

# Residents protest 'illogical' property tax reform

By ROB KELLY  
The Champion

The market value assessment (MVA) war may be over on the political front, but a grassroots guerrilla campaign against the unpopular tax change is still going on.

Regional council and Halton regional chairman Peter Pomeroy in particular, were targeted by angry Oakville residents Wednesday who hope to see councillors reverse their two-week old approval of MVA. Mr. Pomeroy broke a 12-12 deadlock to pass the controversial tax plan, which will see about \$4 million in property taxes shift from Burlington to Oakville.

Oakville resident James Richards told the regional chairman that if he couldn't perform his duties more effectively, "I urge you to resign."

Facing the regional chairman from a speaker's podium while the other councillors looked on, Mr. Richards said Mr. Pomeroy had abandoned impartiality and been "judgmental" in hastily casting the deciding vote in favour of MVA.

Council's actions as a whole were "illogical, highly irresponsible and grossly lacking in compassion and humanity," Mr. Richards charged.

James Millington, an Oakville actor who plays a TV news anchor on the popular CTV television show E.N.G., weighed in with a biting commentary on the fallout of MVA.

Mr. Millington said he was "shocked" when he found out what his new property taxes would be and "aghast" upon learning of the new business taxes to be levied on his neighbour.

Oakville is enduring most of the tax shift because property values, generally, have escalated most there. But there will be changes across Halton. On average, 55 per cent of ratepayers are getting a decrease and 45 per cent an increase. While the average increase or decrease is in the \$200- \$300 range, in some cases the jumps are much higher.

"How can a group of people who campaigned telling us they would not raise taxes now reverse those promises and raise them by, in some cases, more than 100 per cent?" asked Mr. Millington.

"Your constituents expect you to demonstrate wisdom, foresight, fairness. I regret to say your most recent decision demonstrates none of the above.

"You are taxing the competitive lifeblood out of the very people who drive this economy," Mr. Millington warned. "The small business people, the risk takers.

"People will lose their homes, their businesses, because of this odious tax," Mr. Millington predicted. "This tax jump, tax grab, tax error will seriously damage the fragile (economic) recovery."

Mr. Millington asked that council "rescind the decision" to move ahead with MVA, and "proclaim a moratorium on tax increases until we get our fiscal feet, our constitutional feet, on the ground."

Outside the council chamber after his speech, Mr. Millington said he hopes Halton politicians "will see they made a real mistake." He expects momentum to build against MVA if that doesn't happen. "I think there will be a public outcry. I think there will be demonstrations."



## Come fly with me

Phil Roberts of the Essex Region Conservation Authority lets nature lovers get a closer look at a Red Tailed Hawk before it's released back into the wild. The bird was included in Mountsberg Conservation Area's Friends of a Feather program on the weekend. The wildlife centre nurses injured birds of prey back to health and also operates a bird banding program.

## Ottawa calls board superintendent away

The Superintendent of Education for the Halton Roman Catholic School Board has moved up and away.

After a dozen years here, Dennis Nolan assumed the position as Director of Education for the Ottawa Roman Catholic School Board, effective at the start of last month. For the past few weeks he's been flying back and forth, finishing off his duties for the local school board while getting accustomed to the new job.

Mr. Nolan, who's been an educator for more than 30 years, was selected after a four-month executive search by the Ottawa board. The trustees there announced Mr. Nolan had won the job at the end of August, at which time he informed the Halton board.

Cliff Byrnes, Director of Education of the Halton R.C. board, said Mr. Nolan will be missed.

"Dennis is regarded as an exceptional educator by his colleagues and has served the Halton Roman Catholic School Board system with distinction. While we miss him here, we certainly wish him continued success as he assumes his new position and challenges in Ottawa."

As a superintendent with Halton Roman Catholic School Board since 1980 Mr. Nolan has had experience in human resources, educational services, operations, and most recently with the board's new strategic plan.

Prior to joining the Halton Catholic Board, Mr. Nolan had served eight years with the Renfrew County board.

Married with three children, Mr. Nolan has been involved in all kinds of organizations, especially those helping children, including the Children's Aid Society and the Ontario Student Exchange Foundation.

## Brokers donate \$1,800 to women's shelter in Burlington

The new Burlington shelter for battered woman has received a gift from the local Insurance Brokers Association.

Tim Crawford, president of the Burlington Insurance Brokers Association, recently presented a cheque for \$1,800 to Theresa Greer, executive director of Halton Women's Place in Milton.

The money was raised through corporate sponsorship of individual holes at the annual Insurance Brokers Golf Tournament held in June.

"Every year our association picks a worthy cause as the recipient of proceeds from the annual golf tournament," said Brian Gould, vice-president of the Insurance Brokers Association.

"There is a need for such a facility in Burlington which is long overdue," he continued. "We are glad to have the opportunity to participate."

The Burlington shelter is the second such facility for battered women and their children in Halton.

Halton Women's Place is gearing up for a capital campaign to raise money for the shelter.

"We anticipate that construction on the Burlington site could begin as early as February, 1993," said Ms Greer.

"We are very pleased with the public support we are receiving from both the Burlington community and the broader Halton community."

To date this year, 113 women and 125 children have come to the Milton facility for shelter.

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