

# Halton's housing strategy honoured

## Earns Excellence in Planning Award

The Region's Comprehensive Housing Strategy has earned the municipality recognition both provincially and nationally.

Staff informed regional council last week that Halton's plan has been chosen as the recipient of a 2007 Excellence in Planning Award from the Ontario Provincial Planning Institute in the communications/public education category. The award will be presented at the institute's annual conference in early October.

In addition, the housing strategy has also received several awards to recognize outstanding performance in the public relations field.

It won an Ovation Award of Merit from the Toronto chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators, ACE (Achieving Communications Excellence) Award from the Toronto chapter of the Canadian Public Relations Society and a National Award of Merit, also from the society.

The housing strategy is designed to ensure a variety of affordable housing types for Halton residents in the years to come.

It contains five major strategic directions — promoting healthy communities, encouraging and protecting affordable housing, encouraging and protecting assisted housing, supporting independent living and retaining and regaining housing — and 40 specific recommendations for action to address the region's housing needs until 2015 and beyond.

# Mattamy picks up tab for new trail

## Agreement expedites \$586,000 project

Miltonians will be able to enjoy a new trail sooner than expected since Mattamy Homes has agreed to front the funds.

Milton council voted Monday to enter into an agreement with Mattamy that would see the builder design and construct two sections of the Union Gas Pipeline Trail at a cost of \$586,000.

The trail the agreement pertains to is 1.2 kilometres long and will be constructed in two sections.

Construction of the section between Bennett Boulevard and Thompson Road will start soon, with the portion from Bennett to Fourth Line being constructed within the next year or two — exactly when is still to be determined.

The trail wasn't originally scheduled to be built until 2009.

The Town will pay Mattamy back without interest over the next four years.

Ward 4 councillor Paul Scherer expressed some hesitation about not having as much control over projects when agreements of this sort are entered into.

"It's a pretty big leap of faith," he said when talking about giving Mattamy the go-ahead.

Town CAO Mario Belvedere responded that this type of agreement has been standard procedure since the growth in Milton began.

"It's usually a good result for the town," Belvedere said.

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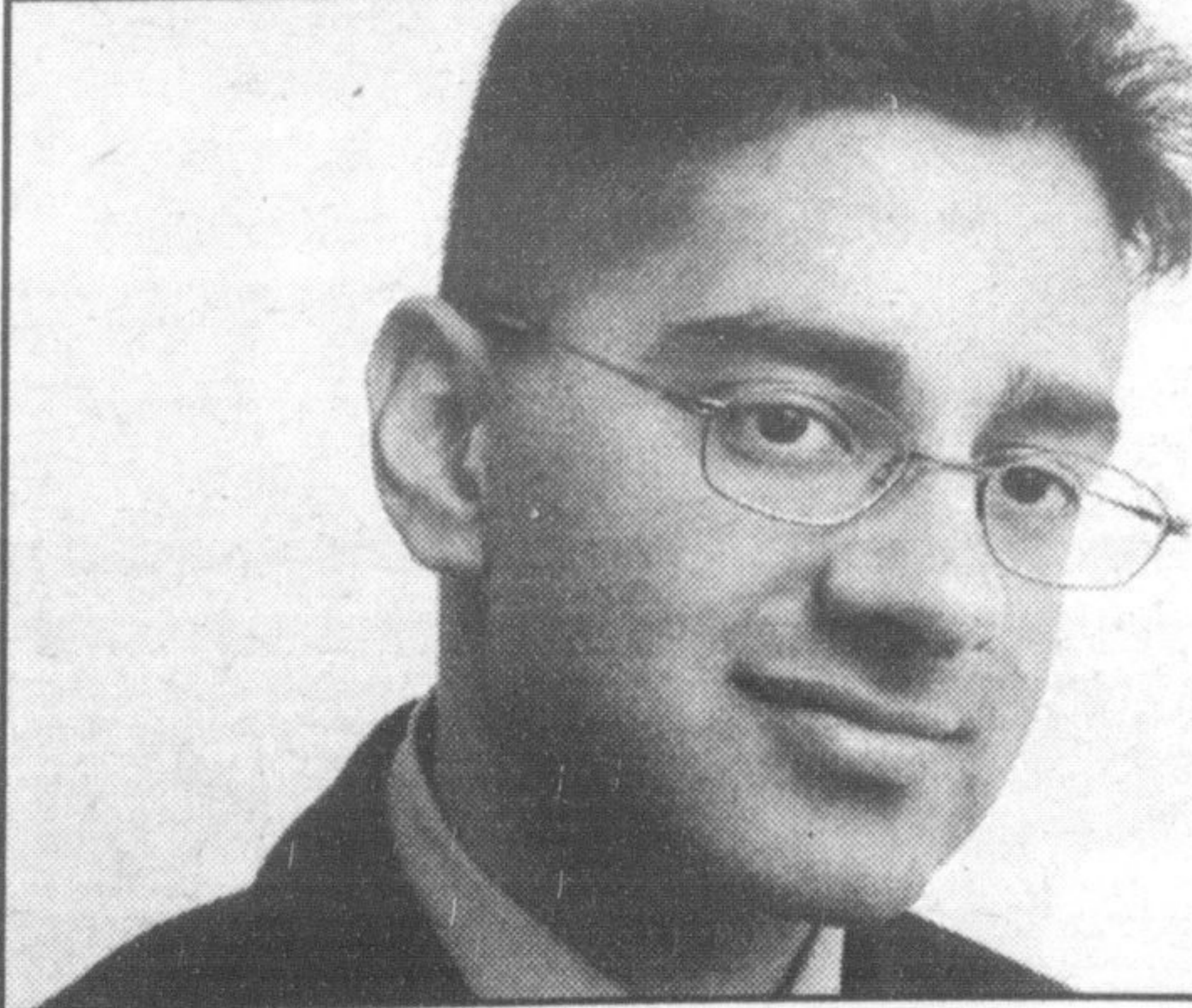
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