



**HOUSING ACTION** co-ordinator Bob Holmes chats with councillor Les Duby, Halton Hills planner Mario Venditti and Chamber of Commerce president Mike Worthington at Acton Meadows Friday. He spoke to a group of 50 explaining the new government program, aimed at providing low cost housing.

## Problems faced by Housing Action plans

The province's new Housing Action Program was outlined last Wednesday by Bob Holmes, the Halton co-ordinator. The Chamber of Commerce arranged the dinner meeting at Acton Meadows and about 50 attended.

After describing the program, Mr. Holmes answered questions from the audience. The Housing Action program is a two to three year program covering eight Ontario regions, with a staff of 23. Objectives are to encourage and assist the private sector to speed up production of housing, respond to needs of low and moderate income purchasers by changing the mix of housing.

The program offers accelerated provincial funding for servicing costs, such as increasing budgets of Ministries of Education, Natural Resources, and Environment.

Interest free loans will be available to regional governments for the share of costs incurred in the development of housing in the Housing Action areas.

A program of tax incentives would guarantee to local government that municipal taxes will not be allowed to increase due to the cost of the new housing.

Special grants would be available for the funding of local housing, planning and engineering studies.

Mayor Tom Hill is frankly skeptical. "I haven't got much faith in the housing program," he told the group bluntly. He feels the municipality won't have control over the kind of housing that comes into it, if the plan is accepted locally. He also wondered about increased costs.

Chamber retail section chairman introduced Mr. Holmes and gave his background: Chingacousy town manager, lecturer in Decision Making in Municipal Government and now with the Ministry of Housing.

President Mike Worthington welcomed the group.

**\$25,000 Study**  
Halton Hills has already received a grant for a housing study of \$25,000, by M. M. Dillon Associates. Mr. Holmes said. The study will soon be done and presented to council. Other areas in Halton have already agreed to have the programs in their areas.

The study is almost completed and a report is being prepared. "I hope in the not too distant future action will be taken by council," Mr. Holmes said.

Bucket of bolts  
Councillor Duby, who is on the administration committee which deals with the program, said the study will

not see much area to administer left in Acton. ("Ward 1", the mayor corrected him, to no avail.)

Potential  
Mr. Holmes said he and planner Mario Venditti feel there is "potential in Halton Hills." He will be making a study on the need for shelter at reasonable prices.

Developers of a proposed large new subdivision east of Acton had previously contacted Housing Action. This development would double the population of Acton, if approved.

Major problems  
Mr. Holmes explains his program is a new one and there are indeed very major problems. Over the years municipalities have had to be careful of new housing because of the impact on existing residents. Some municipalities would demand large houses so there would be large taxes, and the house would carry itself.

Now there are very few who can afford these homes. The Housing Action program was developed having regard to the reasons housing was rejected by municipalities.

Tip-off  
"We're being ripped off," declared Ted Tyler Jr., when 40 per cent of the cost of a house is for land. Developers have a captive market. Why not release land by enticing government to supply sewer and water rather than giving money to developers?

Mr. Holmes said the government is giving interest-free loans to regions to increase sewage treatment capacity.

Councillor Joe Hurst felt Ministers are now working against each other, and Mr. Holmes recognized this. He



OVER 200 people attended EBHO's seventh annual banquet where this brother and sister received four trophies between them. David Faulkner won his for Intermediate Games, barrel race, and pole bending while Ellen's was presented to her for being tops in the Senior Pole Bending division.

## EBHO Riding Club winds up season

EBHO Riding Club held its seventh annual banquet and awards night November 30, completing one of their most successful years.

Trophies were presented to first place winners with ribbons for reserve champions in each of the 35 categories. In the junior divisions, awards went to Judi Veldman for first place in Showmanship with Lori Clements and Dennis Sherratt reserve Champions.

Other awards were: Walk and Trot: David Atchison, reserve; Joan Barbour, Equitation; Angela Spencer, reserve; Lori Clements, Hunter Hack; Lori Clements, reserve; Susan Markham, Game; Judi Veldman, reserve; Dennis Sherratt, Western Pleasure; Jodi Veldman, reserve; Leslie Sherratt, Trail; Leslie Sherratt, reserve; Leanne Laylor and Jodi Veldman, Novelties; Lori Clements, reserve; Kimberley Lynch.

Intermediates  
In the Intermediate division, first place in Showmanship was awarded to Tammy Braden with Steve Taylor, reserve.

Equitation: Gail Barbour, reserve; Edith Klee, Hunter Hack; Edith Klee, reserve; Sarah Abell and Gail Barbour, Equitation over Fences; Carol Barbour, reserve; Edith Klee, Working Hunter; Carol Barbour, reserve; Edith Klee, Game; David Faulkner, reserves; Wanda Jones, Ann Martin, Steve Taylor, and Karen Van Dain, Barrel Race; David Faulkner, reserve; Wanda Jones, Western Pleasure; Tammy Braden, reserve; Laurie Fitchett, Trail; Tammy Braden, reserve; Wanda Jones, Pole Bending; David Faulkner, reserve; Ann Martin

and John Carter.

Senior Division  
In the Senior Division, Lloyd Braden was presented with first place trophy for Showmanship, with Cindy Buckland receiving the Reserve Champion ribbon.

Other awards were: Equitation: Ruth Barbour, reserves; Megan Harris and Mary Hurley, Equitation over Fences; Megan Harris, reserve; Ruth Barbour, Green Working Hunter; Ruth Barbour, reserve; Mary Hurley, Open Working Hunter; Ruth Barbour, reserve; Sharon Wallace, Hunter Hack; Sharon Wallace, reserve; Megan Harris, Handy Working Hunter; Ruth Barbour and Nancy Waterhouse both champions; reserve Megan Harris, Open Western Pleasure; Carol Robertson, reserve; Cindy Buckland, reserve; Nelson Cole, Western Riding; Nelson Cole, reserve; Gary Poot, Trail; Nelson Cole, reserve; Vikki Ham, Novice Western Pleasure; Cindy Buckland, reserve; Linda Fitchett, Flag Race; Linda Fitchett, reserve; Ken Carter, Barrel Race; Ken Carter, reserve; Gary Poot, Novelties; Game; Jim Van Koughnet, reserve; Gary Poot, Pole Bending; Ellen Faulkner, reserve; Ken Carter, Pick-up Race; Ken Carter, reserves; Lana Van Koughnet, Ken Carter, Gary Poot, Pick-up Man; Gary Poot, reserve; Jim Van Koughnet.

In addition, presentations were also made to Lynda Fitchett for Showmanship, to Ken Carter for Sportsmanship, and to Nellie Carmelos for Fellowship.

### Nuts for them

Squirrels haven't given up but can still be seen harboring winter supplies in the tree areas of the countryside.

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What'll you have?

Halton Hills council made it possible for drinks to be served in Acton and Georgetown firehalls and in parts of Acton and Georgetown arenas, last week, when they approved the issuing of special occasion permits by the L. I. W. O. to these areas.

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PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF CLINIC DAY, DECEMBER 9, ON YOUR CALENDAR!