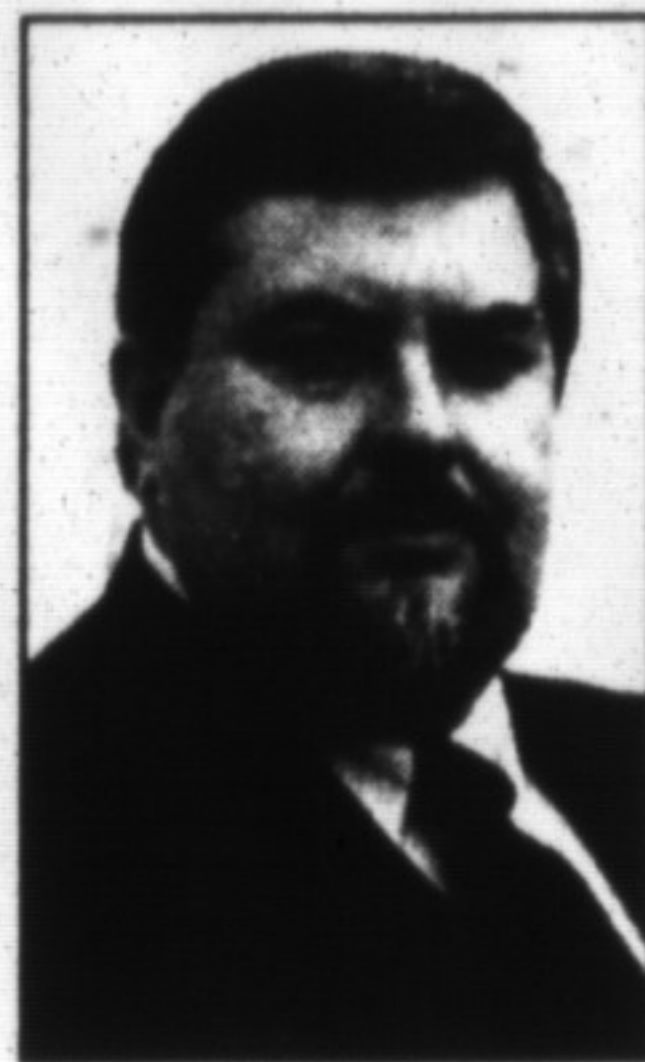


More trash collection means higher rural taxes

By BRAD REAUME
The Champion

Garbage pick-up will be extended to rural areas near Milton's urban core.

Municipal collection will begin January 1 for people in Ward 2 who do not currently get it. A town council decision last week determined the plan will be financed by taxes from those currently getting garbage collection, and those who will receive it under the new plan.



Brian Penman

Taxes will increase \$93 per year for those about to get municipal garbage collection while those already getting it will face a \$3 per year tax increase.

Some councillors argued that current urban residents would be subsidizing those people who live in the rural areas of Ward 2. Council heard that without the blended tax scheme, those in outlying Ward 2 would have to pay \$173 per year.

"Why make existing residents pay an extra \$3

per year for a service they are not getting any advantage out of?" asked Councillor Wally Hunter. However, Councillor John Challinor said that some neighbourhoods in the existing collection area could have higher collection costs than others. He argued, neighbourhoods within the urban boundaries should all be dealt with together.

Council adopted all three recommendations of the Rural Waste Management Citizen Committee. The Town will maintain the status quo in rural wards 1 and 3, and check on the feasibility of a privately operated waste station south of urban Milton.

In addition, rural areas will pick up the cost of

a recycling depot and rural roadside debris pick-up. At present, urban residents only fund recycling depots. Both rural and urban residents currently pay for roadside collection, but now the weight of that will fall mostly on rural ratepayers. Clean-up from roadside dumping costs Milton \$22,000 per year.

Councillor Brian Penman was unhappy with the burden imposed on rural residents.

"Consider that the rural resident pays private haulers \$300 to \$400 per year, then they have to pay for the landfill, then they pay \$22,000 for roadside clean-up and for depots at Brookville and Campbellville," he said.

Mr. Challinor said there is no proof that

garbage is being dumped by people from outside of Halton Region.

Two members of the Rural Waste Management Citizens' Committee, Edward Livingston and Colleen Simmons, delivered their report to council.

"We've tried to come up with a fair assessment of the rural waste situation," said Ms Simmons. "Those responsible for the costs are going to pay."

Despite some uneasiness with the proposals, council passed the recommendations. However, final consent to an extension of garbage collection to all Ward 2 residents will come during the 1997 municipal operating budget deliberations.

Government officials monopolize meeting

By BRAD REAUME
The Champion

Business people, hoping to voice concerns regarding Greater Toronto Area reform at a Chamber of Commerce sponsored breakfast, instead ran into a Town of Milton seminar on the subject.

Town staff delivered lengthy presentations outlining the Golden report on GTA reform at

the Mayor's Breakfast Thursday. The presentations effectively limited questions and comments on the municipal reform package to only three chamber members.

Halton Hills Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson and Halton-Peel MP Julian Reed, also seized the opportunity to comment.

"The proposal will create an organization larger than several provinces, in effect a mini-province," said Mr. Reed. "I worry that in such

an organization there is no provision for official opposition to keep the government on the rails."

Despite what almost amounted to a monopoly on the meeting by public officials, several public comments did get through. Michael Bourgon, president of the Milton chamber, said his counterparts in Halton Hills and Burlington were joining the Milton Chamber of Commerce to oppose the proposals. They will appear at a

• see CHAMBER on page 8

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