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# The Canadian Champion

Weekend edition

A Metroland Community Newspaper serving the town of Milton

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## Cabin owner fuming over hearing delays

By NORMAN NELSON

Gordon and Christina Galbraith, who live in a very old log cabin in Nassagaweya, are getting annoyed by very modern red tape.

The couple want to build a modest retirement home for Christina's mother. If they were the original residents of the house, they would have had no problem — after all, it was built in 1846.

"I've been told on good authority that it (the log cabin) is one of the few examples of an Ontario log home left in existence," he said in an interview following a submission to regional council Wednesday.

These days, however, the steps involved in obtaining permission to build on a rural property are complex. He said that although the region's land division committee approved the request, a myriad of agencies are also involved in the act. The cast of players also includes Milton town council, regional council, the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Ministry of Natural Resources, and Halton's Ecological and Environmental Advisory Committee (EEAC).

Any one of these agencies, he said, can force a hearing before the Ontario Municipal Board. Several have.

"The whole process began over a year ago," Mr. Galbraith pointed out. "You'd think that in a matter of months you could get a decision."

### Hearing in 1991

With the backlog of cases, however, he said he'll be lucky to get an OMB hearing before 1991.

His request is being appealed for at least one typical reason — it doesn't conform to the region's official plan. Where his property is located, only two lots are allowed per 100 acres. There are already four there.

Other agencies also objected on environmental grounds, as the property is located in an ESA (environmentally sensitive area) called the Guelph Junction Woods.

Mr. Galbraith said various agencies' concerns over the environment led him to make a submission to the EEAC, from which he received a favourable opinion. The EEAC stated "it had no reason to object to the severance" and "by developing the site the local environment may be improved by increased supervision."

With the exception of the Ministry of Natural Resources, all other agencies withdrew their environmental objections.

Mr. Galbraith told council that he has in the past been a responsible steward of the land and will continue to be one.

### Granny flat

One councillor asked why he couldn't build a granny apartment onto his present residence. He quipped that the historical building does not lend itself to the construction of a granny flat and that his wife "does not lend herself to sharing a kitchen with her mother."

Council sent the matter back to the next planning and public works committee meeting. It did so after learning Mr. Galbraith had not been informed that his application was being considered at last week's planning and public works committee meeting, and therefore was not provided an opportunity to make a presentation. The committee at that time objected to his application.

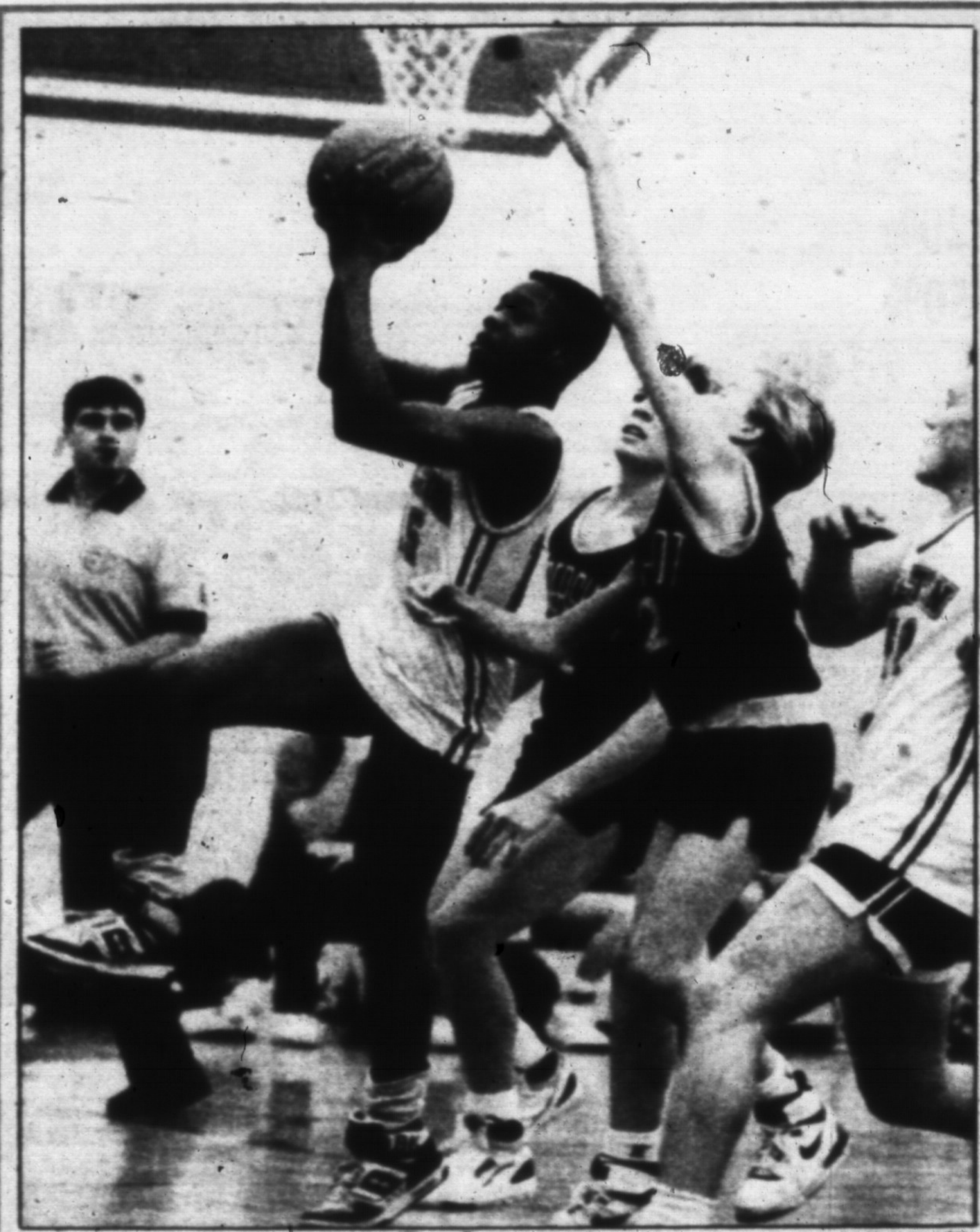
Land severances have caused much discussion at the region lately, and council found themselves dealing with a second application from a Milton resident.

The application by two Milton farmers is unique — the first one to come before the region since its inception in 1974.

It concerns two brothers who have jointly farmed their 100-acre property in Milton since 1947. The owners successfully applied for a retirement lot earlier this year, but are now asking for a second retirement lot — one for each brother.

Staff said allowing a second lot would set a dangerous precedent, and that every person who contributes and shares ownership of a farm could then logically ask for a lot.



• see CABIN on page 5



### Going up

Milton District High School midget eager Sean Faulkner slides two Aldershot defenders and drives to the basket as Milton's Dave Marshall (53) looks on. Milton lost 44-35 at home despite Mike Glidden's 14-point effort. Milton is 1-3.

Photo by JOHN WARREN

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