



NEWS
Martindale
Gardens
officially opens
Page 5

SPORTS
Duo set to take
Olympic Trial plunge
Page 20



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
Mother, daughter
on HGTV show
Page 10



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32 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"



Town looks to build giant, 85-acre park

By **MELANIE HENNESSEY**
The Champion

Ground will break this year for a massive community park in Milton's south end, complete with two baseball diamonds, four soccer fields, a playground, splash pad, multi-purpose court and walking trails.

About a dozen local residents attended an open house and information centre Tuesday night to look at the concept for the 85-acre park, which will be located on lands south of the Milton Sports Centre.

The Town's Parks and Open Space Manager Ken McAlpine told the small crowd construction of the trail system will start this year and about 75 per cent of the park will be built by 2007, with the remainder being phased in until 2012.

"The Town is phasing a number of projects of this magnitude. There's only so much money we have at one time," Mr. McAlpine said. "It's all driven by growth."

Mr. McAlpine said most of the funding needed to build the park will come from

development charges, with a small portion being derived from taxes and the Super Build program.

"The developers provide 90 per cent of the cost of these facilities. Very little of this money is coming from tax-related dollars."

Milton Youth Soccer Club president Dave Haringa, one of the few residents at the meeting, asked if there was any room for a practice facility at the new park.

Mr. McAlpine said there's an undesignated spot that could be used as a practice area.

Mr. Haringa said right now, it's not uncommon for 10 or 12 teams to pack into one field for practice.

"We need practice facilities. Saying they're going to built in 2007 doesn't help us," he said.

The park will be accessed from Santa Maria Boulevard, which Mr. McAlpine said is going to double in size once residential development in the area starts.

He added there's also intent to create a park access point from Louis St. Laurent Avenue.

• see PLANS on page 2

Spinning her wheels

Goodlife's Ken Van De Haar offers some water to Collette Watts, ride co-ordinator for the upcoming Summer Cycle event to raise funds for Halton Women's Place and the Toronto People With Aids Foundation. The second annual event will be held at the Main Street fitness club July 17. Those interested in riding or pledging can call (905) 876-3488.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Inside

Comment6-7
Dateline14
Real Estate18
Classified27-30

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