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Let's wait and see, says Mulvale

By BRAD REAUME
The Champion

The spectre of regional amalgamations was behind her recent move to delay Halton's huge water servicing project, says Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale.

At a recent Halton regional council meeting, an attempt by the Oakville mayor to have Halton Urban Structure Plan (HUSP) delayed for six months, was defeated by a narrow margin.

Mayor Mulvale admitted she thinks there is a potential for amalgamation between Halton and Peel regions. If that occurs, any money Halton advanced to access Peel's water system would probably never be recovered.

In addition she said interim measures should be sufficient to cover development for several years, so waiting would bring no hardship.

"There were three issues which caused me to seek the delay," she explained. "A potential Halton-Peel amalgamation, speculation on provincial announcements in the Who Does What panel, and concerns regarding the (financial) numbers."

Ms Mulvale, who sits on several panels studying potential changes to Ontario's municipal structure, stressed she based her concerns on public information.

"The short-listed companies told us to tell them if we were not serious about continuing the (HUSP) project," she said. "I can't see what we're losing by waiting. Investment dollars will not go away. Why expend more dollars when the short term solution will work? We will get no water next year no matter what we do."

"The Halton-Peel merger is just another trial balloon but some changes will come to fruition," she said, stressing cost cutting is the ultimate goal of both the federal and

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ANN MULVALE



provincial governments. Despite some gains in the economy Ms Mulvale said there is still "massive unemployment" and "an accumulated debt that is not going away."

"The right thing will happen because of the financial imperative. There will be substantive changes announced in the new few weeks and into the new year."

For Reform

Malboeuf wants nod

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30 years by a prime minister from Quebec because apparently only they could understand the national unity issue and keep the separatists at bay. During that time support for separatism has risen from 15 per cent to 50 per cent. It's time for a prime minister from outside of Quebec. I'm a Quebecker and I have no trouble with the way we want to handle Quebec"

Mr. Malboeuf said that if Reform economic policies had been implemented in 1993, Canada would have a balanced bud-

get now, and would be able to use the substantial drop in interest rates to take a big chunk out of the accumulated debt.

"Instead of balancing the budget the Liberals under (Prime Minister Jean) Chretien will have increased the debt by more than \$100 billion," said Mr. Malboeuf.

Mr. Malboeuf said he was coordinating several "town-hall" style meetings and the mailing of about 5,000 copies of A Fresh Start for Canadians prior to the nomination meeting, expected in January.

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