

Community Notebook

Ride the Rails: The annual Summer Extravaganza is ready to roll at the Halton County Radial Railway Museum this Sunday. Visitors are encouraged to make a day of it, bring a picnic lunch and use the snack bar and new ice cream bar facilities. Rides will be conducted in antique electric train cars along the one mile track. The museum is located north of Highway 401 on Guelph Line.

Big Picnic: Big Brothers of Halton will hold their annual family picnic on Sunday at Lion's Valley Park, Oakville. The event starts at 1:30 p.m. and all parents, Little and Big Brothers in the area are invited to play games and enjoy a barbecue. To find out more call 845-6456 or 876-4756.

Park Services: The Salvation Army's services in the park are back for the summer season at Bronte harbour. Park services featuring special music will be presented each Sunday afternoon from 3-4 until Aug. 28. Services are held at the corner of Bronte Road and Ontario Street in Oakville.

Singles Club: Every Sunday evening at the Optimist Centre, 311 Commercial St., Milton Singles Club holds a dinner and dance. The event runs from 6-11 p.m. Tickets cost \$7.50 per person and include a meal. Dress code requires women to wear dresses or dress slacks and men to wear a shirt and tie.

Car Show: Milton's Surchers Car Club is holding its annual Rod, Antique and Custom Car Show and Swap Meet from June 24-26 at Milton Fair Grounds. Spectators will be charged \$3 at the gate to see the entries. Cars can be entered at the gate for a fee of \$20 for the weekend or \$10 a day. No vans or motorcycles will be included.

Hot Line: Strawberries are ready for picking and to find out where to pick in this or another area in Ontario, simply call the Berry Hot Line at 1-800-263-3262. This information service is provided by the Ontario Berry Growers Association.

Town staff agree 'big pipe' is best solution for growth

Milton's municipal planning director has come out in favour of the "big pipe" solution to town growth woes because it's probably the only workable option, he said.

Monday night at municipal council Bob Zsadanyi, in a joint report tendered with town finance director Jim McQueen, said if the cheaper stream-based option is adopted, Milton will become stagnant again only a handful of years from today.

There are two main schools of thought emerging from the Halton Urban Structure Review, a Milton initiative aimed at studying growth and servicing alternatives to the year 2011.

They are:
• The town adopt a stream-based growth plan based on (hopefully) existing groundwater and an upgrading of the current sewage treatment plant; and

• Milton pipes water up from Lake Ontario, at a much higher cost, which would allow for at least twice as much development.

Mayor Gord Krantz favours the latter alternative, and a pipeline is

the centrepiece in seven of eight development schemes presented by a consulting team to Halton regional council last week.

One of the IBI Group's preferred proposals advocates new growth stemming from Milton's centre fed by a pipeline. It would allow for the equivalent of at least 40,000 new residents and 20,000 more jobs. The stream-based option would allow for only half that.

Mr Zsadanyi argues that given the current commitments to developers Milton would grow by only 10,000 residents under the stream-based option.

That would mean only interim expansion, he points out, perhaps for as little as three to five years. And the region would still be stuck with a \$13-million tab for the sewage plant upgrading.

Mr Zsadanyi said regional staff indicated that under those circumstances Halton would not be in a position to help fund a "big pipe" for 10 to 15 years following the plant payments.

That would mean a period of

stagnation again for Milton. Mr Zsadanyi noted, with "some very limited interim growth in the 1990s." Beyond that, the town "would find itself in another 'shut-down' situation for a period of 10-15 years."

Regional treasurer Joe Rinaldo said last week it is crucial Halton sets out a long-term financing scheme for Milton development now.

A Milton centre based pipeline is expected to cost approximately \$175 million. Mr Rinaldo said Halton must seek funding partners for such an initiative.

As part of the ongoing urban structure review, two public meetings will be held at which municipal staff from Milton and Halton will answer questions from the public.

Tuesday (June 28) at the auditorium in the E.C. Drury School for the Hearing Impaired, consultants and staff will present an overview beginning at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday evening the process will be repeated at the same time from the regional administrative building on Bronte Rd. in Oakville.

Transit for disabled . . .

From TRANSIT page 1
Monday night councillors voted to reinstate the special bus service, despite its cost, at least on a trial basis. Chrylisa Systems, a private concern, will operate a vehicle for five hours per day.

That means the Town will be in somewhat of a similar financial boat as last time, when they opted to terminate the transit. With subsidies from the province, the cost to the town will be \$900 for two months if the van is used by all seven

registered handicapped commuters in Milton.

If only one or two people use the service the cost will be "in the neighbourhood of \$2,900," town clerk Bill Roberts said. That amount can be covered through the existing transportation for the disabled budget.

While the news was undoubtedly welcomed by the Scott family, it left much to be desired with Ward Three councillor Bill Johnson. His temper flared over what he saw as Milton's rural community being ignored.

When it became clear the subsidy was only for urban transit, Mr Johnson stood and said, "What's going on here?" The rural area is part of

Milton. He cited a rural resident in need of such transportation. The man, he believes, is being picked through a program subsidized by Halton Hills.

Councillor Brad Clements said urban residents pay extra taxes to support urban services, such as transit.

Mr Johnson vowed to "get to the bottom of it one way or another."

Councillor Rose Harrison was concerned with the possibility of the Town paying \$2,900 for two months worth of transit at minimum ridership. She asked staff to report on ridership levels one month into the service, at the end of July.

At that time the matter could be reviewed again.

Watch for Best Homes

Bright yellow newspaper boxes have appeared throughout Milton, containing The Champion's new Best Homes real estate section.

The comprehensive guide for home buyers, featuring colour photographs on its cover, is also available in Campbellville, Guelph, Oakville and Mississauga. The special section was introduced in Milton after its success in other markets covered by the Metroland Printing and Publishing chain of newspapers.



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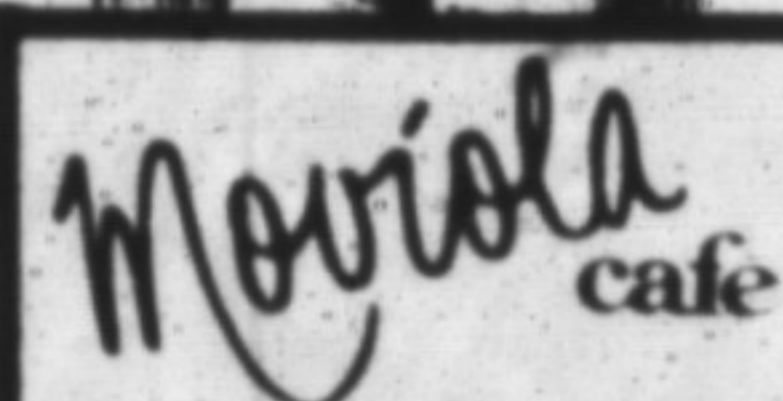
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