

MVA fight gets regional approval for another meeting

3—The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, December 2, 1992

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says, the majority of homeowners will be paying more while other types of property are taxed less.
Friday afternoon Mr. Pomeroy met with the four area municipality mayors and told them he planned to support reconsideration.

"Nobody's happy about the (tax) shifts that market value assessment has created," Mr. Pomeroy said in an interview Tuesday. "We're trying to find some common ground."

In a potentially important development, Milton Mayor Gord Krantz indicated he could be swayed into deferring MVA for a year if he heard new information illustrating that it's feasible to change the base year from 1988 to 1992 in the interim.

Opponents of MVA have complained that using 1988 as a guideline year for determining how to reallocate regional taxes is unfair because many property values were inflated then, at the crest of the last economic upturn.

Oakville councillor Kevin Flynn has outlined a six-part motion intended to break the MVA gridlock tonight. It calls for a one-year MVA deferral, followed by implementation using 1988 property values unless a special citizens' committee can come up with a better alternative in the meantime.

The motion also states that if the current MVA implementation agenda is in any way altered — presumably by changes proposed through the citizens' committee — those changes will have to be unanimously approved by regional council.

"I think that's a bit stringent," Mr. Flynn said Monday, adding he may attempt to modify that clause at the council meeting tonight.

Mr. Flynn's motion was worked out Thursday and Friday as he gained a sense of what it would take to nudge Mr. Pomeroy into agreeing to re-open the debate. The unanimity clause was part of that package.

The bulk of the text is practical because if the citizens' committee can't come up with a better idea in a year's time, people will not be able to complain that the tax changes "were not an open and fair public process," Mr. Flynn said.

The Oakville councillor admitted "I had to hold my nose" in backing the motion. He would much prefer a

1992 base year. However, he doesn't believe it's possible to make that change over the next 12 months because of the extra research needed.

Still, Mr. Flynn left the door open to a fast-track move toward 1992 values. "It may be we find out that we can accelerate the process and

use 1992 figures. Anything is possible. But our information at this time is that it cannot be done."

"A lot of people are upset with using 1988," Mr. Pomeroy acknowledged. He suggested the citizens' committee may be able "pressure the province" to quicken a move

toward a 1992 base year. "I think something can be done there." However, he thinks it will take longer than a year.

Milton treasurer Jim McQueen stressed that it was up to provincial Ministry of Revenue experts "to call that shot." But, he added, it might be

possible to cut corners and update the 1988 study to an approximation of 1992 values in 12 months.

Roughly 50 citizen delegations have registered to speak at the special regional council meeting, which will convene at 6 p.m. Councillors are expecting hundreds of people.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Busy Beavers

Members of 7th Milton Cubs and Beavers donated toys to the Jaycees annual Christmas toy drive last week. Kevin McAteer (left) and Brian McAteer got right into the donation box at Milton Mall in front of Shoppers Drug Mart. Donations of new gifts suitable for children of all ages are welcome.

Halton police extend weapons amnesty to Dec. 15

Halton police collected more than 200 firearms in the first three weeks of a program allowing the public to dispose of weapons and explosives without fear of prosecution.

Rifles, switch blades, and grenades are among the weapons which have been surrendered to police in its amnesty program.

More than 5,000 rounds of ammunition — in-

cluding bullets and explosives — have also been turned in.

And they're still coming in. November's round up of illegal firearms, commercial explosives, and military ordnance (live or souvenirs) has been extended by two weeks to December 15.

Except in cases where the weapons are believed to be used in crime, those who turn in illegal

firearms will not be charged.

Collected weapons are checked by police and destroyed, said Sherri McAdam, a civilian member of the force.

Firearms, explosives, and ammunition can be left for disposal at Halton Regional Police headquarters on Bronte Road, north of the QEW, in Oakville Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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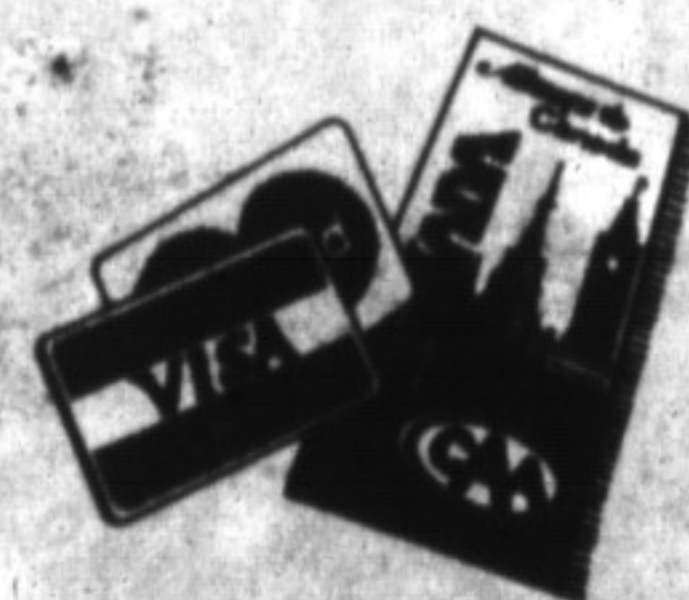
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