



File photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Mayor Gord Krantz cuts the ribbon to officially open Wal-Mart's Milton store along with district manager Sarah Strachan (centre) and store manager Daria Raymond.

Opening of new mega stores result of growth

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125573 Ontario Inc., that were charged in June and July, 2003 with 44 counts of destroying trees in an Environmentally Sensitive Area and destroying trees in a woodlot. Burlington's George Vastis could face \$840,000 in fines in connection with the tree-cutting on the Fourth Line property straddling the Milton/Oakville border. While several witnesses told the court that trees appeared to be cut in the pattern of a golf course, Mr. Vastis contended that the cutting was done for farming purposes, while his lawyer called the case a "witch hunt." The trial continues in February.

Liberal red tide comes in again

Halton Liberal Gary Carr cruised past Conservative Dean Martin in the federal election, garnering 48.5 per cent of the votes to Martin's 38.2 per cent. It marked the area's closest federal race in more than a decade and also represented a changing

of the guard, as Mr. Carr replaced longtime Halton MP Julian Reed, who announced earlier in the year that he would be retiring from politics to spend more time with his family and resume his acting career.

New Wal-Mart, Canadian Tire open

Miltonians got their first genuine taste of retail growth with the opening of both Wal-Mart and a relocated and expanded Canadian Tire at the new power centre at Steeles Avenue and James Snow Parkway. Opening its doors in September, the new Wal-Mart features a pharmacy, one-hour photo centre, portrait studio, refrigerated grocery section and auto parts area. Just across the way, Canadian Tire opened a few weeks later and is now five-and-a-half times bigger than its previous store on Market Drive — with a 15-bay automotive service centre, 9,000-square-foot garden centre and home décor area.

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NOTICE OF PROJECT COMMENCEMENT AND INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

City of Guelph Water Supply Master Plan Class Environmental Assessment

Background

In 1999, the City of Guelph initiated a Water Supply Strategy project to address the supply of municipal water to meet future projected demands. Based on comparisons of demand to capacity, the project concluded that there is a need to supplement the existing municipal water supply system, both immediately and in the long term. In response to this the City has implemented a comprehensive water conservation/demand management program as well as a program to potentially increase capacity from the existing Arkell Spring Grounds municipal well system.

Master Plan Project Now Underway

Looking towards the longer term, the City has initiated a Water Supply Master Plan Project. The Master Plan Project will identify additional sources of water to supplement the existing supply in the 50+ year planning horizon (i.e. to at least 2054). Alternatives to be studied include developing additional groundwater supplies as well as developing alternative municipal supplies which could include new surface water sources and partnerships with neighbouring municipalities. This project is being developed as a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) under Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act.

Public Involvement Welcome

Public involvement is an important part of the Class EA process. Residents, businesses and community organizations are invited to participate in developing the new Water Supply Master Plan that is expected to be completed by mid 2005. Opportunities for public input, including public meetings, workshops and open houses, will occur throughout the Master Plan process to seek community feedback on identified additional sources of water for the City. Future consultation events will be publicized in this newspaper, through direct mail, and posted on the City's website at www.guelph.ca. Other consultation activities include formation of a Water Supply Master Plan Public Advisory Committee (PAC) with broad representation from stakeholders which will provide support and advice to the Master Plan Project Team.

Please contact either of the following project team members if you would like more information at this early stage in the process, or to be added to the project mailing list to receive direct notice of future study events:

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