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## Still lots to be done in Eco-Tech project

• from ECO-TECH on page 1  
of initiatives into one planned subdivision to be located on a test site in the proposed Sherwood Survey development, located north and west of the urban boundary.

The ultimate goal is to create an environmentally-sustainable housing development by reducing energy use, lessening the need for vehicles and emphasizing transit and reducing waste, among other initiatives.

The Eco-Tech Village is a partnership between the Town and Halton Region, Milton Hydro, Rogers, Mattamy Homes and the Province of Ontario.

Seeing something tangible on the Eco-Tech horizon also has Bill Mann, Milton's manager of policy planning, bubbling with anticipation.

He's one of the key participants in the project.

"This really is cutting edge," he said in an interview. "This is not an academic exercise."

But he cautions there's lots to be done if Eco-Tech Village is to become a reality.

As part of its concept plan, Mattamy will conduct economical and marketability studies to ensure the project is, in fact, doable.

The Town won't be involved in actually constructing the subdivision.

An encouraging sign is prospective

homebuyers have already expressed interest in the project, Mr. Mann said.

"Mattamy has heard from a lot of people saying that if the prices are comparable and the project is comparable in terms of square footage, they would prefer to live in a green community."

Exploring the use of wind turbines has energized many involved in the Eco-Tech project, Mr. Mann said, noting a single turbine can power 1,000 homes.

He took part in an eight-day trip to the Netherlands in late August to see what the Dutch country has done to create clean, green communities.

He was struck to see the country has been practicing green development, including the construction of wind turbines, for some 30 years.

"They're promoting the principles that we're now looking at incorporating in Canada," Mr. Mann said.

A 300-foot single wind turbine pilot project is underway at Toronto's CNE grounds.

A potential location for a wind turbine in Milton is at or near the Niagara Escarpment, Mr. Mann said. Previous studies show there could be sufficient wind action there to support a turbine.

"But we're very cognizant to the negative connotations they may have in terms

of the view, the environment, bird migrations and things like that, and those are some of the issues we'll be looking at within this (wind energy) study," Mr. Mann said.

Mr. Mann said the Eco-Tech project is generating great word of mouth. He said Ontario municipalities like the Town of Caledon and American states like Tennessee and California have called Town staff asking about the project.

"It's taken on its own life," he said.

But the David Suzuki Foundation, a respected environmental organization in Canada, said while it's encouraged by the Eco-Tech concept, it doesn't solve an important problem seen throughout the country — urban sprawl.

"One of the problems we highlighted in our report (on urban sprawl released recently) is the urban growth boundary for towns like Milton don't mean a whole heck of a lot," said Morag Carter, director of the foundation's climate change program.

"The new development is outside the urban growth boundary."

For more information about Eco-Tech Village, visit the Town's Web site at [www.milton.ca](http://www.milton.ca).

Jason Misner can be reached at [jmisner@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:jmisner@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

## Lots of items up for grabs at police auction

If you've been watching for a specific item in the classifieds, the upcoming Halton Regional Police auction may be just the place to check out.

The last police auction of the year will be held Saturday at the Halton Regional Police Service Headquarters, 1151 Bronte Rd. in Oakville, in the underground garage. Viewing and registration will

be held from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., with the auction beginning at 9:30 a.m. Refreshments will be available.

The year's auction will feature more than 70 bicycles and numerous other items including tools, jewelry, watches, lawn ornaments, a scooter, boxing gloves, fishing rods, DVDs, computer parts and more.

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