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**DIGGING DEEP:** From left, Mayor Gord Krantz is joined by Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr and Ward 1 Councillor Brian Penman, chair of the Town Hall Expansion Steering Committee, in the ceremonial groundbreaking for the Town Hall expansion project.

## Town Hall expansion officially underway

By **Melanie Hennessey**  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Ground officially broke Wednesday night for the Town Hall expansion project, making way for the building that will relieve the space constraints faced by a growing staff.

The ceremony at Town Hall Victoria Park, which drew local residents, politicians, Town staff and the team involved with the work, celebrated the start of a \$24.2-million undertaking.

"This is a significant moment," said Ward 1 Councillor Brian Penman, who's also the chair of the project steering committee. "It's a big part of our (the Town's) 150th anniversary."

He explained the vision for the 50,000-square foot, two-storey expansion goes beyond Town Hall.

"We're trying to anchor this whole con-

struct with the Main Street," he noted.

Penman also gave a historical overview of the existing Town Hall, which was at one time a jail and the local court house. The Town eventually bought the facility for \$1 from Halton Region.

"The next one is going to be a little more expensive," he joked.

### Historic building almost destroyed

Mayor Gord Krantz pointed out that the building came close to being torn down, but local historian and former *Champion* publisher Jim Dills put pressure on the Town to make sure it was preserved.

"We all owe you a big thanks," Krantz told Dills.

For Regional Chair Gary Carr, the expansion brings a combination of moving forward and continuing with a great legacy, even as Milton has become the fastest-growing com-

munity in the country.

"We still have kept that small-town atmosphere, and that includes this building," he said.

Penman highlighted the fact the expansion is going to be constructed as a 'green' building that complies with LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification standards.

"No one in all conscience can build a building in 2007 without addressing significant environmental concerns," he said.

He acknowledged the Province for the \$510,000 grant it awarded the Town that will be used in part to ensure the expansion meets LEED standards.

If the Town is successful through the LEED process, it will make the Town Hall expansion the first municipal construction project to obtain the certification.

• see **COMPLETION** on page A5

## Inside Today's Champion

OPINION	A6
BUSINESS	A12
CLASSIFIED	A19
CHAMPION COUNTRY	B1
DATELINE	B2

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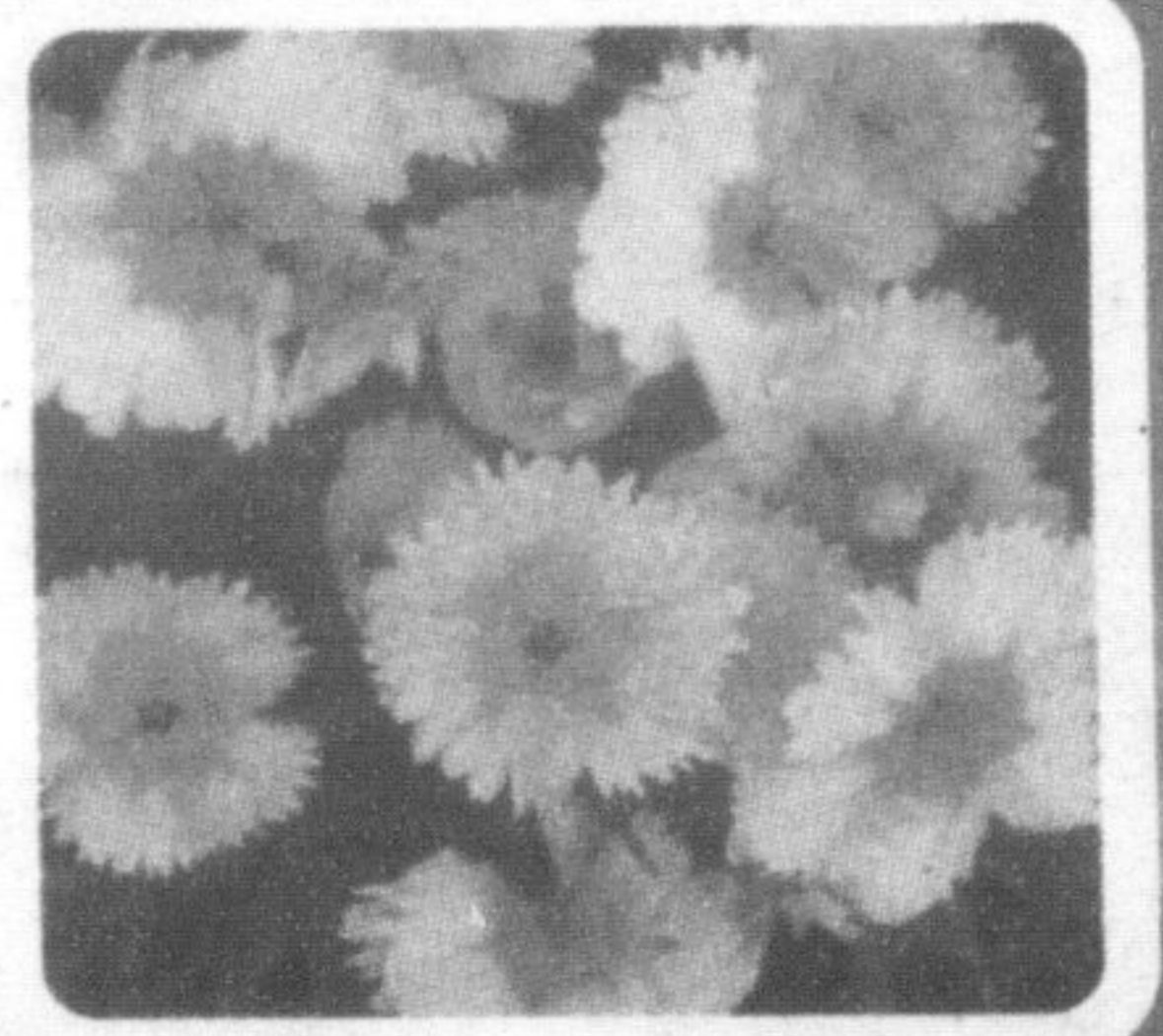
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