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### MARATHON

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## No new housing in sight as plaza site plan okayed

By ROB KELLY

Milton will get a new shopping plaza, probably next year, and not the housing councillor Rick Day had hoped would instead be built at the intersection of Derry Road and Highway 25.

Even Mr. Day obviously knew it was a forlorn hope when he asked representatives of Ricenberg Developments "to look at" possibly building housing instead of a strip mall. "It might very well be worth taking a good hard look at it. I don't see any harm."

However, following the site plan approval he gained Monday night at municipal council, developer Morris Rosenberg said housing is not an option for his property, located on the northwest corner of the intersection.

"No, absolutely not. The corner should be commercial."

Councillor Art Melanson also had reservations about more commercial building in the urban core at a time when severe sewage and water use constraints have hobbled Milton's residential development. Those constraints have also hurt Milton businesses, the councillor noted.

"I'm really concerned about the amount of commercial development we're adding to this town, along with the industrial condos, most of which are empty. I'd certainly feel better if they were housing units. Milton has a shrinking population base. I'm really concerned about adding this much more commercial (development)."

For his part, however, Mr. Rosenberg, a gravelly-voiced developer on the far side of middle age, stood his ground. Outside the council chamber he said he had owned substantially more land at the intersection than the four-acre parcel in question, and had

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### Baynton to undergo psychiatric tests

A Milton man charged in the stabbing of 27-year-old Louisa O'Dea waved his bail hearing in provincial court yesterday and will instead undergo a psychiatric assessment.

Charles Baynton, 42, of Ontario Street, is charged with attempted murder, two counts of assault, two counts of assaulting police in the line of duty and possession of a deadly weapon. He remains in custody and will appear in court again September 25.

Ms O'Dea was stabbed in the neck Sept. 12 in the parking lot of her Ontario Street apartment. She received severe lacerations to her neck and assorted cuts on her arms.

Police tactical units surrounded the building for 90 minutes until a man, who had barricaded himself in Ms. O'Dea's apartment, came out. According to police, the man lunged at two police officers with a knife.

The accused man's lawyer, Bruce Hillyer, said his client "needs a cooling out at this stage."



Photo by STEPHEN UHRANEY

### Bucket of fun

The Milton Hydro-Electric Commission successfully celebrated 75 years of service at an anniversary open house Saturday. Attending the event were about 750 local residents who were entertained with demonstrations, displays and refreshments. Here, four-year-old Ian Robertson is about to take a ride on the bucket truck with power lineman Jim Beaton.

### They blame neighbouring quarry

## Couple says livelihood drying up with water

By BRAD REAUME

Normally people take their problems to government officials. In the case of Walter and Trudy Egger of Steeles Avenue, the officials came to them.

The Halton Farm Tour paid a visit to Swinsline Farms atop the Niagara Escarpment to see a dairy operation, but the Eggers instead confronted officials with what they feel is their disappearing livelihood.

"Water to me is number one on a farm. You can't farm without it," Mr. Egger said. He added that if things don't improve they may be forced to leave the farm next year.

An aerial shot of Swinsline Farms taken last year shows water in the two front ponds right up to the grass line. Family friend Jim Livock of Oakville said local wedding parties would clamor for a chance to have their pictures taken around the landscaped ponds.

Now the pond levels are down more than nine feet. The water is a dirty green and the low level exposes about 20 feet of rocks be-

tween the grass and its surface.

"They've gone and taken away the landscape that is all our lives," said Mrs. Egger. With the sound of stone crushers in the distance, Mrs. Egger blamed the nearby quarry operated by Lac Minerals for the dropping water levels. "We all know where the water is going," said Mr. Livock, who waved his hand toward the quarry. "It's that group over there."

The Eggers are originally from Switzerland. They came to Canada in 1952 and started working their present farm in 1961. "They say they need stones so they'll keep expanding but it's got to stop. I've put so much time and effort into this farm and now the water is down," Mr. Egger said, sadly shaking his head.

Walt Elliot, MPP for Halton North and a tour member, said he is against quarrying on the escarpment. All the quarry blasting can produce cracks in the underground rock that may cause wells to go dry quite suddenly, he

warned.

"If you listen carefully you can hear the stone crushers sucking the very lifeblood out of this area," said Burlington regional councillor Ralph Scholtens, also on hand with the tour group. "We spend more money fixing regional roads because of the aggregate industry than any other industry," he added.

"Aggregates are too cheap," said Walt Elliot. "The Mississauga coal firing (energy) station produces material suitable for road surfacing as a byproduct. Lac Minerals finds it cheaper to mine the Niagara Escarpment than use that material. Something has to change."

Mrs. Egger had a chance to bring up the problem with Halton planning commissioner Rash Mohammed. "What are we to do?" she worried. Mr. Mohammed explained that the problem was not in his hands, but Mrs. Egger said she wanted answers and action.

Mrs. Egger has complained to Lac Minerals about the water problem. Lawyers for the

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Photo by STEVE UHRANEY

Trudy Egger indicates with her right hand the former depth of the ponds at Swinsline Farms on Steeles Avenue.

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