

Council eyes share of funds for affordable housing

By **MELANIE HENNESSEY**
The Champion

Town council is calling on the Region to make sure Milton gets its fair share of the affordable housing that'll be built throughout Halton with funds received from the provincial and federal governments.

At a recent meeting, council supported a motion from Ward 4 Councillor Wendy Schau that requests the Region allocate a reasonable amount of the 120 affordable housing units to be developed with part of the \$10.1 million Halton was allotted through the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program.

"In order to have a healthy community, you

have to have a range of housing types," she said in explaining why she brought the item forward.

In a letter she submitted to council with her motion, Ms Schau noted that Milton has a great need for affordable housing.

She pointed out that recent statistics from Halton Access to Community Housing show there are 34 senior households on the waiting list for affordable units in Milton, with a wait list time of about two years.

The statistics also show an additional 217 local non-senior households are waiting for social housing. Ms Schau's letter went on to note that there are only 212 geared-to-income rental units in Milton and they're all presently occupied.

The motion council endorsed also asks the Region to consider partnering with local organizations, either private or non-profit, in order to include affordable housing units in the master plan staff's creating for the Allendale campus.

"It makes sense in my view that the Region look at the possibility of partnering with organizations to provide housing in that location," Ms Schau said. "It's really very, very suitable."

At the meeting, Karl Reichert of the Milton Affordable Housing Coalition — which Ms Schau is also a part of — spoke about the need for more rental housing to accommodate lower income Miltonians.

He noted no affordable housing has been built

in Milton for many years.

"We believe that this need is quite great," he said.

Mr. Reichart pointed out that other affordable housing projects in Halton could potentially absorb the 120 units to be created with funds from the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program.

"We need to make sure in Milton that we get out share," he said.

He said the coalition requests that council do all within its power to address the situation.

Council unanimously supported the motion.

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

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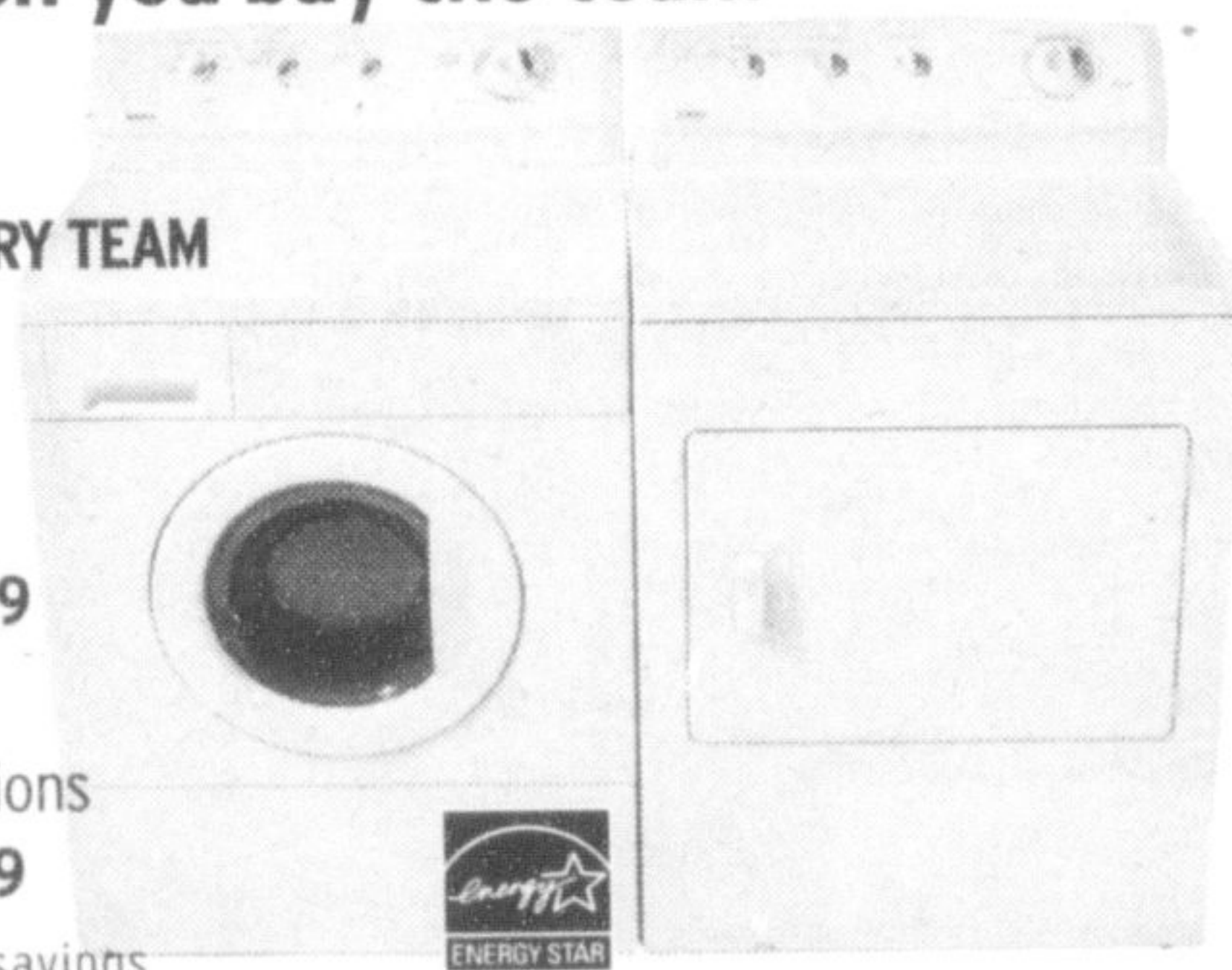
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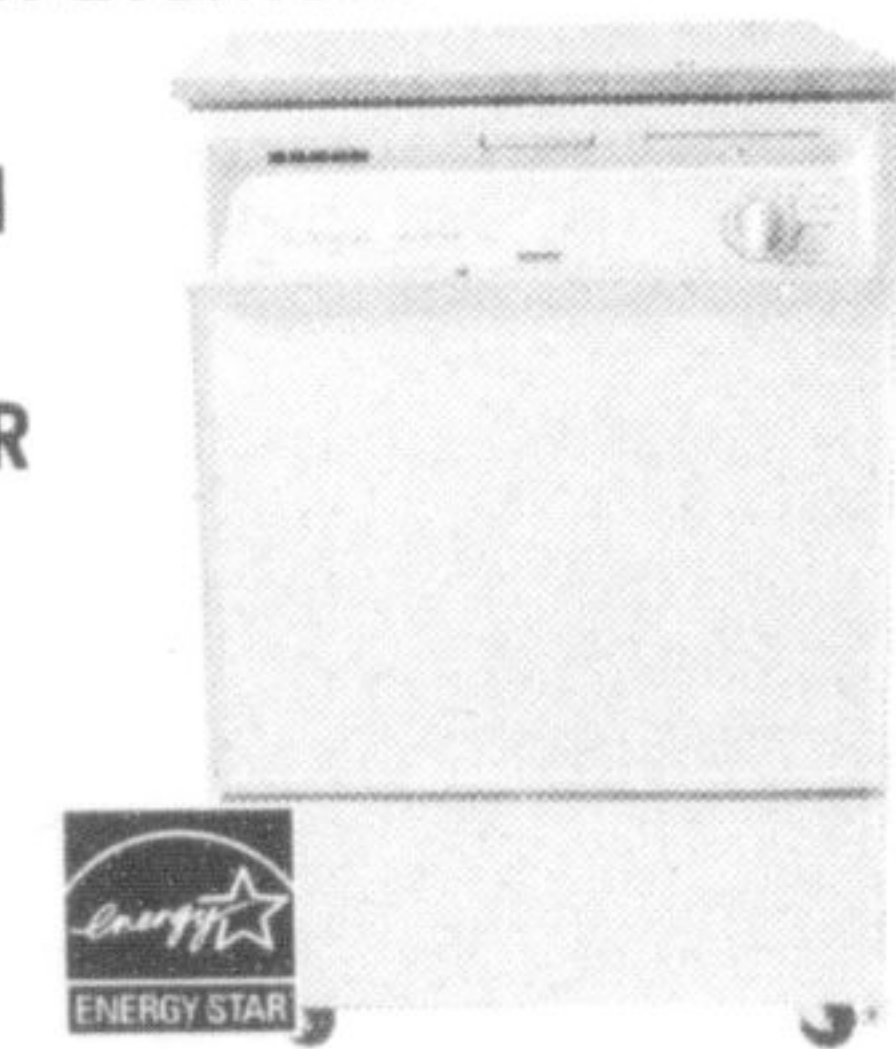
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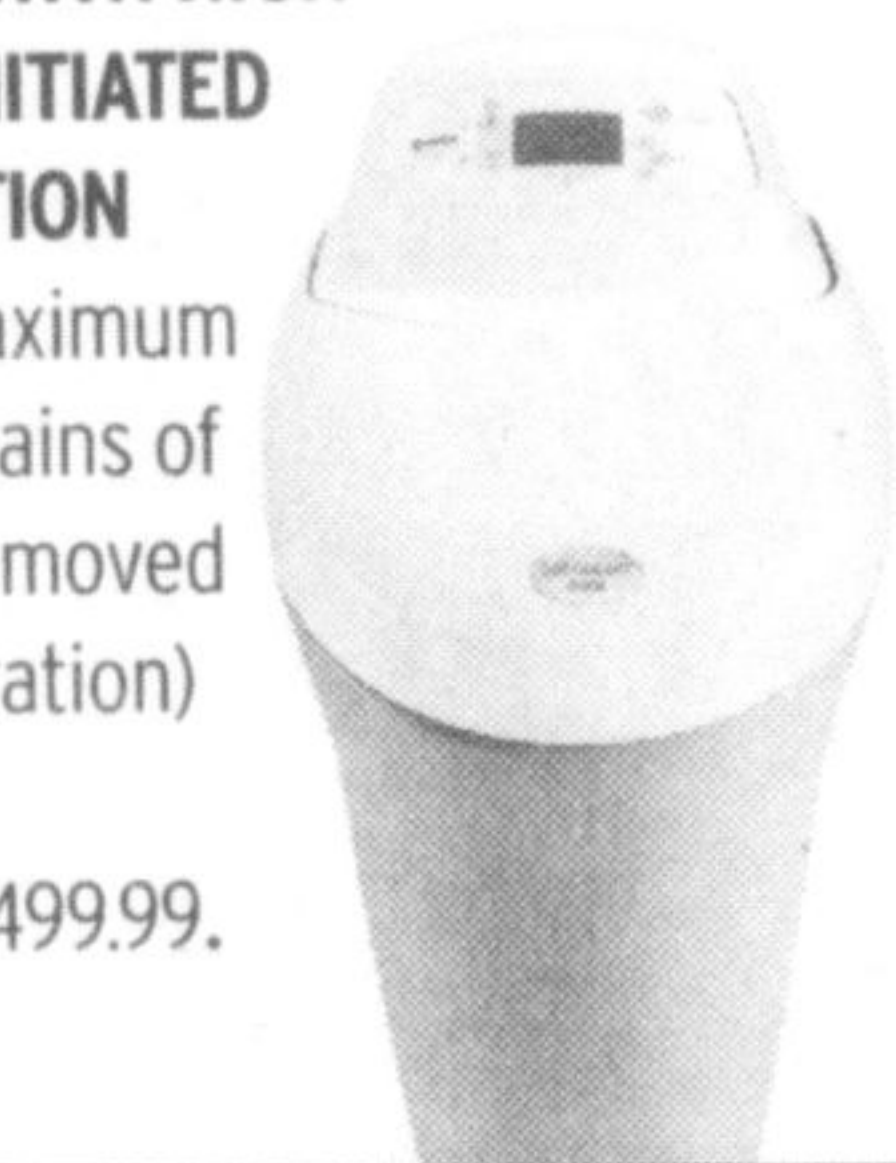
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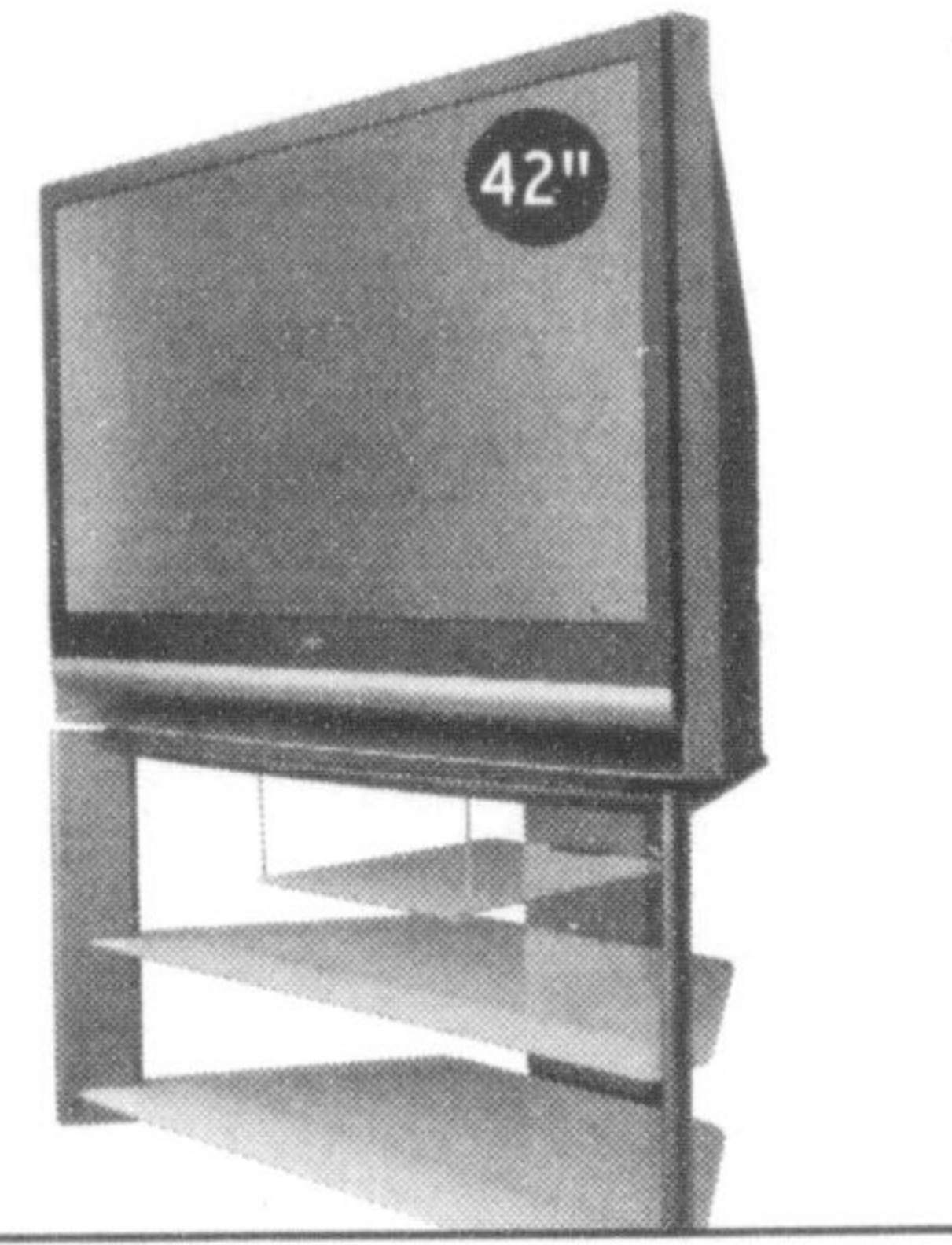
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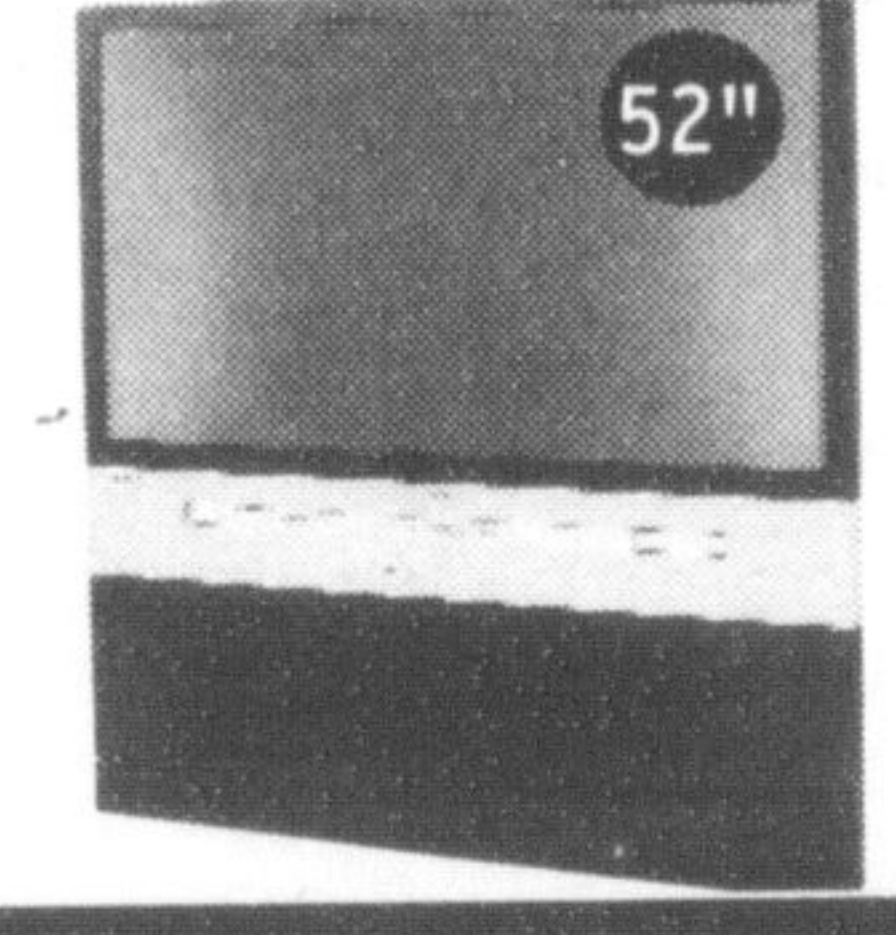
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Furnace bylaw deferred

A Town bylaw that will regulate outdoor furnaces has been put on the back burner.

The document, which sets out distance requirements for outdoor solid fuel combustion appliances used to burn things such as wood to heat a home, went before Milton council late last month.

That's when Wards 1 and 3 Councillor Barry Lee proposed deferring the bylaw until the Town receives further clarification on whose jurisdiction it is to regulate the furnaces.

He noted the Region has said it's the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment.

The creation of the bylaw spurs from a petition the Town received last year from a group of local residents who say their health has been negatively impacted by smoke coming from an outdoor furnace on a neighbouring property.

Council unanimously supported deferring the bylaw.

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