

# Region won't back down on development charges

## Growth should pay for itself, says Regional Chair

By Julia Le  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The ball is now in the developers' court as far as Halton Regional Council is concerned. Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr said as discussions between Halton Regional staff and developers who have appealed the Region's development charges (DC) wind down, Halton Regional Council is clear on its position — growth in Halton should pay for itself. It's time now for developers to decide whether they'll go ahead in appealing the DC bylaw at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) or move ahead with the Region to begin the process and planning needed to get development projects underway in Halton. Council passed a resolution unanimously

Wednesday (May 29) reaffirming its position on the matter following a confidential session where councillors received an update on the ongoing discussions by regional staff. Carr told the *Champion* after the confidential meeting that while developers continue to be divided on the issue, council is standing united and firm on its stance, ensuring existing taxpayers and businesses are not impacted by the costs associated with new residential growth beyond the minimum requirement by Provincial legislation. DCs are imposed on lands being developed to recover growth-related costs associated with the infrastructure that is needed and pays for services like water and wastewater, roads, policing, social housing and services for seniors. Carr believes the DCs are the responsibility of developers, who stand to make a big profit. Taxpayers, he said, should not have to foot the bill. Carr said council also doesn't want to jeopardize the Region's AAA Credit rating. "The choice is up to the developers — proceed or shoot this thing down for four

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