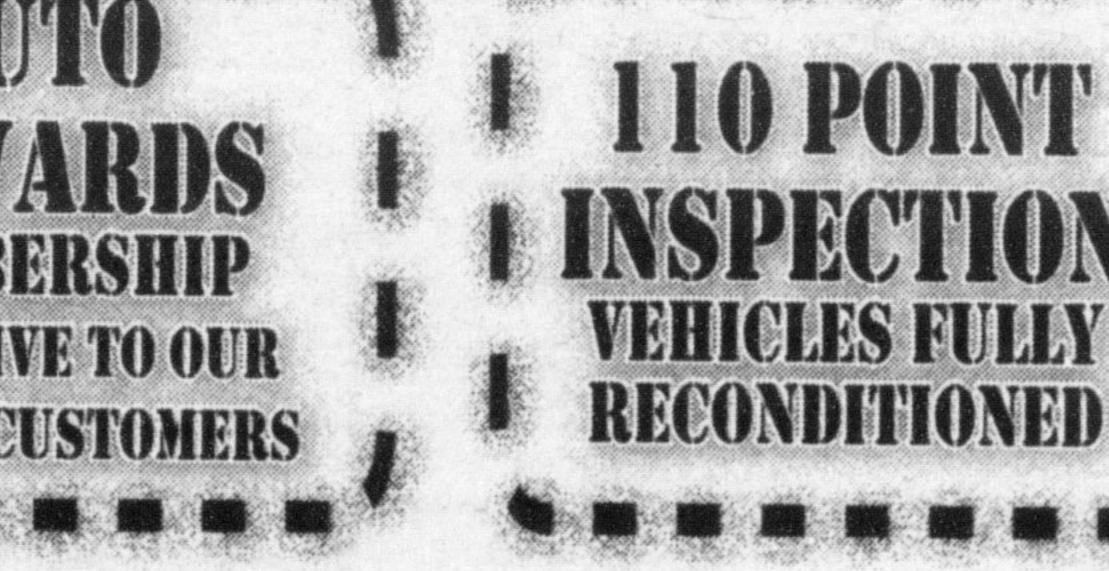






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Fairground properties sold nearby

 from FAIRGROUNDS on page A1 started the Milton Fall Fair in 1854 and which moved the fair to its current location in 1864. The Town of Milton doesn't own the fairgrounds.

"We're not talking to developers," said Scherer.

Both Best and Scherer feel the rumours stem from the purchase of the fairgrounds in Ancaster by Mattamy Homes about three years ago. Mattamy is currently building a residential subdivision on those lands.

The agricultural society that runs the fairgrounds in Beamsville has also sold its lands for redevelopment and is moving its fair to a more rural location.

However, any attempt at developing the Milton Fair Grounds would require a very long, public planning process, Best said.

First, the Halton Agricultural Society would have to find a buyer, get agreement from its members to sell the land and buy land somewhere else to hold the fall fair. The new owner would then have to apply for a rezoning of the property, which is currently zoned for open space (parkland) uses, to allow for residential uses - something that requires approval from either town council or the appeals body, the Ontario Municipal Board.

"This stuff would be front page news (if it was happening)," said Best.

A developer would also have to secure approvals from Halton Region to extend sewer and water pipes to service the property, and would then have to go through a long subdivision planning process with Town staff.

The whole process would take years, noted Best.

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