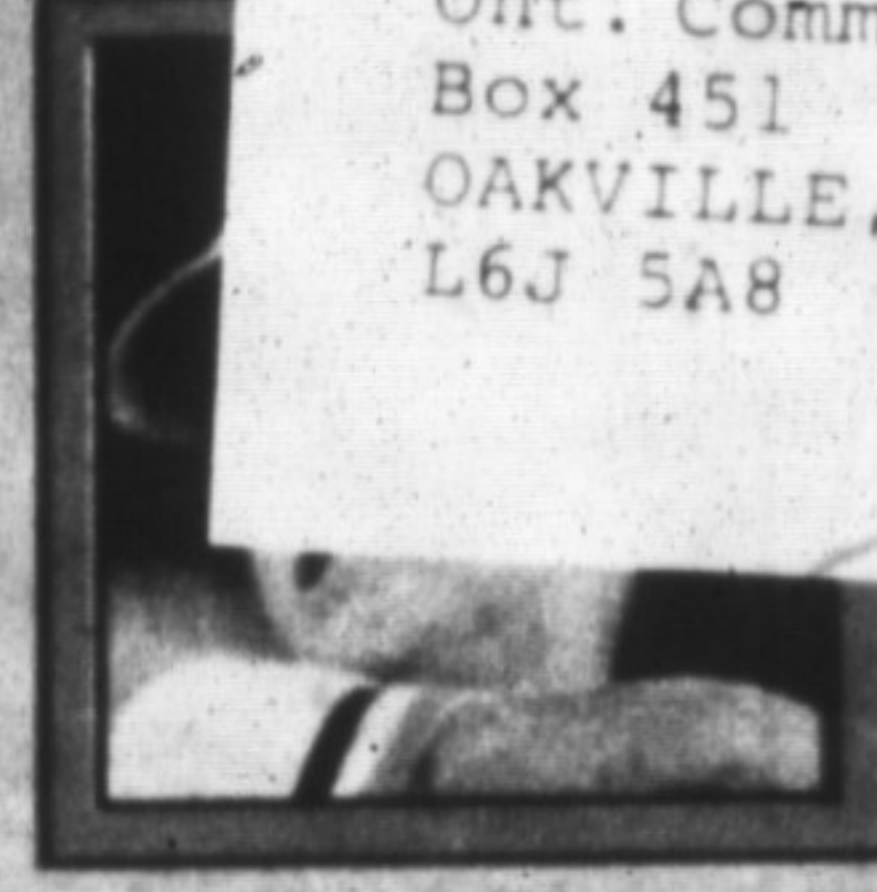


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Council ponders property tax update

By NORMAN NELSON

A market value assessment update for Milton has almost been completed by the provincial Ministry of Revenue and should be in Milton council's hands sometime this fall.

But whether the updated assessment should be adopted is a different story, Milton finance director James McQueen told council Monday.

Council requested the update because the current evaluation is based on the year 1975. The new evaluation would be updated to 1988, and could be initiated in time for the 1991 tax year.

An assessment update shifts the pieces of the property tax pie to more accurately reflect current market values.

For instance, say two neighbouring houses were worth \$100,000 in 1975 and were obviously assessed equally. If, in 1988, one had become more expensive than the other, then its assessment would be increased proportionately.

Mr. McQueen said the impacts of these shifts will be scrutinized by council when the revenue ministry forwards its study.

In deciding whether to implement the assessment update, he said council will also have to take into consideration a similar study Halton Region has requested. The regional study is to be completed only a year after the Milton one is slated to come onstream.

It would be unfair, he told council, "to have the residents of Milton subject to two assessment changes in a row."

He advised council to "await the study results from the Ministry of Revenue and then consider the direction of implementation at that time."



Photo by JOHN WARREN

She's steppin' out

And so were a lot of other people at Milton's annual Caribbean Night celebration. The event took place at the John Tonelli Sports Centre and, as usual, was a roaring success. For more photos and a story, please see page 5.

Organizer says:

Hamilton paying Halton's share

By NORMAN NELSON

A new Alzheimer Society chapter in Halton would hopefully bring in more government money and increase local fundraising, say officials from the local chapter.

Currently, Milton and the rest of the region is served by the Alzheimer Society for Halton-Wentworth, which is based out of Hamilton.

Although more than 30 per cent of the clients served by the chapter are from Halton, only about 12 per cent of fundraising comes from here.

"We're sensing that we need a better presence in Halton," former board member Andy Harris told members of regional council's health and social services committee Monday.

Mr. Harris is co-ordinator of the psychogeriatric team at Burlington's Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital, although he stressed he was appearing on his own behalf.

A separate Halton chapter, he said, would hopefully also create a stronger voice at Queen's Park.

A bureaucratic glitch means Hamilton-Wentworth is being forced to bear the brunt of the financial load for Halton.

Basically, it's being caused by the fact that the provincial ministry of community and social services has approved substantial funding for the Hamilton area, but not the Halton area.

This leaves the local chapter trying to stretch dollars earmarked by the ministry for Hamilton-Wentworth needs to also serve Halton needs.

Hopefully, with a separate Halton chapter, ... see NEW on page 9

Sweeping rural review approved by councillors

By NORMAN NELSON

Nassagaweya residents were out in force Monday night at a special meeting of Milton council held at Brookville Hall to discuss the future shape of the rural community.

The subject of debate was an ambitious overhaul of the Town's rural planning policies specifically dealing with Nassagaweya.

Milton's planning director, Bob Zsadyani, told *The Champion* the review, taking the last two years, was initiated not because the present planning guidelines for the community were off track, but simply "deficient in places."

In a nutshell, he told the packed hall of about 100 people, an audience which slowly decreased as the three and a half hour public meeting progressed, that the historic planning

values "entrenched by people who were in Nassagaweya when Milton inherited the area" are not about to be radically changed.

Rather, he termed the effort as "cleaning up and maintaining" what is already in place.

The 100 or so community members who turned up at the meeting appeared to agree with this assessment as their demeanor throughout the night was mostly one of thoughtful consideration and seldom verged on the theatrical, as so often happens at public meetings.

Milton council, with one minor change, also liked what it saw, approving "in principle" the plan.

With community and political support having been obtained, town planners will now

draw the final version for consideration by Milton council at its regular meeting Monday, Oct. 1.

If approved by council, it will then be sent down Highway 25 to Halton Region headquarters where it must also be approved by Halton's regional councillors — a process Mr. Zsadyani expects will take at least five months.

Close co-operation with the Region in drawing up the plan, said Mr. Zsadyani, should eliminate one of the major deficiencies of the present document — its numerous conflicts with Halton Region's own master plan.

Nowhere has this conflict been more evident, he said, than over the issue of land severances.

"Our plan for the Nassagaweya area is much more open (than Halton Region's) as far as

permitting severances."

Fortunately, he added, the Region — at least at the staff level — has come around to Milton's way of thinking.

One change being recommended to the severance policy, is a clause designed to put a damper on land transactions undertaken for speculation.

The clause would mean that severances could only be sought by residents of at least seven years.

"They're going to be responsible to themselves and their neighbours. No long term resident ... is going to apply for a severance that's going to hurt his or her family or neighbours," explained Mr. Zsadyani.

... see RURAL on page 3

INSIDE: DATELINE LS4, CLASSIFIED ADS 19-23, REAL ESTATE RE1-RE12.