

# Region still weighing infrastructure bids

By **RICHARD VIVIAN**  
*The Champion*

Regional council was reluctant to spend \$240,000 on an infrastructure management system (IMS) Wednesday, saying an alternative bid of \$140,000 needs more consideration.

The matter was deferred back to the administration and finance committee, which recommended awarding the project to J.D. Barnes Ltd., the higher of the two bidders.

"It's hard for me to see how the \$100,000 (difference) is justified," Burlington Mayor Rob MacIsaac told council.

The IMS would pull together information from various planning and public works projects to make one database. The database would be accessible to both field and office staff.

The staff recommendation to go with the highest bidder came from the evaluation process, said Patrick Murphy, commissioner of planning and public works.

J.D. Barnes scored higher than Cuesta Systems Inc. in terms of experience.

Barnes was the only company with experience to bid on the project, Mr. Murphy previously told the administration and finance committee.

The company is currently installing a similar system for the City of Sault Saint Marie.

"We have done the evaluation. As part of that process, we did interviews with both companies. We feel (J.D.) Barnes has an added value," Mr. Murphy said. "We are quite confident with the report, with the recommendation and we see no reason to defer this matter."

Several members of the committee questioned why the matter would be returned to them, as they have already made a recommendation to council.

"I can assure you a lot of time was spent on this and I feel quite confident in the staff recommendation," said Oakville Councillor Allan Elgar, a member of the committee.

When the issue returns to the committee November 28, representatives from both companies will have an opportunity to state their case.

## Local groups get grants

Milton-area groups recently received more than \$62,000 in funding through the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

The Milton Community Resource Centre received \$5,100 over two years to help promote the 'I Love to Read' Milton literary festival for children.

Funds were also allocated to the Halton

Agricultural Society, which puts on the Milton Fall Fair.

It received \$52,000 for renovations to the Milton Fair Grounds.

The Halton-Peel Highland Games Association received \$50,000 over two years to market the Georgetown Highland Games.

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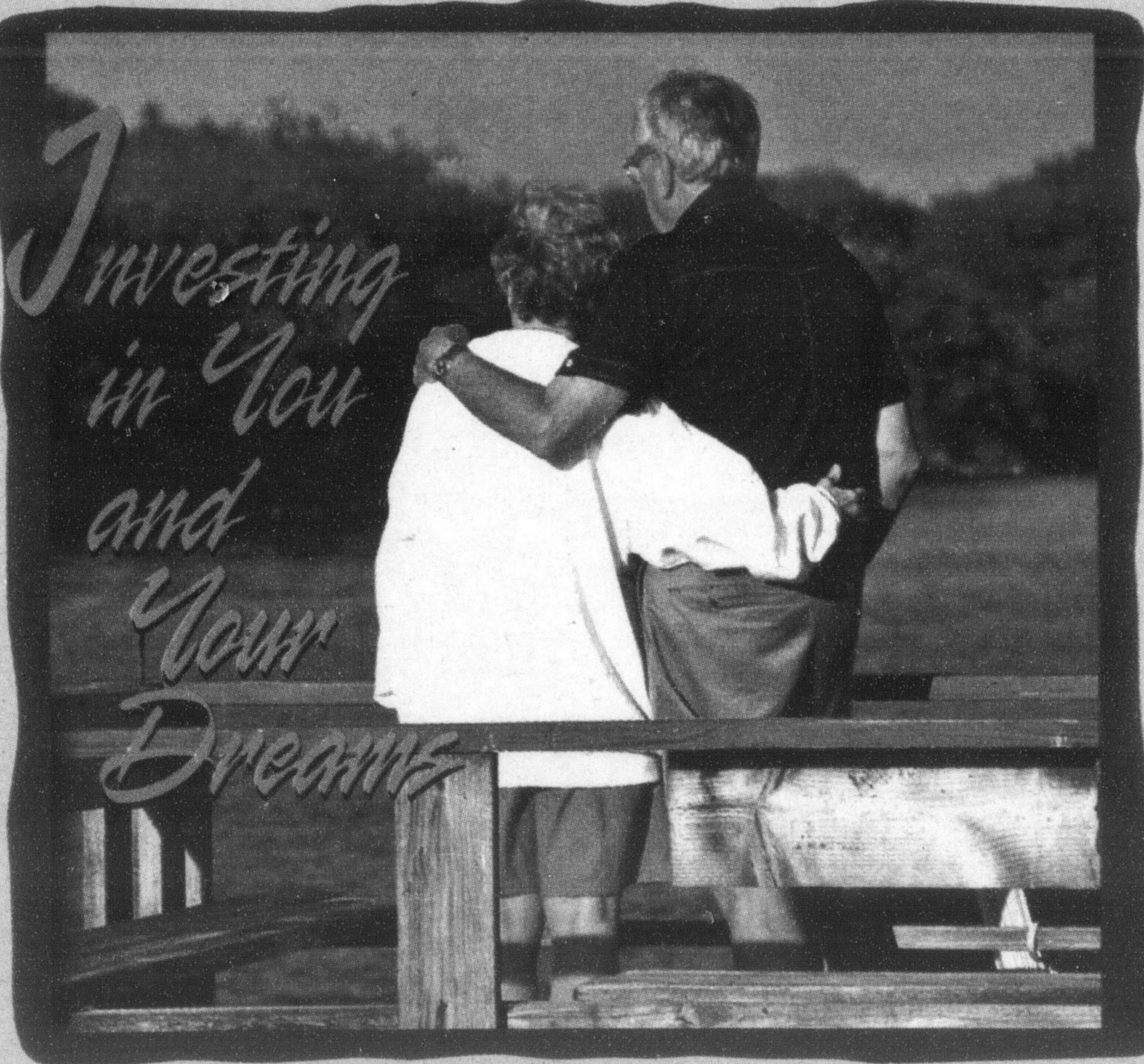
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