

Chamber got a lecture on GTA

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provincially initiated meeting tomorrow (Thursday) at Halton regional headquarters in Oakville.

Milton businessman Peter Duffus said the time for change was not now, because of high costs associated with the reorganization. He said the process was happening far too fast.

Yet the consensus of business people and public officials is that change will occur.

"Change is going to happen," said Halton Hills Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson. "I'm concerned change is going to happen and happen to our detriment."

The breakfast group heard that commercial and industrial taxes are likely to rise consider-

ably under the reform proposals. Increases in Milton were estimated at 25 per cent by Milton chief administrative officer David Hipgrave. One audience member said taxes for his company's Toronto office were 10 times Milton rates.

Largely because of high taxes in the Toronto core, businesses are leaving for the suburbs. That flight and the resulting loss of tax dollars for Toronto triggered the study by the Golden Commission.

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz agreed with comments from business people that a third level of municipal government was not desirable. He said the question is which level should be removed.

Temporary zoning change granted for landscaper

By BRAD REAUME
The Champion

A temporary bylaw will allow International Landscaping to continue operations out of a family home on Lower Base Line.

Councillors heard lengthy arguments before settling on the temporary use solution at a recent general committee meeting.

The landscaping and snowplowing business, run by Baldo Gucciardi, currently runs out of a 4.5 acre property on the south side of Lower Base Line east of Trafalgar Road. Several trucks and contracting equipment are stored on the site but no complaints have been registered by local

residents. Neighbours are only concerned with what might eventually happen on the site if a complete zoning change was granted, according to Roger Beck, who spoke on behalf of area residents.

Mr. Gucciardi applied for a zoning change for the entire property, claiming newly planted trees which he will eventually form an agricultural land use and his landscape business an accessory activity.

"Isn't the tree planting a secondary use to the landscape business?" asked councillor Marion Howard. "Isn't it supposed to be reversed?"

As the discussion wore on, first Mr. Gucciardi agreed to the possibility of the zoning change only on the property located behind the main house. He then agreed a temporary use bylaw might satisfy all parties.

Temporary use bylaws are enacted for three years and are renewable, according to senior planner Tom Lemon.

The issue reached council because of a complaint from a commercial operation, planning staff told councillors.

What Milton wants in the revised GTA

The Town of Milton will deliver its position on municipal reform in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) to a provincially appointed panel at Halton headquarters tomorrow (Thursday) at 10:45 a.m.

Milton's submission will touch on property tax, education tax pooling, economic development, urban form, and government structure. Here is a summary:

Regarding property taxation Milton supports:

- Improvements to Market Value Assessment, the system currently employed in Halton;
- A tax reassessment of Metro Toronto as a first priority and the ability to establish different tax rates for various property classes;
- Milton stands against education tax pooling.

On economic development issues Milton supports:

- More money spent on economic development in the GTA by the province;
- A provincially prepared hard services plan for the GTA;
- An economic development partnership in the GTA to market the region;
- A recognition of the importance of agriculture to the economy and streamlining development and planning approvals.

Milton will put forth positions on urban form including support for:

- Housing growth in existing urban areas rather than general sprawl from the centre of GTA;
- Compact, mixed use urban development;
- Infrastructure coordination across the GTA with a disregard for current boundaries;
- Incentives to develop vacant land and former industrial sites in urban areas;
- User fees and charges for services based on actual cost and boundary changes or amalgamations as determined locally.

Milton laid out a position on government suggesting:

- Milton is against a Greater Toronto Council because of size, complexity, lack of accessibility, lack of representation;
- Milton supports more responsibility for local municipalities;
- An updated municipal act;
- Clearly delineated responsibilities between local, regional and provincial governments;
- Milton supports the reduction and elimination of special purpose bodies such as library boards and the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

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