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A Metroland Media Group Publication • Vol. 147 No. 83

Tuesday, December 26, 2006

48 Pages • \$1.00 (incl. G.S.T.)



NO SLEIGH RIDES HERE... Mark Burger, an avid mountain bike enthusiast, gets in another ride amid the almost autumn-like weather conditions at Kelso Conservation Area. Staff at Glen Eden Ski and Snowboard Centre, located at Kelso, are hoping for the return of colder weather and are poised to make snow when the temperatures drop. See story on page A3.

GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

Provincial legislation must change: Carr

Regional chair calls for act change to ease gridlock

By **Melanie Hennessey**
 CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Regional Chairman Gary Carr says provincial legislation has to change so that Halton can get infrastructure in place before new homes are built, thus easing the local gridlock.

The new head of regional council told The Champion that the Development Charges Act limits the decisions the Region can make on when and how much money can be collected from developers for things like roads.

But in order to get services up to speed prior to new residents moving in, Carr said he thinks more development charges need to flow into the Region's coffers well in advance of

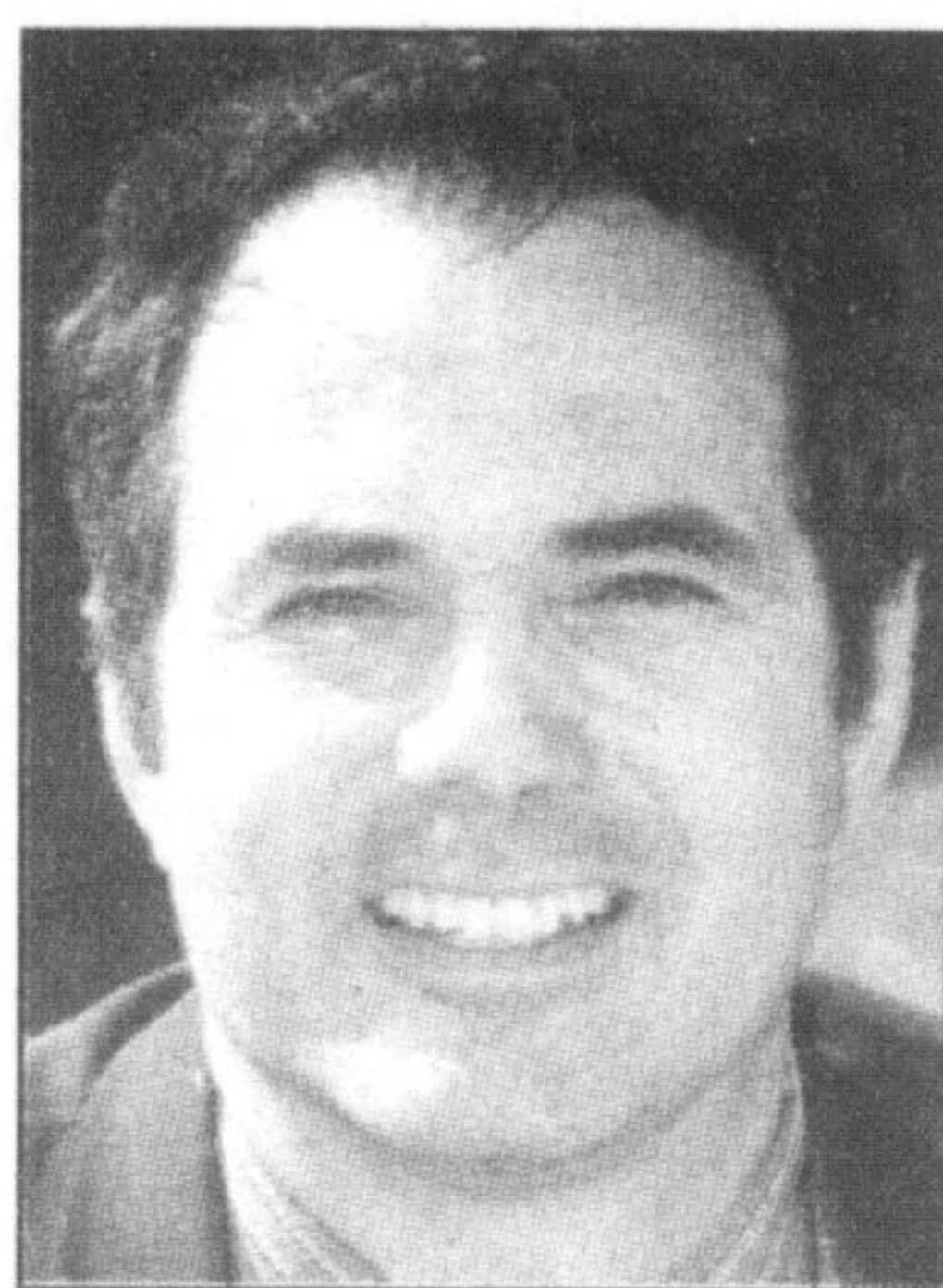
ground breaking for a subdivision.

"We need the freedom to make the decisions ourselves (on development charges)," he said. "We'd like to have more flexibility."

He went on to say, "It comes down to the whole principle of growth paying for itself. We need to have the full amount of development paid for by developers."

Carr said the issue will go before regional council sometime in the new year.

"They (councillors) could pass some type of resolution that may call on the Province for changes to the act," he said.



Gary Carr

He pointed out that recently, regional council passed a motion asking for another change to the act so that GO Transit growth-related projects are fully funded by development charges.

With a provincial election on the horizon for 2007, Carr said he plans to press the local candidates on what they would do when it comes to development charges and the GTA pooling system, which sees millions of Halton's tax dollars go toward helping Toronto pay for its social services.

"That pooling money could be used for our services," he pointed out.

At the local level, Carr said he thinks Halton needs to deliver a strong message to developers — "When you come into the community, understand that we need to have services in place before you build, not after."

• see REGION on page A18

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