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COUNCILLOR URGES SIX-FOLD INCREASE IN DEVELOPMENT LEVIES IN TORONTO

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CITY HALL BUREAU

Toronto Councillor Cliff Jenkins would like to see a six-fold increase in development charges.

The levies on newly built residential projects — commercial is exempt — currently bring in about $50 million a year. But that should really be $300 million, Jenkins said yesterday.

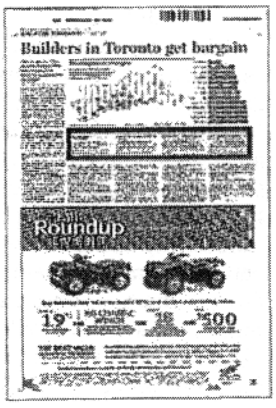
That's the estimated cost of building new infrastructure — sewer pipes, community centres and the like — to support the new people moving into the neighbourhood.

"What causes the need for new infrastructure? Really, at the root of it, it's population growth."

Jenkins (Ward 25, Don Valley West), who expects an upcoming staff report to recommend increases, has won allies on both the right and left.

Surrounding municipalities tend to have much higher charges without crimping development, said Councillor Howard Moscoe.

"I think our development charges are too low," Moscoe said. "High development charges have not deterred anyone from building in the 905 area. I don't think development charges will deter any construction in Toronto."


Builders in Toronto get bargain

Roundup

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