

Region's strategy for economic development on track: report

Report shows things moving ahead as planned

Halton Region's economic development strategy is on track, according to a report presented to regional council recently.

Highlighting the first year of the Region's 10-year economic development strategic implementation plan, which was approved by council in 2011, the report states significant results were achieved around the five pillars of the strategy. The pillars are employment lands, existing and emerging sectors, investment attraction and retention, entrepreneurship and innovation, and quality of place.

Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr said the plan focuses on ensuring that Halton is the "preferred location for innovative businesses and entrepreneurs."

"Halton offers a highly skilled and educated workforce, quality infrastructure and a positive business environment," he said. "The economic development strategy serves as a guide for future economic growth, building on these strengths, and the annual progress report provides a tangible way to mark our progress and celebrate our success."

Some of the highlights include:

- **Employment lands:** The extension of trunk water and wastewater services in the Halton Hills Hwy. 401 corridor to enable the start of construction of the 430,000-sq.-ft. Toronto Premium Outlets retail cen-

- **Existing and emerging sectors:** The ongoing support of Halton's four local municipalities for business retention, research inquiries and the Region's publication of the Simply Local Guide of Halton Farms (www.halton.ca/simplylocal)

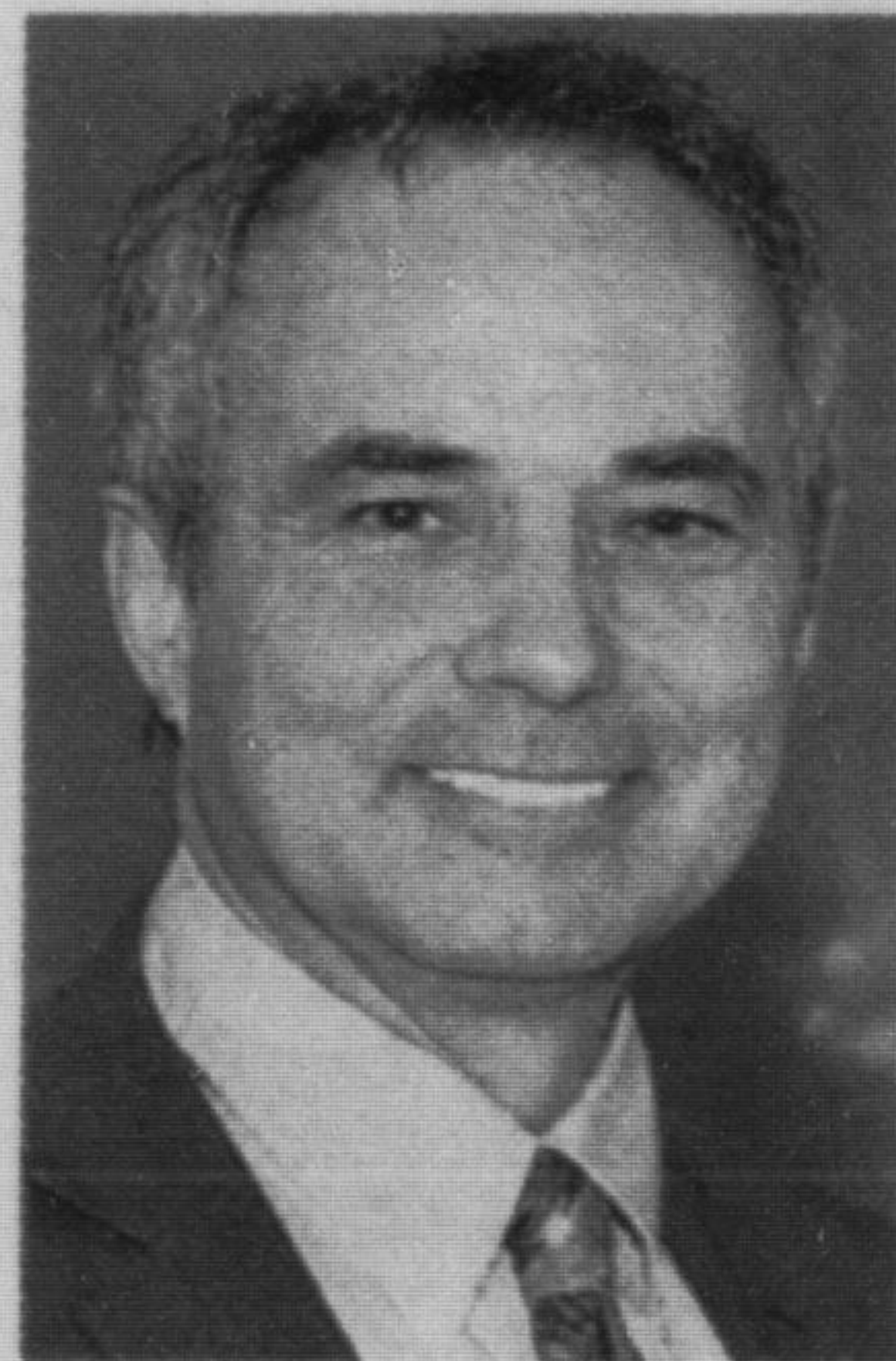
- **Investment attraction and retention:** Hosting the Real Estate Forum, attended by more than 200 industrial, commercial developers and real estate brokers from the Greater Toronto Area and launching an online Regional Data Centre (www.halton.ca/doing_business_in_halton/economic_development/data_centre/) resource for site selection and research inquiries

- **Entrepreneurship and innovation:** Halton Region's Small Business Centre (www.halton.ca/doing_business_in_halton/small_business_entrepreneurs/) exceeding its target of 1,000 client consultations in 2012, resulting

in 87 start-ups and 167 new jobs. The Region also launched the Canadian Youth Business Foundation, which saw 10 young entrepreneurs receive funding

- **Quality of place:** Attraction of 22 new family physicians to Halton and the announcement of a permanent location of the Halton McMaster Family Health Centre at Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital in Burlington and expansion of the Division's social media program aimed at small businesses and tourism.

For more information on the strategic implementation plan, visit www.halton.ca/ecdevstrategy.



Gary Carr

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