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Developers should pay up: Region

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The Region wants developers to pay the lion's share of the \$2.5 billion needed for Halton's growth-related infrastructure between now and 2021.

A proposed infrastructure staging and development financing plan endorsed by the Region's administration and finance committee Wednesday puts developers on the hook for almost \$2.1 billion for necessary water, sewer and roads projects over the next 14 years.

This means about \$250 million would come from the Region's coffers, and another \$78 million is expected in subsidies from the upper levels of government to help pay for costs at the Skyway Wastewater Treatment Plant in Burlington.

As previously directed by council, the financing plan isn't allowed to result in additional tax increases above and beyond what's already been forecasted, like next year's projected 2.6 per cent tax increase for regional services, or \$22 for the average homeowner.

Halton Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer Jane MacCaskill said the \$250 million slated for financing by the Region represents the benefit of the infrastructure to existing taxpayers.

"It's what we would have to do even without growth," she said.

While \$2.1 billion would ultimately be recovered through development charges, the plan

• see **PROJECTS** on page A2



NIKKI WESLEY / METROLAND WEST MEDIA GROUP

TIE ONE ON: Halton Regional Police Const. Nick McConnell ties a red ribbon onto a cruiser in conjunction with the MADD campaign kick-off.

Ribbon campaign aims for happy holidays — no impaired driving

By Dennis Smith
METROLAND WEST MEDIA GROUP

Amy Tiberia calls her accident survivor son Raymond "a little miracle."

The Oakville teenager, who recovered from a severe brain injury, helped launch MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) Halton's Red Ribbon campaign last Friday.

The campaign, which kicked off at the Halton Regional Police station in Burlington, aims for a holiday season with no deaths or injuries caused by impaired driving.

"By displaying a MADD Canada red ribbon, you'll make a personal commitment to drive sober," said Chris Borak, president of Halton's MADD branch.

"We urge Canadians to call 911 if they see a sus-

pected impaired driver. By removing a drunk driver from the road, you may be saving a life."

Before cutting the kick-off ribbon with her son, Tiberia recalled the trauma an accident December 30, 1994 caused her family.

"From the second it happened almost 14 years ago, the choice one person made to drink and drive forever altered the path of our lives," said the Oakville resident.

"My son suffered a severe brain injury at age 3 and for 16 days was in a coma fighting for his life. He had to change and adapt and fight for his life. He's the bravest person I know."

Raymond was seriously injured when the family car collided with another vehicle in Erie, Pa. They were in the area visiting Tiberia's relatives.

• see **FAMILY** on page A2

Sorry, no can do

Region won't be able to meet Sustainable Halton deadline:

Committee

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The Region is letting the Province know it won't have its Sustainable Halton plan ready on time.

At its meeting Wednesday, the planning and public works committee supported a motion that essentially tells the Province while the Region has made substantial progress in its Sustainable Halton process, it won't be able to meet the June 16, 2009 deadline prescribed by the Places to Grow Act.


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