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Sat. Oct. 5th & Sun. Oct. 6th
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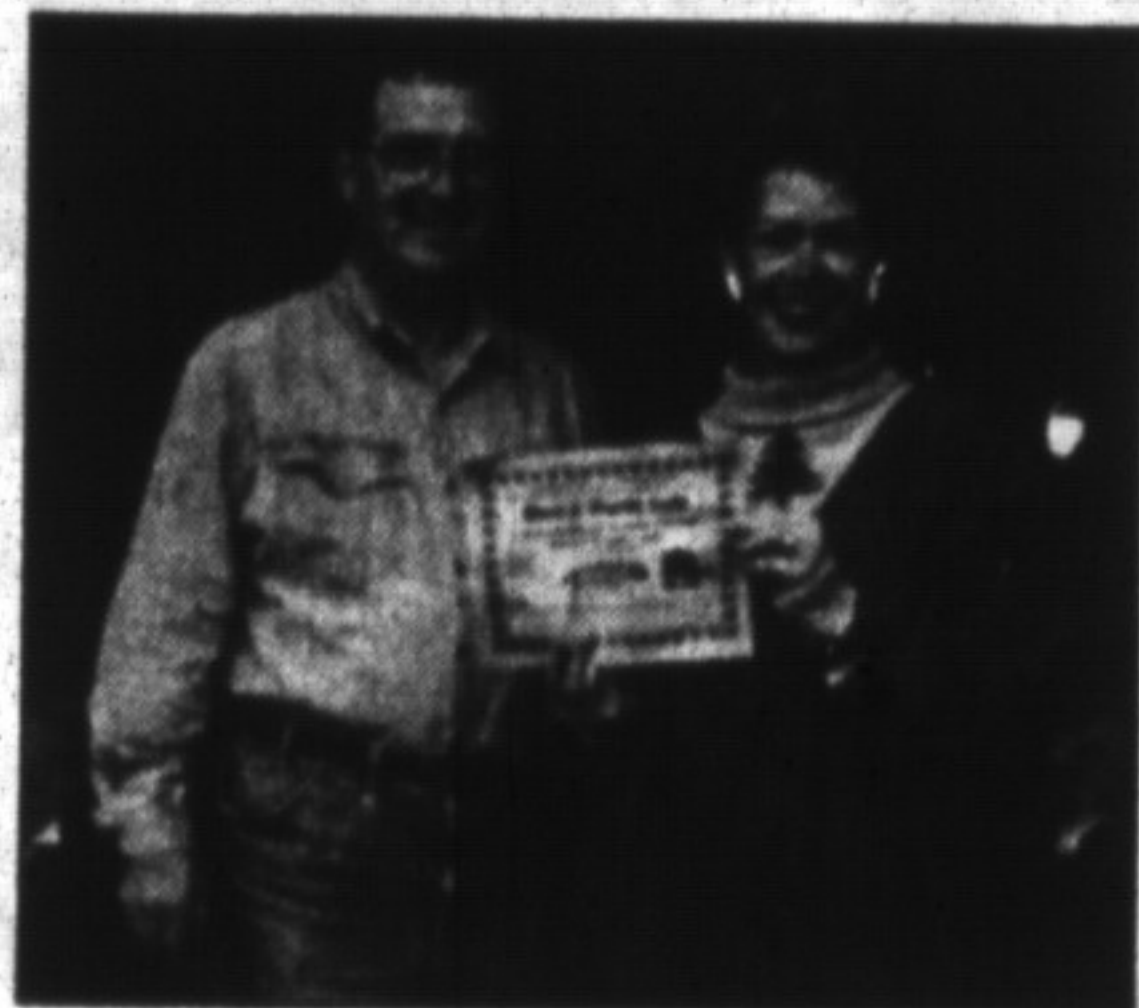
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Sunday, October 6th, 1996
11:00 am - 3:30 pm
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The Canadian Champion

More bickering over development charges

By BRAD REAUME

The Champion

Development charges should reflect the true cost of development, according to Oakville regional Councillor Keith Bird.

Mr. Bird told members of Halton's administration and finance committee recently that keeping development charges competitive with other municipalities is a mistake in perception. He said that a house in Oakville, despite lower development charges, cost \$5,000 more than an identical home, built by the same builder, in Pickering. Development charges in Pickering are higher than those in Oakville.

He said the cost of the homes is based on what the builder felt the market could bear, rather than simply the cost of building the home.

Committee members were debating a number of provisions relating to development charges in Halton. They deferred the bulk of the discussion to allow the public to address the issue.

While most committee members were concerned with keeping the development charges competitive with other municipalities, Mr. Bird refused to acquiesce and said they should be tied to the real cost of developing property.

"We always knew there was a cost to development but Oakville's study showed the town was grossly undercharging by half, or about \$5,000," he said.

Oakville Councillor Kevin Flynn agreed, saying existing residents are paying substantially for the costs of growth which was thrust upon Oakville by the Ontario Municipal Board.

"Oakville started charging too late and not charging enough, therefore existing ratepayers are shouldering the burden of growth," he said. "It's our mistake, we didn't vote for it soon enough."

Acting Halton chief administrative officer Joe Rinaldo said "Development charges are under attack all around the province." The province is conducting a review of development charges but has issued no time frame for its report.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

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Dateline

Dateline is a free listing of coming events only. The column is available to local community groups to assist in promoting their future events. Notices for Dateline should be written and handed in at the office of The Champion, 191 Main St. E., mailed to us at P.O. Box 248, Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9, or faxed to (905) 878-4943.

Wednesday Oct. 2

A Canadian Mental Health Association's educational series on depression and manic depression begins today. The six-week series runs Wednesdays from 7-9 p.m. until Nov. 6 in Burlington. Topics include causes of illness, signs and symptoms, treatments, legal issues and community resources. To register or for more information, call Susan Phair at 845-5044.

St. John Ambulance holds the Emergency First Aid with Heartsaver Course — a six-and-a-half-hour course to provide students with critical knowledge and the confidence to effectively manage an emergency without panic or confusion. Participants acquire knowledge to reduce shock and contain injuries. For more information and registration, call 878-4330.

MCIS/CHERISH Family Resource Centre, 540 Childs Dr., offers Playgroup for parents, care givers and preschoolers Wednesdays from 9:15-11:15 a.m. The program includes arts and crafts, games, songs and stories. The cost is \$22 per month. Call Sue at 875-4636, ext. 103, for details.

Wednesday Oct. 2-3

St. John Ambulance holds the Standard First Aid with Heartstart (Level A CPR) Course, which meets industry, business and government requirements. For more information and registration, call 878-4330.

Wednesday Oct. 2-4

St. John Ambulance holds the Standard First Aid with CPR Basic Rescuer Course — a combined course to meet all requirements. For more information and registration, call 878-4330.

Thursday Oct. 3

The Victorian Order of Nurses holds a foot care clinic at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr., from 1-4 p.m. The cost is \$15. For further information or an appointment, call 875-1681. Foot care clinics are by appointment only.

Overeaters Anonymous meets at the Milton Children and Youth Centre, 917 Nipissing Rd. (at Thompson Road), at 8 p.m. No dues or fees are charged. Contact Catherine at 878-1039.

The Canadian Mental Health Association presents Seminars for the Separated — Stage I at 341 Kerr St. in Oakville. The program runs Thursdays from 7-10 p.m. until Nov. 14. Topics include stages of separation, communication with your ex, parenting after separation, legal aspects, rebuilding self-esteem, coping with stress and life after divorce. The seven-week series

• see DATELINE on page 17



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