

Growth management keeping Town officials hopping; building permits up 900 per cent

By **RICHARD VIVIAN**
The Champion

Growth management has been the Town's most significant duty in recent years, Mayor Gord Krantz and CAO Mario Belvedere told the Milton Chamber of Commerce at the Mayor's Breakfast Tuesday.

"We have to keep the urban growth in balance with the industrial/commercial sector so we don't have to raise property taxes," explained Mr. Krantz.

"I believe the Town is efficiently run and the council works well. We may not always agree on everything though."

Drawing comparisons between pre-big pipe growth (1999) and the town's current development, Mr. Belvedere set out the importance of monitoring growth challenges.

"During the really heavy days of growth in the (Greater Toronto Area), Durham and Markham had about a 7 per cent growth rate. Before 1999, our growth rate was 0.7 per cent. Now we're at about 13 per cent," he explained.



Gord Krantz



Mario Belvedere

"That's astounding growth."

So far this year, Milton has issued building permits for nearly 1,500 residential units. That's up 900 per cent from 1999.

In order to maintain the balance of the industry and residential tax bases, industrial development of 700,000 square feet per year is needed. And the town is on track to meet those expectations, Mr. Belvedere continued.

"Take Modatek (Magna) for example.

One of the most critical things we did was to deal with their application in a judicious manner," he said, referring to the 100-day timeline presented by the company.

Magna is currently constructing a 450,000-square-foot facility on Chisholm Drive to build auto parts. The facility is expected to bring 600 jobs to town, possibly expanding to 1,200 jobs within years of opening.

With the swell in recent development, Milton has created its own micro-economic state, Mr. Belvedere added, somewhat protecting it from the economic woes being experienced across North America.

"Regardless of what's happening on the global scene, we're experiencing growth. And growth is a sign of a good economy," he said.

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Re/max Professionals Inc.

Sunday, Nov. 18, 1 - 3 p.m.
100 Millside Dr.
MARION BROWN in attendance
Royal City Realty

Sunday, Nov. 18, 2 - 4 p.m.
429 Kingsleigh Crt.
LUCY HUGHES in attendance
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586 Sunnyvale Cres.
PAT RIDEOUT in attendance
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