



Photo by JOHN WARREN

Give generously

The United Way of Milton kicks off its major fundraising blitz which is traditionally held every October. Here Mayor Gord Krantz raises the flag with the help of Sue McCormack, John Austen and Noreen Martens of the organization. The United Way provides funds to more than agencies including the Red Cross, Big Brothers and family counselling services.

Fewer land severances expected under Halton's new regulations

Lot severance policies for rural areas have again sparked heated debate among regional councillors.

With escalating land values, it has become increasingly attractive for rural landowners to try to sell portions of their lots.

Regional regulations, on the other hand, strive to keep Halton's rural lands intact with only a few exceptions allowed — basically to provide retirement lots for longtime farmers or in the case where there is already existing development.

The issue reared its head at Wednesday's regional planning and public works committee meeting when one of two rural Halton Hills residents applying for a lot severance criticized the policy as being vague.

Ralph Ortlieb wanted the severance granted under the provisions allowing a longtime farmer to sever a retirement lot — even though he concedes he's not a full-time farmer.

But he argued that he meets the intent of the definition since his family, over the years, has been able to "preserve viable agricultural lands within Halton."

Burlington councillor Rob Forbes

agreed the land severance policy could use some fine tuning, but balked at Mr. Ortlieb's suggestion that while politicians are clearing the air his application should be looked upon differently.

"If anything, when it (a new lot severance policy) comes back we ought to be strengthening the provisions and decreasing the number of land severances," he stressed.

Other committee members agreed, voting not to support the severance application.

Another rural resident had more luck, managing despite staff objections to get committee support.

his severance application.

Werner Heutschi wants a severance under provisions allowing for "infilling" between existing residences.

Staff, sticking to the letter of the policy, opposed the application because the proposed home would not be close enough to neighbouring ones under infilling guidelines.

Burlington councillor Pat McLaughlin, however, was satisfied the application was in keeping with the policy's intent.

"There (are) nine houses on one side of the street and four on the other... I'm not going to lose any sleep over this," he said.

Giving gift of knowledge

A newly-established organization is starting a bursary program to help Halton Children's Aid Society (CAS) wards obtain post-secondary education.

The Children's Youth Foundation of Halton is responsible for the unique program.

"When you are aware of the backgrounds of some of these young students, you realize what an ac-

complishment it is for them to attend university or college," said Marilyn McCulloch, executive vice-president of the Foundation.

"These are deserving kids. If we can help them get a good education, the entire community will benefit."

Individuals or organizations interested in contributing to the bursary program can contact Marilyn McCulloch at 844-8211 or 878-2375.

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