

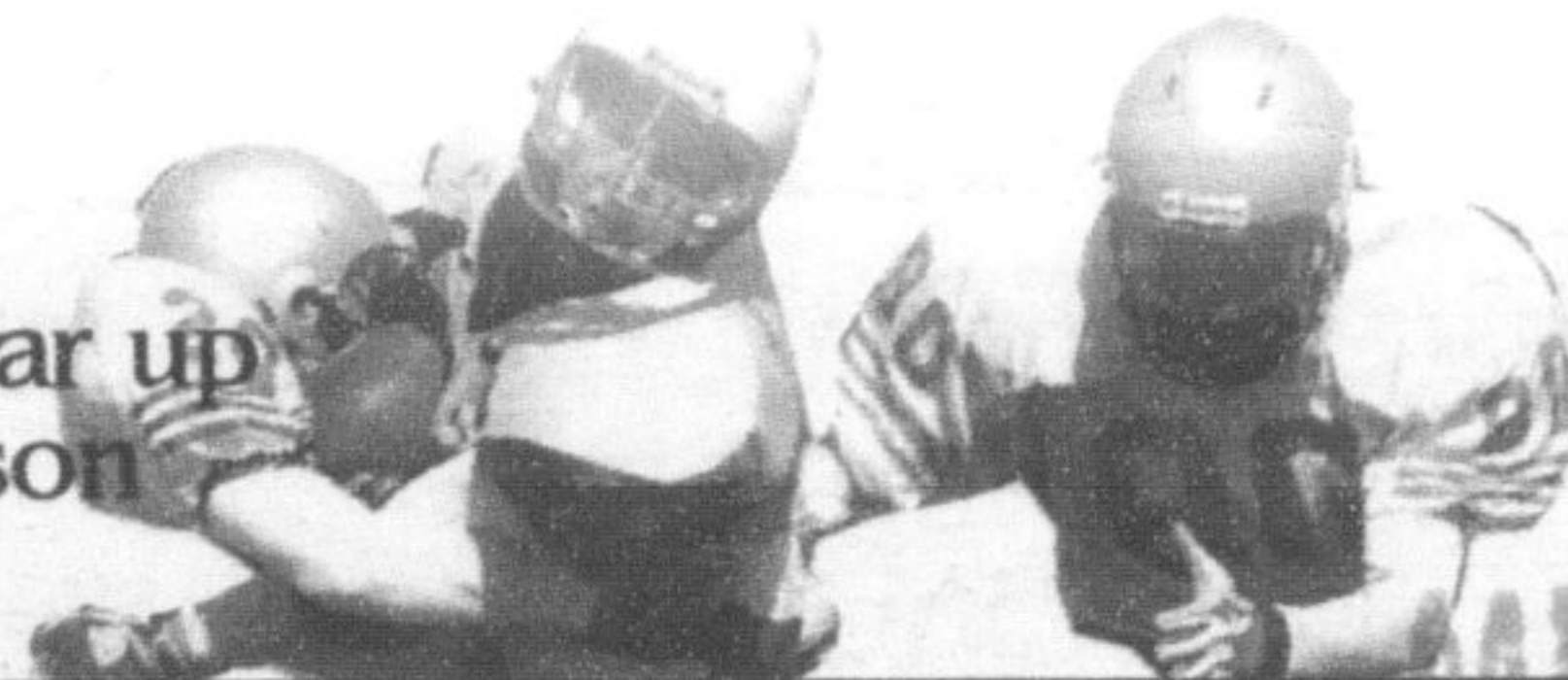


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A METROLAND COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER VOL. 145 NO. 54 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2004 \$1.00 (GST included) 52 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Swinging into fall

Two-year-old Ian Murdoch takes advantage of Wednesday's warm weather with a swing in the park with mom Jennifer. The two were out taking in the Indian summer-like conditions at Victoria Park.

Halton may get more pressure to grow, Region hears

Growth shifting to Halton from Peel, where land is running out

By **MELANIE HENNESSEY**
The Champion

As land supplies run out in surrounding regions, more growth pressures could soon be redirected to Halton.

That's what two presentations given to the Region's planning and public works committee Wednesday suggested.

The topic came before committee through delegations on the recent discussion paper put out by the provincial government, Places to Grow: Better Choices, Brighter Future, a document aimed at stopping urban sprawl and focusing compact development on 11 priority urban centres and 15 emerging urban centres.

Milton and Burlington's cores have been listed as emerging urban centres and downtown Oakville a priority urban centre.

Garry Stamm of Stamm Research Associates, who represented the South Georgetown Landowners Group, said growth is shifting from Peel to Halton.

"Halton Hills and Milton must absorb growth of units as west Brampton and northwest Mississauga lands deplete," he said.

"Over the next decade, approximately 7,000 of 12,000 housing unit permits per year currently developing in Mississauga and Brampton can be expected to shift as additional growth to Halton Hills and Milton."

Don Given of Malone Given Parsons Ltd. pointed out to the committee that places like Vaughan, Markham and

Newmarket are all running out of land.

He provided a chart that outlined the amount of vacant designated and developable urban and employment lands in Halton, which are 5,450 hectares and 2,230 hectares respectively — the third largest amounts in the GTA-Hamilton area.

"Halton is seen as one of the key candidates for growth," he said. "It's better to plan for growth than deny it."

But, Regional and Burlington Councillor John Taylor said the Region isn't prepared to accept a dictated plan from Queen's Park and called for a legal opinion on it.

Milton resident Bob Beyette shared similar thoughts with Mr. Taylor, reminding the committee that at the recent public forum that looked at the discussion paper, citizens continuously said that growth numbers and locations as posed by the Province shouldn't be forced to happen.

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