



Photos by JOHN WARREN

### Coolin' off

Miltonians discovered several ways to be beat the summer heat recently. Six-year-old Krysta Matthews and Michael Mullally, 5, got a lift from a friendly shark and Trooper the dog fished for bones. While many enjoyed the Rotary Park pool, Jason Dimitrijiski took to the Keiso sand.

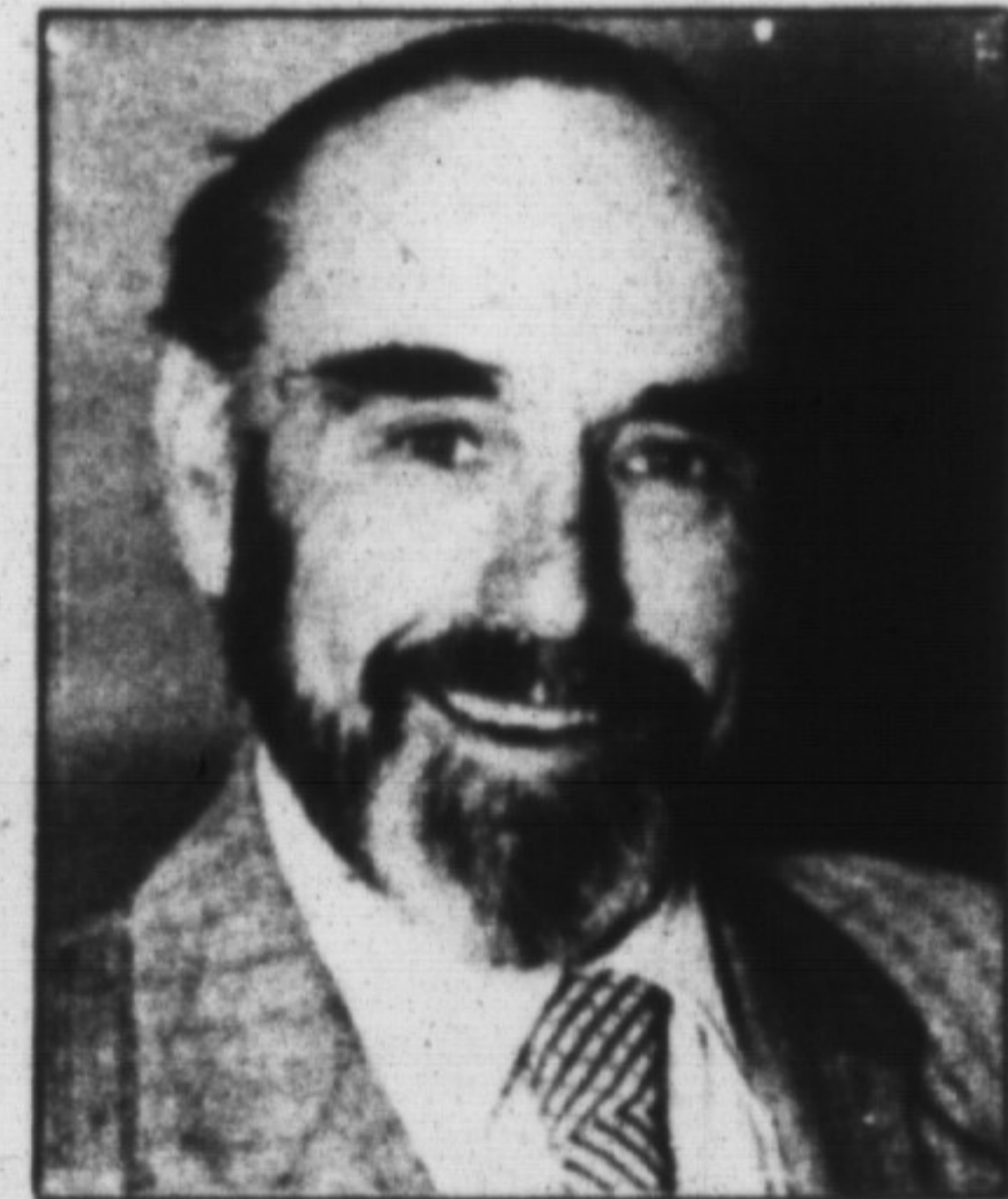


## 'Commissar' Rash overpowering LDC, Johnson charges

Milton councillor Bill Johnson is calling for an end to the land division committee. He said that if Halton region is going to overturn their decisions, the committee is redundant.

Regional staff have challenged two recently granted severances on properties in rural Milton. Those challenges will likely be aired in front of the Ontario Municipal Board.

According to a report by Rash Mohammed, the commissioner for planning and development, a new bylaw allows the region to challenge severances granted by LDC.



Bill Johnson

Mr. Mohammed's staff report advocating the challenges was approved Wednesday at the regional planning and public works committee meeting, and now must only be ratified by full council.

"Credit the land division committee with some intelligence. The people who sit on it are all knowledgeable. We might as well dispense with the land division committee and listen to commissar Mohammed on these issues," said Mr. Johnson.

"We have policies that are in place regarding severances and development in rural areas. The reason is so that we won't have an unplanned urban sprawl that in the future could have a negative effect on the region," countered Oakville councillor Liz Behrens.

The present regional policy is to encourage settlement in hamlets and other rural clusters rather than an even rural development, which occurs when each farmer obtains a severance, said Mr. Johnson. The problem with this approach is the pressure it can put on local ground water because of the concentration of settlement, he added.

"In the village of Moffat or Brookville, if the wells go then we have a hell of a problem. In many of these hamlets you can't say that every lot can support potable water and a septic system," Mr. Johnson said.

In one of the two cases regional staff are challenging the application because they are not satisfied the applicant is a "bona fide farmer."

The second severance was challenged because the site was not designated for development and because there are no provisions for severance of a non-farm retirement lot, the staff report states.

"People with limited means have to go to the OMB to fight these decisions and that's an expensive process. People without a lot of capital can't take advantage of their democratic rights because they don't have the dollars," Mr. Johnson said.

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