

Strategic plan adopted

By **MELANIE HENNESSEY**
The Champion

After several wording tweaks, regional council adopted its strategic plan Wednesday.

The document encompasses council's vision for Halton and priorities for this term of office, outlining what can be accomplished in the region over the next few years.

Operational plans for each of council's standing committees — health and social services, planning and public works and administration and finance — were also approved.

These plans detail specific actions on how council will achieve its goals in the strategic plan.

Regional Chair Joyce Savoline said she thought the strategic planning process was

thorough and council strived to be communicative and accountable.

The plan was developed over the past five months through council workshops, a town hall session and public consultation.

Ms Savoline emphasized the strategic plan is a guideline for council, not the public.

"This is not a community strategic plan. What we were using the public for is a sounding board."

The strategic plan is broken down into four themes: managed growth, economic prosperity, services to people and effective Halton Region.

"The plan's themes reflect council's commitment to maintaining growth in an environmentally and financially responsible manner, and the need to provide a strong public health

and social services infrastructure while remaining fiscally accountable," Ms Savoline said.

Some recent additions to the operational plans include attempting to secure enhanced provincial funding for youth mental health services and implementing flexible land use regulations, such as for an on-farm business.

The next step in the process is creating performance measures for the operational plans, which staff will soon be preparing.

The strategic plan and operational plans will be available on the Region's Web site at www.region.halton.on.ca.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Some tax relief could be coming

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"The main drivers of these increases are responding to changes in provincial standards and legislation, as well as increases to the operating and capital program to reflect full life cycle costs of the Region's significant water and waste water assets," the report said.

The projected 8.2 per cent jump is down from the 2004 hike of 9.1 per cent. Before that, the increase held steady at 7.5 per cent in 2002 and 2003.

Some items driving up the budget and taxes are the operation of two new long-term care facilities, one in Burlington and the other in Oakville, salary adjustments, road maintenance budget increases, rising gas prices and West Nile virus prevention programs.

Halton residents could see some tax relief in 2006 though, with the projected increase dropping slightly to four per cent. Water and waste water rates are expected to keep rising,

possibly to 8.4 per cent in 2006.

Halton taxes, including the cost of policing, have risen steadily for the past couple of years, with a two per cent increase in 2003 and a 3.9 per cent hike in 2004.

The budget report also lists the top road projects for 2005, which include: widening Regional Road 25 to four lanes from the QEW to Hwy. 407; widening Derry Road to four lanes from Bronte Street/First Line to Fifth Line and from Fifth Line to Ninth Line and widening Steeles Avenue to four lanes from Trafalgar Road to Winston Churchill Boulevard.

An information session on the budget will be held November 24 after the council meeting. Budget adoption is scheduled for December 15.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com.



TTY: 905-878-1657

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MILTON

905-878-7252

Milton Online

www.milton.ca

Notice of the Passing of a Development Charges By-law

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Milton passed Development Charges By-law No. 046-2004 on the 28th day of June, 2004 under section 12 of the Development Charges Act, 1997;

AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or organization may appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board under Section 14 of the Act, in respect of the Development Charges By-law, by filing with the **Clerk of the Town of Milton, 43 Brown Street, Milton Ontario, L9T 5H2** on or before the 6th day of August, 2004 a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the By-law and the reasons supporting the objection and the fee required by The Ontario Municipal Board. The required fee is \$125.00 made payable to the "Minister of Finance".

The schedule of development charges imposed by the By-law is as follows:

SERVICE	RESIDENTIAL					NON-RESIDENTIAL	
	Single-Detached & Semi-Detached Dwellings	Other Multiples	Apartments 2 or more Bedrooms	Apartments Bachelor & 1 Bedroom	Special Care/ Special Need Dwelling	(per sq.m. of Total Floor Area)	(per sq.ft. of Total Floor Area)
Roads	3,294	2,498	1,678	1,240	1,018	19.27	1.79
Other Transportation Services	422	320	241	159	130	1.94	0.18
Transit	27	20	15	10	8	0.11	0.01
Fire Protection Services	313	237	178	118	97	2.69	0.25
Outdoor Recreation Services	2,210	1,676	1,260	832	683	1.40	0.13
Indoor Recreation Services	1,110	842	633	418	343	0.75	0.07
Library Services	577	438	329	217	178	0.43	0.04
Administration	236	179	135	89	73	1.18	0.11
TOTAL	\$ 8,189	\$ 6,210	\$ 4,669	\$ 3,063	\$ 2,530	\$ 27.77	\$ 2.58
Sherwood Survey:							
Stormwater Drainage and Control Services	40	30	23	15	12	1.29	0.12
TOTAL INCLUDING AREA SPECIFIC (Sherwood only)	\$ 8,229	\$ 6,240	\$ 4,692	\$ 3,098	\$ 2,542	\$ 29.06	\$ 2.70

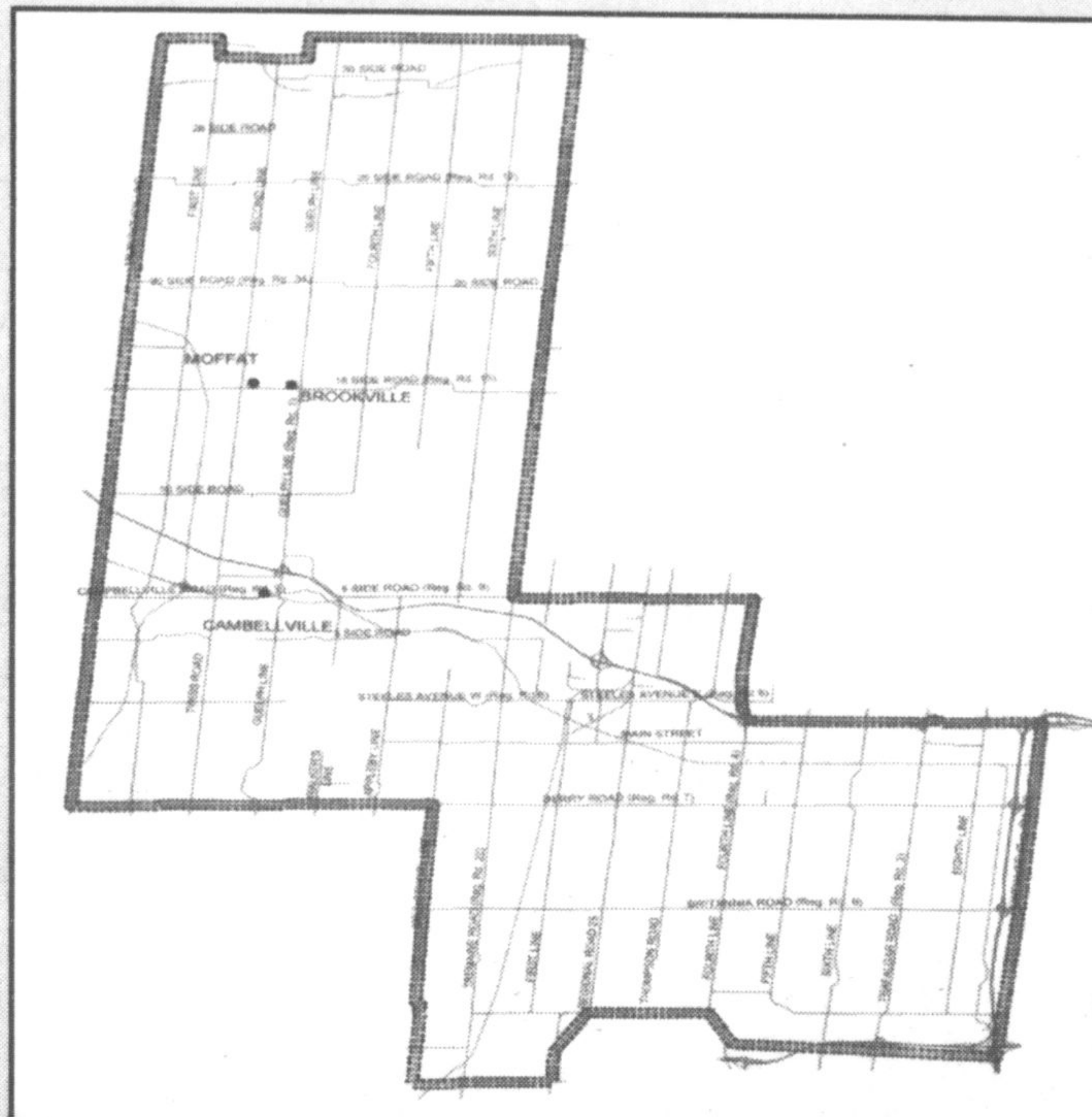
This By-law applies to all lands in the geographic area of the Town of Milton as shown on the key map and as described in the schedule of development charges above.

The complete by-law is available for examination at the Clerk's office during regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday or on the Town website at www.milton.ca.

For further information please contact D. Fitzpatrick at (905) 878-7252 ext. 2175

Dated at the Town of Milton this 14th day of June, 2004

Troy McHarg, Town Clerk



Milton Community Fund Announcements

Milton Community Fund 2004

Milton Council approved the distribution of \$377,371 in grants to 21 organizations and seven individuals during the first six months of this year from the Milton Community Fund. The purpose of this funding program is to provide financial support for activities that enhance the quality of life within Milton or enhance the image of the Town.

Recipients for First Six Months of 2004

Council is pleased to support Teia Clement, John Fisher, Dylan Innes, Lyndsey Innes, Shannon Johnston, Sara Mancini and Noelle Walsh as well as the following organizations whose proposals varied from equipment needs and volunteer training, to program development and expansion initiatives:

- Bob Rumball Association for the Deaf
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Canadian Red Cross, North Halton Branch
- Children's Aid Foundation of Halton
- Community Living North Halton
- Fine Arts Society of Milton
- Girl Guides of Canada, White Oaks Area
- Halton Agricultural Society
- Joyce Scott Non-Profit Homes Inc.
- Milton Community Resource Centre – OEYC
- Milton District Hospital Auxilliary
- Milton Historical Society
- Milton Jaycees
- Milton Minor Hockey Association
- Milton Springers Gymnastics Club
- Milton Youth Soccer Club
- Ontario Electric Railway Historical Association
- Ontario Steam & Antique Preservers Association
- STRIDE
- The Rotary Club of Milton
- Victorian Order of Nurses

For more information about the fund and this round of approved grants, please visit our website at www.milton.ca or contact Joy Anderson, Manager, Recreation Services, at 905-878-7252, ext. 2604.

Next application deadline: October 4, 2004

Travel requests may come forward at any time.