

Roly Bird calls for a speculation study of Milton market

By NORMAN NELSON

Citing concern over land speculation, Burlington Mayor Roly Bird is requesting Halton Region look into land transactions in the Milton area.

He told Wednesday's regional council meeting he'd like to unravel "all land sales, what was paid for the land and who holds it."

His concerns stem from a recent *Globe and Mail* article outlining a transaction in which a farmer sold a 40.5 hectare property in Milton for \$4 million. The property sold again later the same day for \$7 million.

While he doesn't mind farmers making money on their land, he said he's "opposed to profiteering."

Land is at a premium in the Milton area because it will likely carry the brunt of future residential and industrial growth in Halton. A massive study still being carried out by Halton region (the Halton Urban Structure Review) has designated a 5,000-acre swath of land in Milton for urban development.

According to Halton planning com-

missioner Rash Mohammed, the development, if approved by council, would "bring an additional 40,000 people for Milton accompanied by 2,000 acres of industrial land."

Mayor Bird, plans to raise the issue at the committee level to see if a review of land transactions is feasible. "I will be following this up with a report and recommendations."

However, Marilyn Serjeantson, the Halton Hills councillor who chairs the planning and public works committee, said "I don't think you can stop land transactions — it's part of the democratic system."

The planning process that set aside the Milton lands is needed, she added, to prevent the type of uncontrolled urban sprawl that has occurred in other communities such as Mississauga.

After the meeting Mayor Bird said he wasn't opposed to planning for future growth but legislation should be enacted by the provincial government to prevent land speculation.



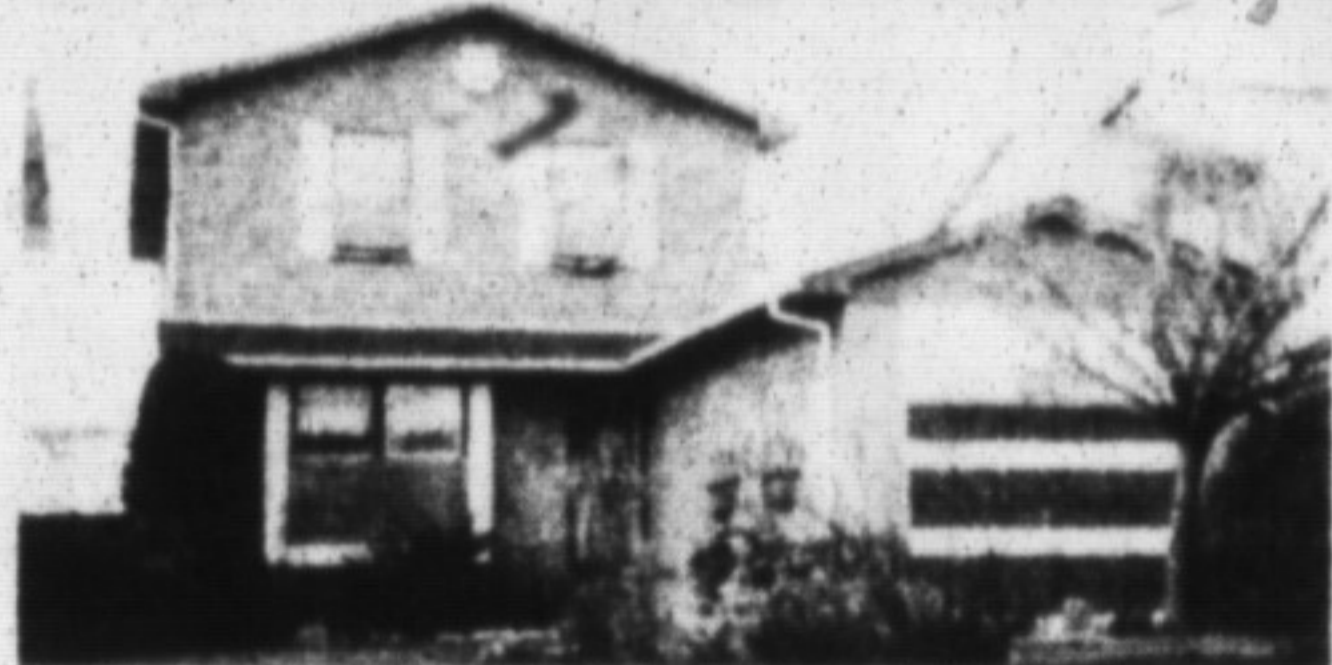
7—The Canadian Champion, Friday, April 6, 1990

But can it do chores?

Students from Robert Baldwin school built robots that drew as part of a recent project in a special education class. There was no word on whether they came up with one that would do dishes and take out the garbage. From left to right are; Ann-Marie Oromble, Jennifer Browning, Robert Hector and Colin Carrol, all nine years old.

Photo by JOHN WARREN

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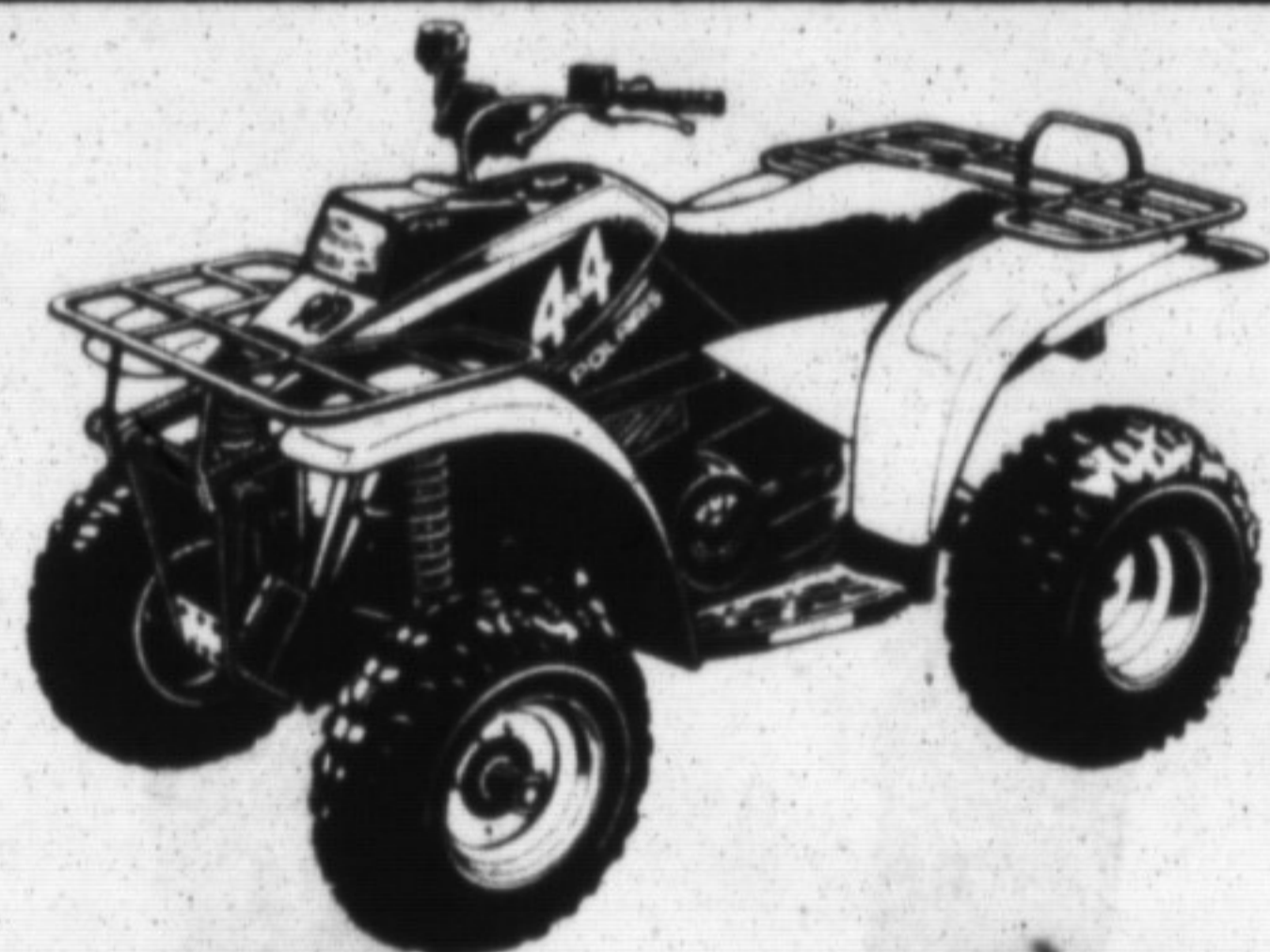
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