

Hipgrave says

It's all up in the air

Provincial, municipal changes still being sorted out

By **BRAD REAUME**
The Champion

Politicians, bureaucrats, and even taxpayers all want details on how the provincial government's so-called megaweek announcements are going to affect them but nobody can provide specifics.

Announcements were made last week on how a \$6.4 billion package of provincial and municipal government programs and services would be sealed back, swapped and delivered to the public.

In addition Actual Value Assessment for property taxation will be implemented across the province, replacing the patchwork of property assessment systems in Ontario.

"Given Halton's recent move to Market Value Assessment the current wisdom in Halton is that we will be spared dramatic swings in property tax levels," said Milton chief administrative officer David Hipgrave at Monday's meeting of town council. "All the changes are planned for 1998 so there will be many reports to council as this unfolds."

There is also some confusion regarding which services will move to local municipalities and which will be delivered by the upper tier regional governments.

"It is still very unclear what we will be responsible to deliver," said Mr. Hipgrave. "The only thing that is clear is that it will be a whole new municipal world starting January 1, 1998."

Currently the Greater Toronto Services Board (GTSB) committee is setting the guidelines on that board's responsibilities. That would appear to be the first step in sorting out the new municipal responsibilities, Mr. Hipgrave said.

"The only thing that is clear is that it will be a whole new municipal world starting January 1, 1998."
DAVID HIPGRAVE



Councillor Barry Lee questioned if Halton would survive as a two-tier municipal system, in light of the added responsibilities given to municipalities.

Mr. Hipgrave speculated that only municipalities with a broad enough tax base to operate the necessary programs and services would survive. He pointed to negotiations between local municipalities in Hamilton, Ottawa and Kingston, which are all moving toward one-tier arrangements.

"The future of Halton may be determined by how it deals with these changes," said Mayor Gord Krantz. Mr. Hipgrave pointed out that legislative authority for local governments to change themselves has been passed for some areas and is proposed in the 905 areas surrounding Toronto.

"I'm not happy that we will have some of the social services here but we've complained about things for so long and now we've got some control," said Councillor Wally Hunter. "Now the buck stops at local council."

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Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 297 and 300 of The Municipal Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter M.45 as amended, that the Council for the Regional Municipality of Halton proposes at its meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 1997 to pass a by-law for the reconstruction of Guelph Line, Britannia Road to Derry Road through the Hamlet of Lowville, City of Burlington.

Plans showing the proposed work may be inspected at the Planning & Public Works Department, Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville during normal business hours.

On Wednesday, February 12, 1997 at 9:30 a.m. in the Halton Room at the Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario, Council through its Planning and Public Works Committee will hear in person, or by his/her Counsel, any person who claims that his/her lands will be prejudicially affected by the said by-law, and who applies to the Regional Clerk no later than Thursday, February 6, 1997 to be heard.

For further information, please contact M. J. Choi, P. Eng., extension 7610.

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