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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

FESTIVE FIRE RISK: The Milton Fire Department suggests residents start the new year off safely by discarding their Christmas trees as soon as possible. The trees are a potential fire risk due to the dried out branches and needles. Here, firefighters demonstrate just how flammable dry trees can be.

Police look to public for help

Halton police release images in connection with robbery at BMO

Police have released images of a suspect in connection with a recent bank robbery, and are hoping the public can help identify him.

The BMO Bank of Montreal on Maple Avenue, near Thompson Road, was targeted December 24 at about 2:50 p.m., said Halton Regional Police.

A lone male entered the bank and produced a note demanding cash and indicating he had a gun, police said.

He fled with an undisclosed amount of money.

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Ball in developers' court, says Carr

Region stands firm on servicing freeze

By Tim Foran

CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

There will be no easing into the new year for Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr.

Instead, the longtime politician will find out this week the results of council's move this past fall to freeze the servicing of future residential developments in Halton region unless developers ante up more of an upfront cost for each home they build.

"The ball is in the developers' court," Carr said during a wide-ranging interview on issues the region faces in 2009. "For the first time in a long time, we are protecting the existing taxpayer...and developers will pay their full share (of new growth)."

As expected, growth concerns and the current economy are issues the region will deal with in 2009, said Carr, but protection of Halton's natural environment will not be left behind.

Regional council voted in November to withhold the provision of new water pipes and sewers for up to 40,000 new homes in north Oakville and Milton, scheduled to be built between 2009 and 2021. Developers wishing to build in those areas would now have to pay the Region more than \$38,000 in per-unit development charges, almost 50 per cent higher than what they had originally paid. These charges are on top of what developers pay the lower-tier municipalities for capital projects.

Carr argued the extra cash is necessary for Halton to pay for \$2.5 billion in growth-related

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front L-R Trevor, Dave, Christine, back L-R Mark, Val, Jewel, Danielle, Jackie & Jessica. Missing is Meredith & Scott

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