

Region seeks input in plotting its future

Halt Region's Planning Committee has been struggling for the past two and a half years in an effort to develop the region's first official plan. Until now the exercise has been largely internal with little—if any—public input. But near the end of this month the planning committee will shift the focus and attempt to gauge public opinion on the issues deemed crucial to Halton's future.

According to a program outlined by Planning Director Ed Cumming and planner Ed Babb last week, the department will use both the electronic and print media to generate interest and develop an informed public.

Public meetings will be held near the beginning and middle of September. The committee members have expressed a desire to have those meetings conducted in a workshop-seminar type atmosphere, as opposed to having planning officials address a seated audience from a platform.

On into October the results of the meetings will be analyzed and final draft goals and an objectives report will be prepared and considered by committee and council in November.

During a special meeting to discuss the official plan preparation and the public participation program, committee members expressed scepticism concerning the public participation program.

Some doubts

While all members endorse the idea of having the public

participate, most expressed doubt concerning any effort to determine a broad cross section of the public feeling on any issue.

Many felt the traditional public meeting would provide a forum for grandstanders but those with legitimate concerns who are too shy to express themselves could be overlooked.

The rate of growth and distribution of the population will be one of the key features of the plan.

If Halton elects to adopt a relatively slow growth posture, residents will have to continue to rely on Hamilton and Toronto for many of their cultural, recreational and business facilities.

If, on the other hand, the region is willing to house

more people, that will open the possibility of attracting an O'Keefe Centre or Hamilton Place within the region.

Should the region elect to be less reliant on Toronto and Hamilton for these types of services and expand, it will mean tradeoffs—in the way of accepting more housing, running the risk of urban sprawl and possibly sacrificing prime farm land for the expansion.

Those are the types of choices the region is wrestling with. Both staff and elected officials are encouraging residents to provide input.

With the powers now vested in the region, the plan will no doubt prove to be a significant document in plotting the future of Halton.

Appoint architect to design quarters

Halton Regional Council kept one step closer to construction of a \$2,000,000 headquarters building Wednesday when it appointed the architectural firm of Shore, Tilbe, Henschel and Irwin to design the structure.

Each step along the way has instigated long drawn out and contentious debates at the council level and the choice of an architect was no different.

Even after months of discussion and a number of appraisals of the various firms, the choice was far from unanimous.

One element of council fought to award the contract to the Oakville-based Halford-Wilson firm. Oakville Councillor Gord Brown argued that council should have the confidence in local business to award the contract.

He said the building would be something not often used by residents. "It's not like a swimming pool or a theatre. You're just building a space for staff to hide and expand in accordance with Parkinson's Law." (Parkinson's Law indicates that work expands to fill the time available).



NANCY PATTERSON and pen pal Melinda Perkins from South Wales exchange flags last week. Melinda just recently moved to Wales from England and still feels a resident of the latter. She gave Nancy the Union Jack in exchange for the Canadian Maple Leaf. Melinda leaves for home next week after a six week stay. While in Canada she travelled to the west coast with the Patterson family.

Councillors object

Too much theory

The approach by Halton Region's Planning Department to the official plan has been much too theoretical, according to complaints lodged by several planning committee members last week.

The complaints were expressed during a special meeting of the committee to discuss the progress of the plan preparation.

"After two and a half years, I still don't have anything to grab hold of. We have no real idea of what lies ahead for Halton Region", Committee Chairman Mary Munro claimed.

"We should deal more with facts and the future those facts portray", Halton Hills Councillor Ric Morrow suggested.

Treat sewage

"We know that right now there is only one way to treat sewage. Maybe in the future there will be no need for sanitary sewers", he continued.

"Look at the plants and we know how much industry we can support and we can determine the rate of growth

so that it isn't stagnant but also that it isn't so great that it causes enormous growth problems.

"Take that figure and lay out where the best place is to put the people. We are dealing so much in theory that I'm afraid we'll lose the opportunity to direct it."

"It is not possible to give everybody the lifestyle they want. We know what they want but we know what they can afford, too. This will be more practical and more interesting once we narrow the range to acknowledge controls and get down to planning population. If in 10 years something happens and it is thrown out, well okay" Morrow concluded.

Unknowns

Oakville Councillor Archie Donaghey said he felt the theoretical applications were necessary. "We really don't know what we want for Halton as a region."

He maintained that all of the options had to be considered and the theoretical exercise was essential to accomplish that.

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Jos Bosboom builds organ in his basement

By Jennifer Barr

Some people build furniture in their basements—even boats. But Jos Bosboom of R.R. 2, Acton is building an organ in his.

This is no ordinary, everyday, run-of-the-mill organ, but a super deluxe electronic model with three keyboards, a complete church organ pedal board, 52 stops, four ranks of generators, with a quadrophonic amplifier supporting 10 or 11 speakers. The completed instrument will be worth an estimated \$10,000, according to its creator. Kind of hoggish the mind, doesn't it?

Parts from Germany

As a young chemistry student in the Netherlands studying at the University of Amsterdam, Jos joined a rock and roll band. Needing a small electronic organ but not having the money for one, he built his first. Some of the parts of that original organ are being incorporated into the new model.

Two years ago, Jos read an advertisement in a German magazine from a company selling component parts and kits for electronic organs. Sending for literature, Jos purchased the basic stripped down parts and found himself knee deep in wires, complicated circuit boards, and instructions.

Friends help

Fortunately, electronics was a hobby of his. He made

sure he knew what he was doing before attempting such a large job.

The initial assembling was undertaken with the advice and assistance from a friend, Doug Hines, former industrial arts teacher at Robert Little School. Jos learned how to construct the console cabinet from elm veneer particle board at Hines' night courses.

Peacock Machine and Tool, down the road from Jos's Fifth Sideroad home, made the chrome finished legs housing most of the wires running to and from the pedal board.

The talented designer is working out his own circuits and complicated wiring.

"It's kind of new," he says. "The circuits and keys are electronic not mechanical I designed that myself."

The circuit boards he designs have to be made up in electronic shops in Toronto. The entire organ will cost around \$1,000 to complete.

Big Sound

He wants the completed organ to have a full range of orchestral sound that will sound big without sounding

loud.

Old time organ builders often took four or five years to complete a church organ, working full time with a shop full of workers. The sound had to be keyed to the acoustics of the church or cathedral.

Today, the generators and filters replace the pipes of the church organ.

"It's the complexity of tone that produces the sensation of big sound," Jos comments. "It has to be versatile to brighten up the dead sound of electronic music this is a sound artificial to the human ear."

Original organ

Ineke Bosboom is enthusiastic about her husband's accomplishments but regrets the time he spends in the basement. However, in a year or two, when the designing and assembly is complete, the Bosboom children, Julie, 3, and Marc, 3 months, will have the pleasure of hearing their father play baroque music (and maybe a little disco now and then) on an original organ.

Sites A-H

Dump study to be considered Aug. 25

A report scheduled to be presented to Halton Region's Public Works Committee Aug. 25 will explore the feasibility of expanding the current Burlington landfill site into a massive site that could be used to serve the entire region.

The report will detail costs that can be expected to expand that site. Consultants have already told the committee that site will be expensive because of leachate problems.

Both the consultants and the works committee have attempted to avoid that site because of their preference

for the flat lands in the Britannia and Tremaine Rd. area below the escarpment, known as Site F.

Block Work

A diligent campaign waged by the residents in that area caused regional council to block any further study or exploration in the Tremaine-Britannia site.

That site hasn't been entirely ruled out at this point, however. Should council decide that the development is just too costly at the Burlington site, Site F will no doubt be back in the discussions.

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