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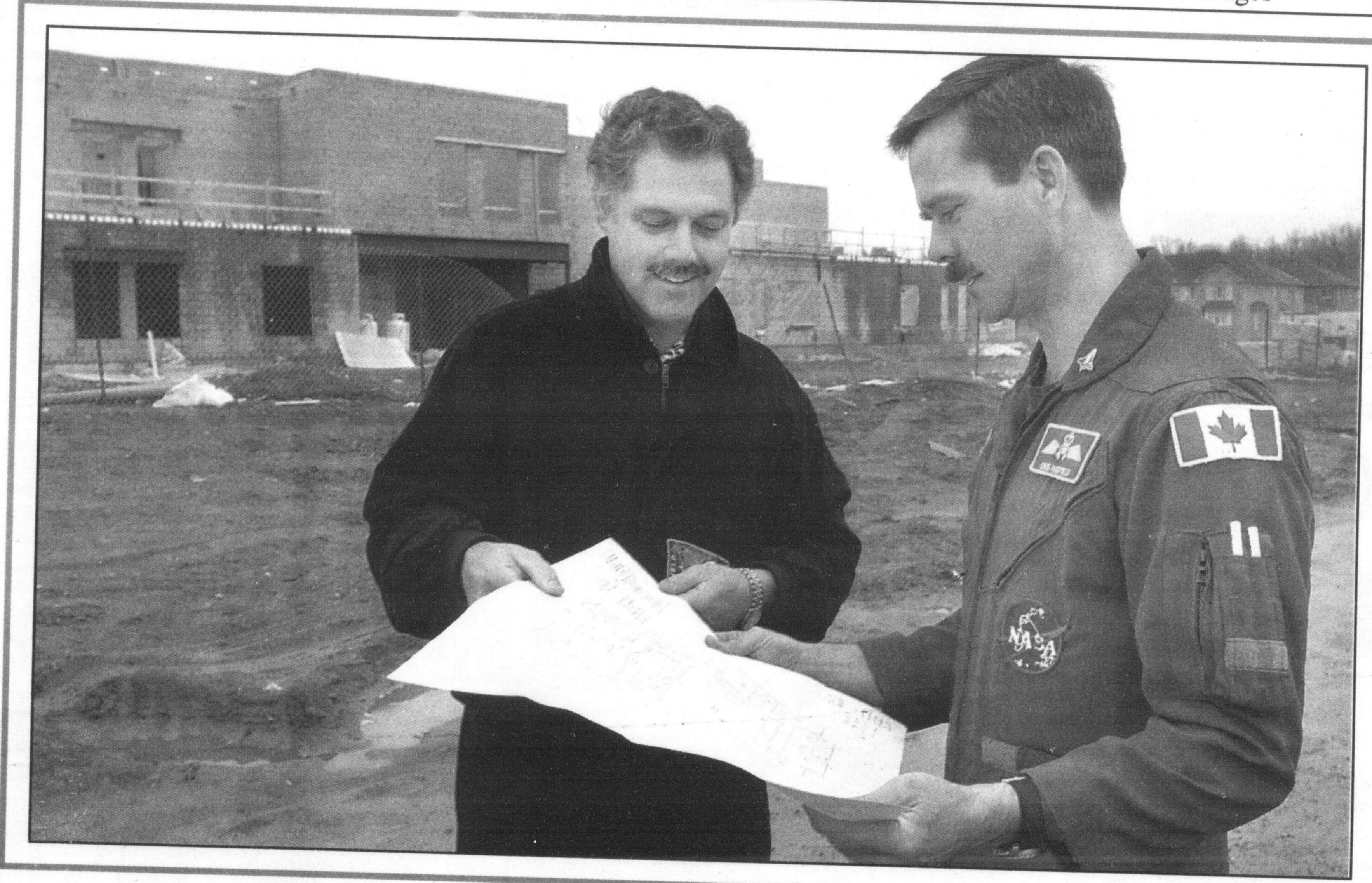
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36 Pages



Down to earth

Astronaut Chris Hadfield looks over plans for the new public school under construction Woodward Avenue during a town Wednesday. Slated September, school - headed by principal Rick Nodwell (left) will bear the astronaut's name.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Water fluoridation back on table

Miltonians voted no to fluoridating town's well water in '70s referendum, but issue resurfacing

By JASON MISNER

The Champion

Halton Region hopes to have a report ready some time this month detailing whether Milton's well water should be fluoridated and the process required to do it.

Halton Medical Officer of Health Dr. Bob Nosal said there's a chance the report might be delayed due to the immense amount of staff time the health department has spent addressing SARS.

The report is still being drafted.

"The health department's position on whether well-water should be fluoridated will be part of the report," Dr. Nosal said.

Halton Region is responsible for water services. Town council approval isn't required for the Region to move forward with the project, though the Region would consult with the Town before any action is taken.

A report released by the health department last October showed a link between a higher prevalence of tooth decay among kids in Milton — on average the highest in Halton — and non-fluoridated water.

Some 33,000 Milton residents are on well-based systems that aren't fluoridated. Milton's new subdivisions receive fluoridated water from a lake-based water supply through a pipeline running from Oakville.

According to a survey contained in the report of 1,522 children (ages five, seven and nine), 53 per

cent of Milton children have dental decay, six per cent of which require urgent care.

That compares to a 49 per cent decay rate in Burlington, a 48 per cent in Halton Hills and a 42 per cent in Oakville.

The report stated: "Water fluoridation is considered the single most effective, efficient, safe and equitable method in preventing dental caries."

It also noted Atlanta's Centres for Disease Control — considered the world's leading authority on infectious disease and public health information — called water fluoridation one of the top 10 health accomplishments of the 20th century.

In the mid-70s there was a referendum that asked residents if they wanted their water fluoridated and the majority said no. Mayor Gord Krantz said he was against it then, as well, but said he's looking forward to seeing what the Region's staff report says about well water fluoridation.

Mr. Krantz — not saying if he's for or against • see COUNCILLOR on page 3

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INSERTS

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• A&P* • Shoppers Drug Mart* • Zellers* • IDA* • Town & Country Window Cleaning* • Sears* • Cristello's Village Market* • Food Basics* • Canadian Tire* • Fortinos* • Lazy Boy* • McDonalds Restaurants* • Business Depot • Home Depot* • Home Hardware • Leather by Mann* • Covers* • Bad Boy* • Acton Garden Market* • Ashley Furniture* • Longos* • Beam* • Sobey's* • Building Box* • Mississauga News New Homes* • Sears* • Future Shop* • Valassis Shop & Save* • Enbridge/Consumers Appliance*

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