Town entertaining concept Roxul building new facility of new 'Eco-Tech Village'

By RICHARD VIVIAN

The Champion

The Town of Milton is looking to raise the bar of smart growth through the development of an 'Eco-Tech Village'.

The 'Eco-Tech Village' concept promotes residential living based on environmental sustainability, energy efficiency and ecological sensitivity. The project also involves the implementation of the latest in technological advances and practices.

"This is an attempt for Milton to become a leader in smart growth planning," said Town CAO Mario Belvedere. "We're trying to take this idea and see what it takes to make a community like this work."

Though the concept has been discussed by Town staff in general terms, the current Sherwood Secondary Planning Survey process provides an opportunity to explore the option more closely, Mr. Belvedere continued.

Sherwood Survey Secondary Plan involves the residential development of lands within the Milton Urban Expansion

Area. Two sections of land are included in the study — one being properties bordered by Hwy. 401, Peru Road, the CP rail line and Tremaine Road. The second section includes undeveloped properties bordered by Main Street, the CN rail line, Derry Road and Regional Road 25.

Approval to explore budgeting and the development of public-private partnerships in the development of an 'Eco-Tech Village' was granted by the Town's administration and planning committee Monday.

Town council will formally address the matter Monday.

"This is the smartest example of smart growth I've seen thus far," said Councillor Brian Penman. "This is a very forward-looking project and if this model becomes a reality, it could bring a lot of excitement to the community."

Public-private partnerships in this project are designed to keep residences involved within close financial range of other development projects. Financial viability must be maintained for the project

be successful, said Mr. Belvedere.

Support for the initiative has already been received from Halton Region, Milton Hydro and Mattamy Development Corporation.

The Province of Ontario has also expressed an interest in a partner-

Meetings to develop partnerships with telecommunication companies will take place in the coming weeks. The partnership could see the latest in fibre-optic technology used in the 'Eco-Tech Village'.

As with anything innovative, there are risks involved with this project, warned Mayor Gord Krantz, adding that the project has his full support. There are financial implications in terms of staff time spent on the project, he continued.

"It's important to think outside of the box and I congratulate staff, in particular Mr. Belvedere, for this project," he said. "There is a very investment small taxpayer involved with this and possibly very good returns on that investment."

Roxul Inc. on Harrop Drive is building a \$4 million waste handling facility that will convert its production waste into reusable raw materials.

The new system will virtually elimi-

nate the transfer of waste to landfill sites, but won't increase production capacity, the company said in a press release.

Construction is expected to be complete next summer.



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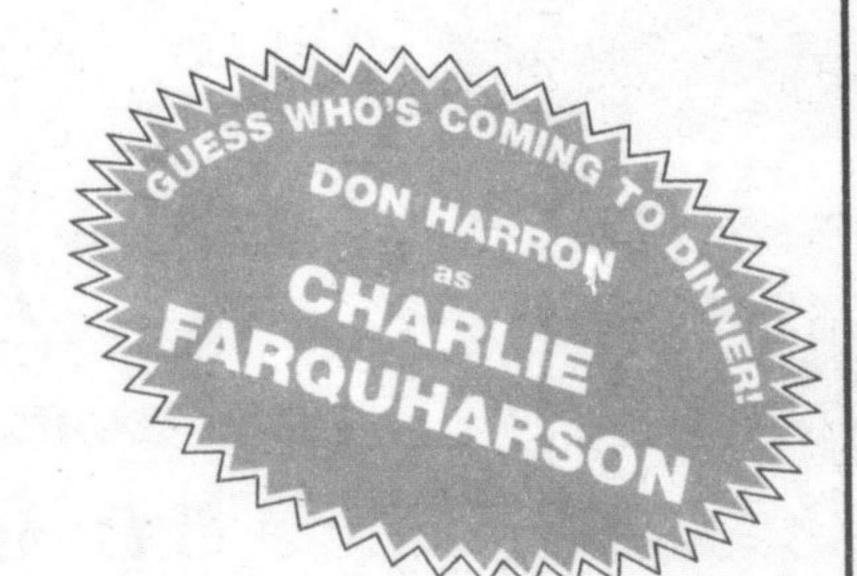


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