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Weekend edition

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Sunny St. Pat's skier

Photo by JOHN WARREN

Kate Fitzpatrick of Oakville soaked up the sun and stopped to pose for a picture at Glen Eden Wednesday. She was making the most of what remains of winter in the area as unusually warm March weather took hold, blending the best of two seasons for March break skiers at the Halton Region Conservation Authority facility.

Building starts tumble in Milton

By NORMAN NELSON

Servicing constraints and two years that were tough to follow hurt Milton's business growth in 1989 said Brent Kears, Halton's executive director of business development, Wednesday.

For the commercial sector, \$4.6 million in building permits were issued in 1989, down more than 53 per cent from the previous year, and in the industrial sector, \$13.4 million in building permits were issued, down more than 37 per cent from 1988.

With the arrival in the previous two years of such firms as Magna, Kinney, Northern Telecom, GM Volvo and the Consumers Distributing complex, Mr. Kears says the downturn was not unexpected.

A new development, including a hotel, is slated for the corner of Martin and Steeles Ave. Thanks to such activity, Mr. Kears expects more stable business development this year, with a projected growth "in the smaller percentages."

Overall, \$45.1 million in building permits were issued in Milton in 1989, down more than 36 per cent from the previous year.

In the residential sector, building permits worth \$25.9 million were issued, up 7.6 per cent over the previous year.

Across Halton Region, the increase in business activity, although not as great as in the heady days of the middle 1980s, still managed to produce a record-breaking year in all sectors. More than \$838 million worth of building permits were issued in 1989, an increase of 10.8 per cent over the previous year.

More than 50 per cent of this activity took place in Oakville, where \$443.3 million in building permits were issued, up 14.2 per cent over 1988.

The simple conclusion to be drawn, said Mr. Kears, is the inevitable expansion of the Toronto area.

"Oakville is that much closer to Toronto (than Burlington)," he said.

However, he expects Burlington, which issued building permits worth \$261.1 million during 1989, to equal or even surpass Oakville this year.

Another sign of Toronto-area expansion, he said, is that Oakville is-

sued 86 per cent of its industrial/commercial building permit value for new facilities with only 14 per cent for expansions. Burlington's balance was half and half.

"From this information, it appears that Burlington's economy is more driven from within than Oakville's, and that Oakville relies on external investment for the majority of its growth," he told Halton's administration and finance committee in his report.

The expected textbook percentage, he said, is that 80 per cent of a community's growth is generated from local expansion while only 20 per cent comes from external forces.

Across Halton Region, the industrial and commercial sectors each had healthy growth with increases of 56 per cent and 53 per cent respectively. The residential sector showed only a slight increase over 1988 of 1.3 per cent.

Choristers feature Haydn

An upcoming concert by the Milton Choristers will feature the Haydn Lord Nelson Mass and Durufle Requiem.

The event takes place Sunday March 25 at St. Paul's United Church at 7 p.m.

Both musical works communicate a range of emotions commonly felt during the period of Lent and Easter. The Lord Nelson Mass, which portrays power and splendor, is considered by many to be Haydn's greatest single composition.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors and can be purchased at Peggy's in Milton Mall or at Delacourt's on Main Street.

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