

Council hedges on development charges waiver

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
The Champion

Halton regional councillors verged on reopening a development charges debate recently when given a choice — losing new business and property tax revenues or attracting business to Halton Hills by waiving development charges on a planned industrial expansion.

Just weeks ago the Region embraced a new development charges bylaw — ending lengthy negotiations and a challenge to its previous bylaw from the development industry.

"I'm surprised at some of the comments I've heard," said Burlington Mayor Walter Mulkeewich at an administration and finance committee meeting. "We should send the message that there is no waiver. If we do this for this particular industry, we're going to do it for every other business. We might as well eliminate our bylaw."

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz wasn't so adamant. "I think we should be receptive to these kinds of presenta-

tions, rather than just saying no. The issue of new development versus expansion of an existing building is one that maybe should be revisited," he said.

When the topic came up again at regional council last week, again Mayor Krantz looked to the long-term potential for property and business taxes. "What we're forgetting is that hopefully the company will stay, two, three 10 years. You don't have to be very smart to figure out what that adds up to," he said.

The Region's new bylaw doesn't provide for waivers but permits phased-in payment. Regional staff will be reporting in early October on possible changes regarding the bylaw's 5,000 sq. ft. exemption for existing business expansion. Some believe the exemption would be better based on a percentage expansion, rather than a specific measurement.

"It quickly becomes obvious that the payback period to the respective governments for the waiving of these charges is very short indeed," noted Royal LePage industrial sales repre-

sentative Gregory Cross.

Mr. Cross had lined up a Toronto company as buyer for a vacant, heavy industrial property on Georgetown's Armstrong Avenue. The sale's September 30 closing was contingent on the development charge waiver.

Requested waivers of both regional and municipal development charges would total approximately \$200,000, said regional treasurer Joe Rinaldo.

Halton Hills Councillor Pam Johnston agreed with Mr. Mulkeewich that taxpayers wouldn't tolerate a waiver, but hoped the land deal could be kept alive.

"If we start bending our rules to accommodate appeals of this nature, we're compromising our integrity," said Burlington councillor Don Carter.

Fellow Halton Hills Councillor

Marilyn Serjeantson pointed to jobs lost and businesses closed in Halton Hills during the recession. "There is a need for jobs and the taxpayers want to work so they can pay their bills," she said.

The committee opted to defer decision until the staff report was ready. Regional council endorsed the committee's decision.



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CITY OF BURLINGTON ELECTION 1994

NOTICE OF POSTING OF THE PRELIMINARY LIST OF ELECTORS

1994 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The Preliminary List of Electors for the Municipal Election to be held on Monday, November 14, 1994 will be posted on Friday, September 2, 1994 at:

Burlington City Hall, Clerk's Dept.
Main Level, City Hall, 426 Brant Street
Central Library
2331 New Street
Aldershot Branch Library
355 Plains Road East

Kilbride Branch Library
6611 Panton Road
New Appleby Branch Library
676 Appleby Line
Tyandaga Branch Library
1500 Upper Middle Road

Applications for revisions to the Preliminary List of Electors must be made on the prescribed forms which are available in the City Clerk's Office, Burlington City Hall, 426 Brant Street. Once completed, the forms must be mailed or deposited, in person or by agent, with the City Clerk's Office.

The period for revisions to the Preliminary List of Electors commences on Tuesday, September 6, 1994 and ends at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 14, 1994. Revisions will be undertaken in the Office of the Clerk, Burlington City Hall, 426 Brant Street from 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except for Friday, October 14, 1994 when the office will be open until 5:00 p.m.

Should a Hearing be necessary to deal with deletions from the Preliminary List of Electors, such Hearing will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 18, 1994 in the City of Burlington Council Chambers, Level 2, City Hall, 426 Brant Street.

The last day for appeals or revisions to the Preliminary List of Electors is Friday, October 14, 1994.

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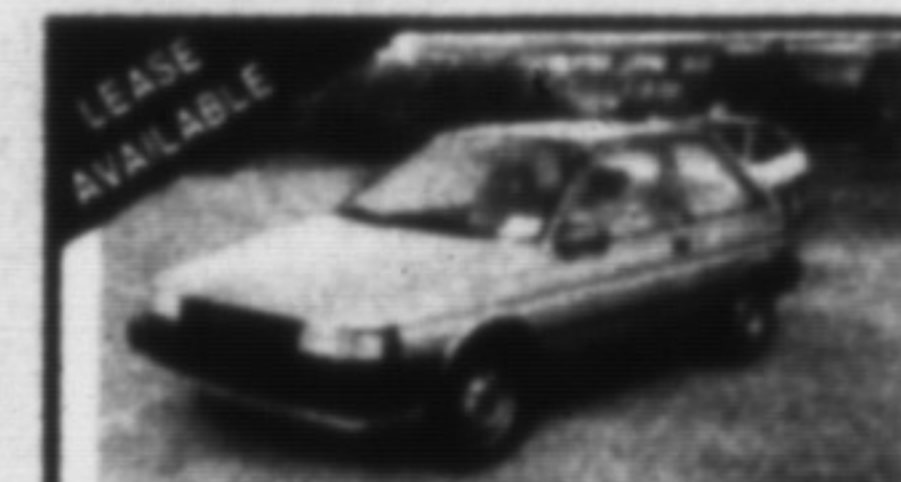


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