility of the ratepayer to ensure that the taxes are paid by the due date, even in the event that the bill is not received as mailed.

Taxes may be paid:

a) By mail to the Corporate Services Department, 43 Brown St., Milton, ON L9T 5H2

Cheques post-dated to the due date are acceptable and encouraged.

b) By phone if you bank with Canada Trust, TD Bank, CIBC, Royal Bank or Bank of Montreal. Please call them for details.

c) By using the mail deposit box to the left of the glass doors at Town Hall.

d) Between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Corporate Services Department, Town Hall, 43 Brown Street, Milton. (Cheque or money orders preferred rather than cash). Direct Debit now accepted.

e) Please contact our office for details regarding the "New" pre-authorized tax payment program.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

URGENTLY REQUIRED

PART-TIME & STANDBY CROSSING GUARDS

Concerned about the safety of school children and want to become involved? Apply for a Crossing Guard position. Effective Tuesday, September 26th, 2000 the Town of Milton will have two (2) vacancies:

1. **Coxe Boulevard / Pearen Avenue**
Morning Crossing: 8:10 a.m. - 8:40 a.m.
Lunch Crossing: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
After School Crossing: 3:20 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

2. **Laurier Avenue / Ontario Street**
Morning Crossing: 7:50 a.m. - 8:35 a.m.
After School Crossing: 3:05 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Hourly Salary: \$11.00

Standby Crossing Guards are required for ALL locations to substitute during the absence of daily Crossing Guards.

Please respond to:
Coordinator, Human Resources
The Corporation of the Town of Milton
43 Brown Street
Milton, Ontario
L9T 5H2

In accordance with the Freedom of Information and Privacy legislation, applicant information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act and will be used strictly for candidate selection

WANTED!

Your memories of the year 2000. Submit photos, mementos & remembrances (10 sentences or less) to:



The Milton Millennium
Scrapbook & Time Capsule
Committee

For more information,
call Bruce Carlin at:

875-4588

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Hawkins Animal Hospital • Dog Prize: Christine Wilkinson
Cat Prize: Suzanne Watts

Dr. Dave Dumencu & Dr. Dave Johnson • Electric Toothbrush: Sharon Whiteside
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Healing Touch Massage Therapy Clinic • 1 Hour Massage: Ashley Molyneaux & Debbie Maxwell

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