

# Weekend Champion

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"Using Communication to Build Better Communities"

A Metroland Community Newspaper

Vol. 144 No. 68

Friday, November 7, 2003

48 Pages

\$1.00 (GST included)



## Moving day

The long-time vacant house at the corner of Martin Street and Steeles Avenue was moved earlier this week. Here, it inches along Steeles Avenue en route to a Peru Road property. Due to railway overpasses, movers had to take a 15-km route to get to their destination. The move involved police, hydro as well as other utilities and took all day Tuesday, stopping overnight and resuming Wednesday morning.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Proposed housing development near escarpment soon faces public scrutiny

By JASON MISNER  
*The Champion*

Residents and an environmental watchdog group are aghast at a development proposal northwest of Bronte and Main streets that could see more than 600 homes built on 150 acres of vacant land in the shadow of the Niagara Escarpment.

And some are urging people to attend a January public meeting to discuss the proposal.

"Very few people know about this," said Colin Best, a resident of Main Street whose house isn't far from the potential development by landowner Central Milton Holdings.

"I want to see transitional, low-rise development

there," Mr. Best said, like a long-term care facility and a golf course. He noted he's been closely watching the situation for about five years.

Central Milton's proposal calls for the construction of between 480 and 639 homes on land that falls under the jurisdiction of the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC).

The homes are proposed to be a mix of townhouses and detached and semi-detached homes.

The site - a former quarry pit that also contains a woodlot - is located within the proposed Sherwood Survey. It's the second of Milton's three phases of planned residential development.

Last week, Central Milton was before a joint board hearing - involving the Ontario Municipal Board and Environmental Review Tribunal - to determine who wants to speak to the proposal

when it comes to the board for a decision at Town Hall in April. A time hasn't yet been determined.

The joint board is hearing Central Milton's proposal because it requires an amendment to the Niagara Escarpment Plan as well as Halton Region's Official Plan.

The Town of Milton and Halton Region haven't taken a position on the proposal because they need time to review the thick concept plan, which shows what the development would look like. It was submitted to the Town, Halton and NEC in August.

The NEC expressed concern at the hearing last week that Central Milton didn't seek direct public opinion in crafting its concept plan.

Public input into a concept plan was required by

• see PUBLIC on page 23

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