

# Sharing money the right move, says Jackson

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Burlington Mayor Cam Jackson said he thinks the four municipalities will make the best decisions on where to invest the money.

The fact municipal councils will have the option to return the funds for regional transportation projects was highlighted by Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette.

"This allows us flexibility," he noted. "I think this is a good resolution."

Bonnette also said he thinks giving the money back through taxes would defeat the purpose of the Fairness for Halton campaign. Halton Hills Councillor Jane Fogal shared similar sentiments, explaining that making tax cuts would tell the Province Halton does have enough money for infrastructure.

She and Milton Mayor Gord Krantz voiced their support for the motion crafted during last week's planning and public works committee that asked for the local municipalities to simply be consulted with on the option of receiving pooling funds versus using the money for regional projects.

And Burlington Councillor John Taylor stressed the needs Halton has in its roads system, likening the situation to how streets are prioritized when snow plowing.

"When it comes to snow clearing, you don't plow cul-de-sacs first," he said. "We need to build the regional infrastructure before the local infrastructure."

When the vote was called, Bird, Bonnette, Dennison, Elgar, Jackson, Oakville Mayor Rob Burton and councillors Tom Adams and Alan Johnston, along with Burlington councillors Rick Craven, Carol D'Amelio and Rick Goldring were in favour of the motion to send the pooling savings to each local municipality.

Voting against the resolution were Best, Krantz, Taylor, Fogal, Halton Hills Councillors Clark Somerville, Milton Councillor Barry Lee, Oakville Councillor Fred Oliver, Burlington Councillor Peter Thoem and Regional Chair Gary Carr. Oakville Councillor Jeff Knoll was absent.

Under the Province's plan, pooling will be reduced by one-sixth of its 2004 levels each year until the program is completely eliminated by 2013.

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# Turner holds taxing income trusts meeting

Halton MP Garth Turner is calling a special town hall meeting Thursday to discuss the impact taxing income trusts has on investors and the economy.

The local politician is inviting income trust investors and concerned citizens to come out to the meeting, which will start at 7:30 p.m. at the Boyne Community Centre, located at the northeast corner of Britannia Road and Regional Road 25.

For more information contact (905) 693-0166. For further details on the income trust situation, visit Turner's website and blog at [www.garth.ca](http://www.garth.ca).

# Record industrial growth likely to continue

It looks like Milton's 2007 industrial growth is on pace to match or even surpass last year's record-breaking numbers.

According to a report presented to the Town's administration and planning committee Monday evening, industrial/commercial/institutional permits issued in the first quarter of the year represent about one million square feet of development — up from 770,269 square feet reached at the same time in 2006.

"We've been hearing a lot about

how fast Milton is growing, especially since the 2006 Census report showed that we are the fastest-growing community in Canada," said Mayor Gord Krantz. "But one of the keys to a healthy community is a balance between industrial and residential development."

Residential development is also up, with 80 more unit applications being made in the first three months of the year compared to 2006 and 268 additional permits being issued.

According to staff, the hike is main-

ly due to builders submitting applications prior to the need for mandatory compliance with the new Objective-Based Building Code that came into effect April 1.

"The results really mean that a number of applications have taken place in the first quarter, but the trend is a steady growth which matches our forecast," said Director of Planning and Development Mel Iovio. "Milton continues to be an attractive location for homebuyers and new businesses alike."

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