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Halton's politicians probe report and possible effects to residents



"Any discussion in this area without education funding being involved is half-hearted at best and meaningless at worst."

 - Ted Chudleigh

• from GOLDEN on page 1

mentation Jan. 1 of Halton's region-wide market value assessment. The figures also considered that Toronto will make no effort to fix its huge taxation problems, including outdated assessments and a policy to have businesses carry a higher percentage of the tax load than residential properties.

Mr. Chudleigh reminded everyone that most of the outlying regions of the GTA, which will experience the tax hikes, are represented by Tory MPPs who are not interested in financing Metro Toronto's problems.

In addition Anne Golden, in her GTA reform report, suggests the first thing to do is shore up Toronto's tax problems, the MPP noted. Mr. Chudleigh called into question the advantages of an equalized tax system, saying equalized taxes don't force competition between municipalities.



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A Live interview with **Dr. Calvin Stiller**

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Dr. Calvin Stiller

TOPIC: Canadian Medical Discoveries Fund

**TIME: 7:00 pm on Monday February 12, 1996
 on Halton Cable 4**

Please join Wally and Rob for this insightful interview!

"Vaughan is doing rather well, some say on the backs of Metro Toronto, but Toronto failed to respond to that pressure," Mr. Chudleigh said.

He said a report on education, expected to be released soon, should go hand in hand with the Golden Report to fuel reform.

"Any discussion in this area without education funding being involved is half-hearted at best and meaningless at worst."

In addition to taxation, the discussion touched on governance. Burlington Mayor Walter Mulkeiwich said the federal government is becoming less relevant to citizens and he advocated local and provincial governments deal with most affairs. He said he fears reforms will produce four levels of government, local, regional, Greater Toronto Council and provincial.

"As a taxpayer I believe people will not tolerate higher taxes or another level of government," agreed Ms. Savoline. However, she quoted the Golden Report saying the cost of Regional government is \$107 million or one per cent higher than the cost of proposed changes. She wondered aloud if that one per cent was a reasonable cost for a more responsive local representation, considering the reduced voice local representatives would have in a Greater Toronto Council.

"The debate should focus on the role of local government," said Mayor Mulkeiwich, who pointed to the proposed Greater Toronto Council as more of a utility serving the Toronto area than another significant level of government.

"The report says many of the responsibilities will devolved to the local governments. We are restructuring governments for the 21st century. The longer we put it off and talk about it the less like we are to make necessary changes."

"It (The Greater Toronto Council) is the most undemocratic set-up I've ever seen," added Ms. Savoline. "Fifty-seven per cent of the representatives would be Metro focussed and oriented. There would not be much interest in things outside Metro so most big ticket projects would take place inside."

Another topic of discussion was a call to increase the density of growth.

"Heavier densities are suggested in the report," commented Mayor Krantz.

He said development would favour infill and empty lot proposals within current urban areas rather than greenfield developments.

"If the plans are adopted then the suburbs would be put on the backburner."

Mayor Krantz said the two biggest concerns he has are the implementation of cross-boundary water servicing and the tax agenda.

"Growth in Milton has to be rethought both in form and in the timing of development," added Mayor Mulkeiwich.

He said he thought representation by population rather than some form of geographic representation espoused by Halton Hills Mayor Serjeantson was the only reasonable approach.

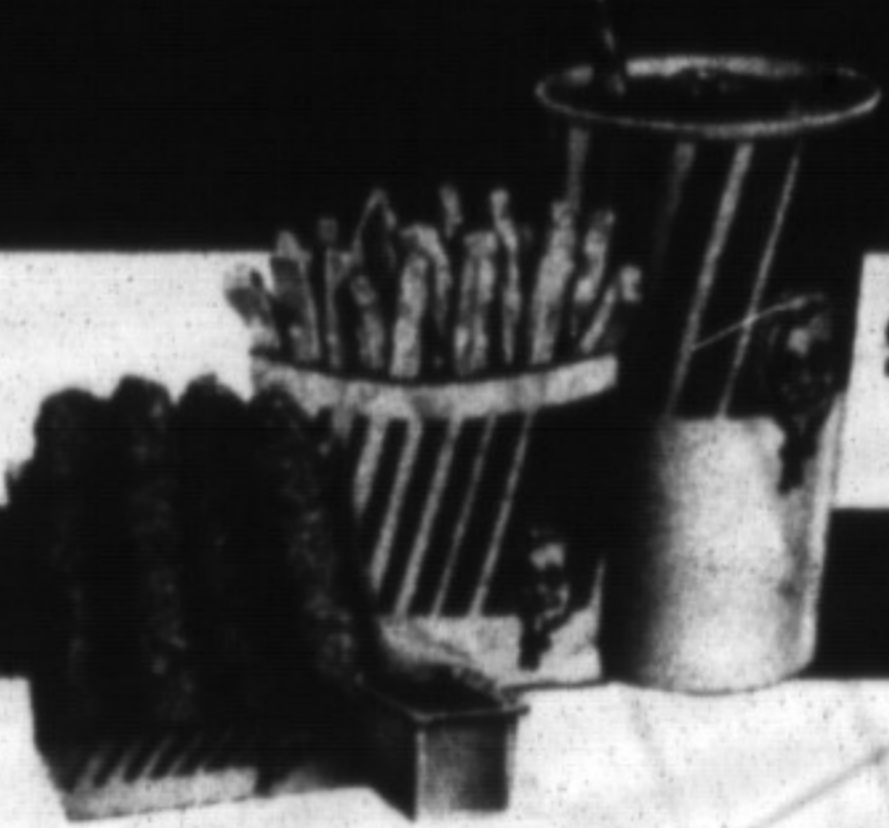
Halton Region's Golden Report Committee will meet Wednesday to discuss a common position for the Region regarding the proposed reforms.

"Heavier densities are suggested in the report. If the plans are adopted then the suburbs would be put on the backburner."

 - Gord Krantz



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