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## Plan to download roads to four municipalities passed at Region

By JASON MISNER

The Champion

Milton will absorb 17 extra kilometres worth of roads next year after regional council gave its stamp of approval Wednesday.

Regional council gave the green light to a crucial agreement signed by the CAOs of Halton Region and the four municipalities of Burlington, Milton, Halton Hills and Oakville. It designates who owns certain roads.

The agreement means the Town of Milton will take over 17 kms, or 10 stretches, of roadway from the Region's control.

To help minimize the costs of assuming the roads, Milton will reduce over the next three years the \$96,000 it pays annually for the use of fire hydrants.

It will stop making those payments come 2007.

But to make up that difference town residents will see their water and waste water rates rise 0.6 per cent every year between 2004 up to and including 2006. That amounts to an average of nearly \$3 per year.

However, that increase will be in addition to a potential 8.5 per cent rate increase slated for next year as part of the Region's 2004 budget deliberations.

If that hike is approved, and combined with the 0.6 per cent rate hike to pay for fire hydrant usage, the average household rate increase would be more than \$46.

Also, to help Milton finance the roads' costs the Town will receive more money from provincial court offenses, like unpaid speeding tickets, through an aggressive collection program. It will total \$750,000 and could come to the municipality in full by as early as 2006.

**"Milton came out of it reasonably good, but the bottom line is it's downloading on the two north Halton communities. Halton Hills and Milton could've stood up and screamed bloody murder but a decision could've been forced on us. We didn't fare too badly, in my opinion."**

**MAYOR GORD KRANTZ**

Town CAO Mario Belvedere has said \$250,000 of that total will come to Milton immediately next year.

The five CAOs have been meeting regularly for the last four years to determine what constitutes a regional road and a local road based on characteristics like volume and whether the road is being used to move goods and services throughout Halton.

Milton regional councillors, while not celebrating the agreement, say the transferring of roads wasn't unexpected. They say they can live with it because it could've been much worse.

For example, there was the option of delegating all roads to the given municipality and in Milton's case would have resulted in as high as a 12 per cent tax increase next year.

Mayor Gord Krantz said he supported the agreement "hesitantly" but stressed it's simply another form of downloading — something local politicians have criticized the Province for doing the last half-dozen years, he said.

"Milton came out of it reasonably good, but the bottom line is it's downloading on the two north Halton communities," he said. "Halton Hills and Milton could've stood up and screamed bloody murder but a decision could've been forced on us. We didn't fare too badly, in my opinion."

Wards 2 and 4 Regional Councillor Rick Malboeuf said it's another example that lower-tier municipalities have to bear the brunt of extra service costs.

"That's always been the argument about downloading and the fact is local councils have to deal with it," he said.

The municipality most affected by the CAOs' agreement is Halton Hills, which will assume an additional 46 kms of roads. Like Milton, it will get \$750,000 of provincial offenses revenue and not have to pay fire hydrant fees come 2007.

Halton Hills Regional Councillor Rick Bonnette, while not thrilled, said he was resigned to the fact his municipality was going to eat extra roads.

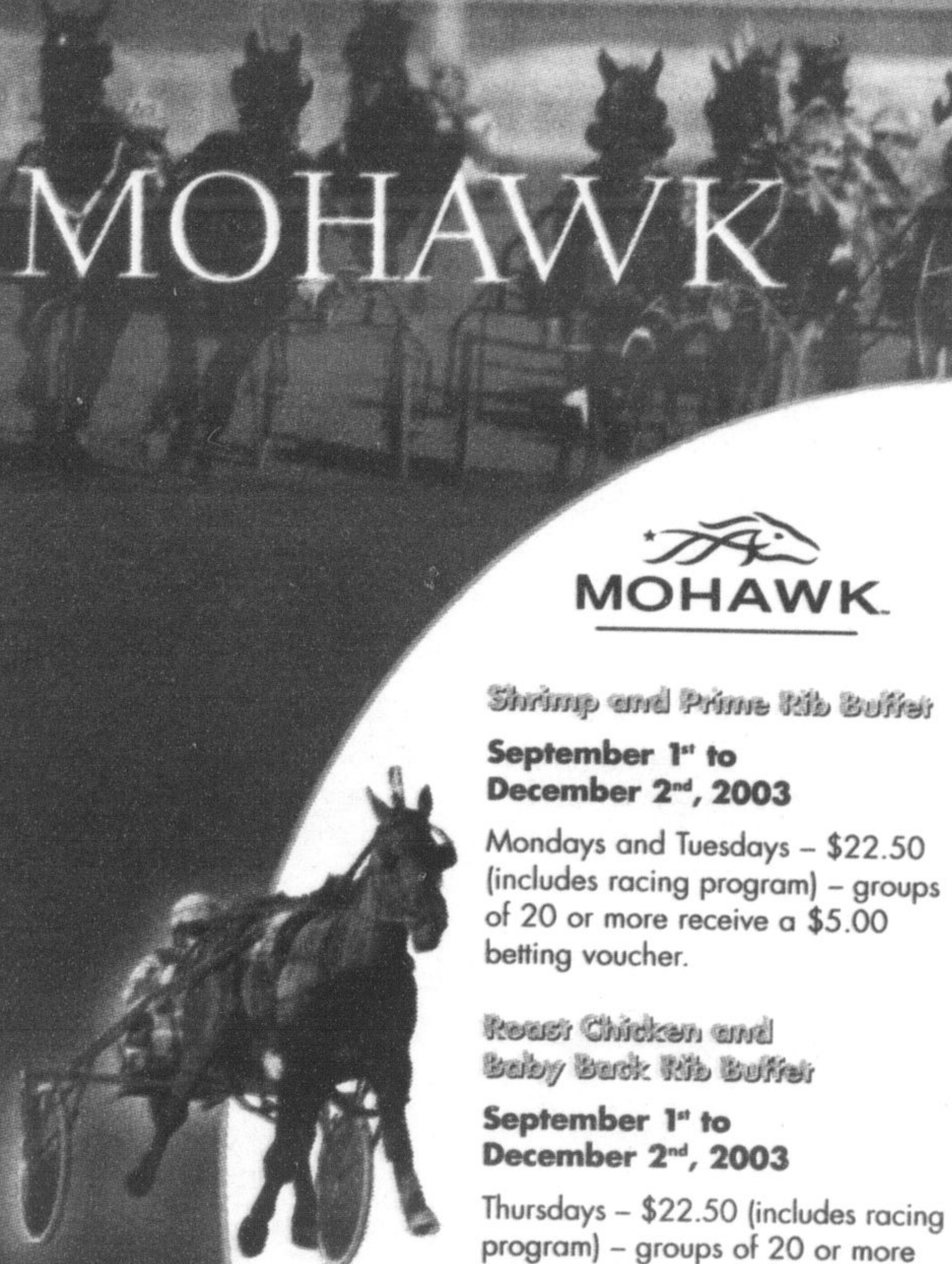
"We're taking a hit but by the same token this is the best deal Halton Hills could take," he said.

Also under the approved CAOs' agreement, Burlington will shed 19 km of roads and Oakville will drop more than 38 km of roads from its control.

Roads ownership will be reviewed by the Region and the four municipalities every five years.

Jason Misner can be reached at jmisner@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

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## Part Time Public Skating Job Positions

The Town of Milton Community Services Department is currently accepting applications for the seasonal positions of Skate Patrol and Public Skate Cashier. Public skating will take place at the Milton Sports Centre, Tonelli Arena and Memorial Arena. We are looking for mature, responsible, and hardworking people to fill the following positions.

### Skate Patrol

#### Responsibilities

Skate patrollers are responsible for maintaining order during public skating sessions.

Skate patrollers must ensure the users adhere to posted public skating rules.

Skate patrollers skate among participants for the duration of the public skating session at opposite ends of each other.

#### Qualifications

All skate patrol staff are required to have Emergency First Aid and CPR.

Strong communication skills required.

#### Rate of Pay

\$7.72 to \$8.75 per hour

### Public Skating Cashier

#### Responsibilities

Cashiers will be responsible for receiving all monies during the public skating session and preparing financial summary reports.

Cashiers will be responsible for establishing good public relations with patrons at the facility.

#### Qualifications

All cashiers are required to have Emergency First Aid and CPR.

Cashiers should have a strong grasp of basic math skills.

Strong communication skills required.

#### Rate of Pay

\$6.69 to \$7.72 per hour

Shifts for both Skate Patrol and Skate Cashier will be available on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, as well as Tuesday and Saturday evening shifts.

If you are interested in the above positions please complete an employment application form, which can be picked up from Town Hall or the Leisure Centre and return it by September 1, 2003 to the Coordinator, Human Resources, Town of Milton, 43 Brown Street, Milton, On L9T 5H2. For further information please contact Janet Davidson (905) 875-1681 x 222.

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.