

Day says big pipe solution is the big shaft

The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, January 18, 1989—10

By ROB KELLY

Councillor Rick Day took his best shot to date at staving off large-scale development in Milton Monday night. A lawyer by trade, Mr. Day called on all his courtroom skills to fend off what has been mocked as "the march of roofs" spreading from other communities.

Most performances suffer without props, so Mr. Day had one. A simple jug of water.

He held the container of Milton water aloft and then poured a glass and presented it to Halton regional planning director Rash Mohammed. "The people of the town of Milton, perhaps it's time they stopped for a minute and counted their blessings," Mr. Day said. "I wonder how many people realize that water comes from a well, not a lake."

Pausing for effect, he added, "before you jeopardize that, for God's sake think about it."

Mr. Day was tackling the Halton Urban Structure Review, a five-volume report recommending Milton plan for the future by tapping new wells for some growth, but

also that the town and the region organize financing for a megaproject water pipeline from Lake Ontario.

Mr. Day called the lure of a "big pipe" solution "almost a phallic symbol. The big shaft."

Aside from the dubious quality of Lake Ontario water, Mr. Day warned that at present "we're a rich community," but that too could change if the town was forced to finance large-scale works associated with development.

"The town of Milton has not borrowed a cent since 1978. Our per capita debt is almost embarrassingly small."

But already speculation has altered Milton's eastern landscape, Mr. Day said, as red-hot inflation has blown the prices of land in the former Trafalgar township sky high.

Farmland which had traded at \$3,000 per acre a year ago is now priced at more than \$35,000 an acre, he noted. "Maybe that isn't all bad. But it's the end of agriculture."

In Oakville, where the pace of

development has become so infuriating to many that town council has moved to freeze growth, they "would have been happy to have our lack of servicing," Mr. Day said.

Mr. Mohammed, along with other regional officials and consultants, appeared before Milton council to brief politicians on the Halton Urban Structure Review (HUSR) phase one work. It outlined, in broad detail, boundaries for anticipated growth and methods for promoting staged expansion.

The second phase of HUSR, expected this spring, will plot more precise schemes for expansion and pinpoint proposed development tracts.

Milton planning staff agree in principle with the HUSR reports, but they quibble with one aspect of the study. There are three possible stages to accommodating new development with wells, the so-called stream-based option. Milton wants all three explored in phase two study work. Halton wants only the first two tried in tandem with work on the pipeline idea.



RICK DAY

If only stages one and two of the well solutions are adopted, (should indeed, they prove feasible), the town will accommodate an equivalent of 10,700 new people or as much sewage capacity used in some other manner, by industry, for example.

If stage three of the well scenario

works out, there will be enough new sewage capacity for roughly 26,000 new people. Based on expected commercial and industrial demand, that would mean 10,000 new residents, town staff believe. Mr. Day thinks that's plenty.

"The option offered to us by these excellent reports is a magnificent opportunity for this community," Mr. Day said. "We're in a beautiful position."

Given Milton's current 28,500 people in the urban area, Mr. Day tendered a small exaggeration and called a 10,000-resident expansion "a 50 per cent increase, and we stay on wells. I'd rather see the big pipe go somewhere else and leave Milton a smaller community."

The councillor was not acting as spokesman for a united front of Milton politicians facing regional staff. Others support the pipeline, although many would like to see well water retained for homes and lake water used by industries.

Councillor Art Melanson, a pipeline supporter, was more con-

see BIG page 13

In-store stock only — sale prices expire Jan. 31, 1989

SAVE UP TO 60%
Red Tag Clearance

A Red Tag means you've discovered incredible savings. Radio Shack's Red Tag sale is happening now. Shop around for more in-store specials.



Radio Shack

'87 Audi C D TURBO
Audi Card till Oct. 1989
Only \$27,995.00 plus
\$2000. REBATE
Georgetown Honda
203 Guelph St., Georgetown
873-1818 846-0913

McNAHAN'S DANCE MAN
with
GEORGE OLLIVER & GANGBUSTER
January 19, 20, 21
*Cover \$3 *Green Card \$2
Ladies Free THURSDAY
SUPER BOWL PARTY
Jan. 22, 2 p.m.
Giant Screen, 8 T.V.'s
PRIZES
\$3 includes buffet, chili, hot dogs, popcorn & chips
Comedy night every Sunday 8 p.m.
Also
Radio Sheridan presents
TALENT SEARCH
open to all acts
Jan. 11th-25th
1285 Marlborough Ct., Oakville
842-4435

stage west
THEATRE RESTAURANT
AVERY SHREIBER and JUNE WILKINSON
in
WALLY'S CAFE
Wally's Cafe & TV come to life...
WEDNESDAY MATINEES
BUFFET LUNCH \$25.75
RESERVATIONS: 238-0042
1 (800) 263-0884
5400 DIXIE ROAD
MISSISSAUGA