



Hold on!

Bryan Robertson (left) of Milton Kinsmen along with Mayor Gord Krantz and Oakville-Milton MP Otto Jellnek hoisted this huge Canadian flag at town hall Saturday. It's travelling across Canada on the Kinsmen's 'Proud to be Canadian' tour which will conclude at the Terry Fox Memorial in Thunder Bay.

Town builds on higher fees for developers

By ROB KELLY
The Champion

Monday night at town council Milton unveiled proposed charges to be levied against builders for new construction. But councillors also made it clear nothing is set in stone yet.

The development charges, called that because they are levied against both commercial-industrial and residential development, will be the main instrument used by municipal governments in Ontario's high-growth areas to collect funds from the construction industry.

Milton's proposed changes put the town on par with neighbouring Brampton when it comes to commercial and industrial levies, which are the controversial fees in Halton. If approved, Milton's charges will be substantially less than those in Mississauga, Oakville or Burlington.

Still, Mayor Gord Krantz stressed that "until we hear from the public, we should be keeping an open mind."

Councillor Rick Day said he would support the charges as outlined with the understanding that "this is setting the outside, the most we can ask for. The actual results depend on a lot of things, including developer input."

"I certainly have an open mind about this," added Ward 3 councillor Marion Howard.

Until recently, most municipalities collected flat fees from developers to finance roads, sewers, utility lines and the costs of various other public-sector services necessary when new plants or homes are built. But such collection schemes were revised by the provincial Liberal government in 1989, which gave

date what many considered outmoded methods.

In Halton, as elsewhere, municipal governments dumped the flat fee and introduced staggered (and higher) charges based generally on the square footage of proposed developments. The rationale behind the heftier charges is that they represent the true costs of providing the various municipal services, and that prior to the new calculating methods developers got a partial free ride.

In this line of thinking, people who already lived in a given community subsidized developers with their property taxes, since the money had to come from somewhere to cover the true costs of sewers and such. The restructured development charges are an attempt to isolate the costs of new development, and have only the stakeholders in the projects pay them.

There was an outcry at Halton Region when what's now called full cost recovery was initially proposed to commercial-industrial builders. Halton's fee of roughly \$10,000 an acre was to soar to as much as \$122,000 an acre. Halton backed off amid a firestorm of protest from the recession battered commercial-industrial development lobby. The charges were roughly halved for the next two years.

Milton plans to charge \$1.26 per square foot for new commercial-industrial development, slightly more than the \$1.16 per sq. ft. Halton Region decided to charge after the developers protested (Halton had originally wanted \$2.80 per sq. ft.).

The new combined regional and Milton levy amounts to roughly \$25,000 an acre for a plant occupying 25 per cent of available space, and approximately \$50,000 per acre for half-acre developments, which are closer to the average building coverage on a given acre of commercial-industrial land. Previously Milton charged \$2,500 an acre, although developers were often hit with other costs related to servicing too.

Town finance director Jim McQueen said that in public meetings being organized on the topic, he expects developers "will say it's too much."

Mr. Krantz concurred, saying he expected "a few screams" from the development community.

But Taxpayers Coalition Halton, a tax watchdog organization, has lobbied vocally to have the developers pay more, pushing for immediate full-cost recovery as the only fair alternative to hard-pressed average property taxpayers.

While Milton's combined regional-local levy will be \$2.42, a penny more

than Brampton, it is still \$1 per sq. ft. cheaper than Burlington or Oakville. Mississauga leads the levy parade, charging \$3.95 per sq. ft. These are seen as important comparisons by municipal officials because Milton competes for industries with those other centres, which also have good access to major highways in the Toronto area.

Following public meetings, Milton councillors hope to approve the new charges by the end of June.

Area couple married in Campbellville

Karen Reichert and Don Campbell were married in Milton January 25.

Karen is the daughter of Karl and Helen Reichert of Milton and Don is the son of Allan and Lucie Campbell of Iroquois Falls.

The ceremony was solemnized by Rev. Rod Lewis at the Mohawk Inn in Campbellville.

The maid of honour was Karen's long-time friend, Hazel Ling, and the best man was Don's long-time friend, James Lambert.

A reception followed the ceremony, attended by close friends and immediate family. Don and Karen now reside in Toronto.



Karen and Don Campbell

Omagh bride-to-be showered with gifts

A pleasant community party was held at Boyne Community Centre Thursday evening.

Neighbours, friends and members of Omagh Presbyterian church hosted a miscellaneous wedding shower for a popular local young lady — Ruth Gillies.

The bride to be received many, many beautiful gifts and good wishes for future happiness.

OMAGH

with ELLA PATTERSON

Assisting in opening the parcels was the groom-to-be Eric Harrison and the bridal attendants.

The happy, young couple thanked everyone for the gifts and kindness shown to them.

Gordon Rayner was master of ceremonies for the evening. He invited the guests of honour to sit in special chairs decorated with streamers and bells.

At the close, everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch.

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The usual Saturday evening euchre at Hornby Community Centre was a pleasant affair. The following people received prizes:

Beatrice Downs, Sybil Shields, Lorraine McCurdy, Florence McCann, Myrtle Cunningham, Dorothy Featherston, Charles Johnson, Bev Ella, Harold Middlebrook, and Bill Golden.

Lone hands were played by Wilma Golden and Elmer Ferric. Consolation prizes were won by Charlotte Greenlees and Jean Beamish.

In total, 11 tables of players participated.

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Mr. and Mrs. Rick Rowan of Calgary recently visited with family and friends for a few days in the Milton area.

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Due to the wet and rainy weather, local farmers are unable to do their spring planting of grass.

Very few, if any, acres have been sown because heavy machinery cannot get on the land to do the necessary preparation of soil.

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