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School's in

Photo by JOHN WARREN

The prospect of returning to school for September studies provokes varying reactions among these Robert Baldwin School students. Sean Ward (left), isn't too happy. Robert Phillips (rear) doesn't look too upset. Robert Mayhew looks like he can live with it too. So does Hayley Wells. But it's thumbs down from Markus Corneil (rear) and Wendy Hoja. At right front, Dawna Flury seems amused by it all.

Travel policy to be reviewed

By ROB KELLY

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz will move to have the town's travel policy for the spouses of elected officials reviewed before politicians take any more trips, whether their spouses accompany them or not.

The matter "definitely has to be looked at, before anybody goes anywhere," the mayor said following Tuesday night's municipal council meeting. However, the town's top elected official added that politicians "certainly don't abuse" the current arrangement.

Taxpayers foot the bill for air fare and accommodation for both husband and wife when elected officials or senior staff members represent Milton at municipal conferences. In no case does the spouse of a councillor or top bureaucrat in town currently work for the municipality.

The matter came to a minor confrontation last week when Ward 3 councillor Bruce Attenborough opposed passage of the monthly municipal accounts because they included a \$627 reimbursement to Joanne Clements for travel expenses to Vancouver. Mrs. Clements attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference in June with husband Brad, a municipal councillor.

Mr. Attenborough said Milton's policy was "wrong." Milton is the only municipality in Halton offering such a perk. The town spent approximately \$2,600 last year on spouse travel, according to town administrator Roy Main.

However, Mr. Krantz bristled at having Milton held up as an example of what not to do with taxpayers' money.

Speaking with tongue obviously planted firmly in cheek, the mayor indicated that other municipal governments may not send spouses to conferences, but they are probably not

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Despite added cost

Recreational centre gets green light

By ROB KELLY

Milton's long-awaited recreational complex took a big step toward becoming a reality at municipal council Tuesday night, but it's going to cost more than expected.

Instead of \$5.2 million, the facility is now budgeted at \$8.4 million, in part due to construction cost increases and because the original estimates on both size and expenditure were too low.

However, councillors quickly voted to forge ahead after a brief presentation from the architects who have been hired to design and supervise construction of the combined recreational centre.

To be located near the southeast corner of Main Street and Thompson Road, the facility will house a six-lane, 25-metre indoor pool, a fitness centre, a gymnasium and meeting rooms.

Tuesday, councillors approved a formal commitment to the project at the higher spending level,

and called for complete designs for the centre and tendering on construction once designs are final.

As well, council authorized an application to the provincial Ministry of Tourism and Recreation for financial grants to complete the undertaking.

The centre is to be built in two phases, the first involving the pool complex and the second the gymnasium and fitness area. Pool construction is scheduled to begin in the spring and end a year

later. Gymnasium-fitness area construction is slated to begin in 1991.

Town leisure services director Larry Arbic said costs have risen from the originally anticipated \$100 per square foot to \$180 per sq. ft. He said the \$100 per sq. ft. figure was viewed as unrealistically low by provincial government staff.

The low figure sprang from a study prepared for Milton quoting 1987 prices for such a facility, Mr. Arbic pointed out, while the earliest possible construction will mean using 1990 prices.

Councillor Colin Best, a real estate appraiser, said such costs will have risen between 25 and 30 per cent by the time the town breaks ground. Mr. Best noted that a similar facility in Stoney Creek is coming in at approximately \$164 per sq. ft., "and

• see REC CENTRE on page 10



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