



THREE HALTON HILLS RESIDENTS who are ready to get going in the pass-the-Lifesaver game are Irene McMaster of Georgetown, Agnes Holmes and Emma McIntyre of Acton. They were among the Zone 13 Senior Citizens who made last Wednesday's annual picnic at Bronte fun and games.

New housing should pay its own way

Members of Halton Region's Administration Committee agree that developers bringing growth to municipalities in the region should pay the full cost of that growth.

But developing a formula that will assure the region that no taxpayer funds are being used to support growth and still come up with a fair and equitable formula is a very complex proposal. Members wrestled with the problem for an hour and a half at their meeting Wednesday morning.

Both the works committee and the administration committee are recommending large increases in the capital levy for regional purposes.

The general idea behind the levy is to offset costs of new development on the town and the existing residents.

Several councillors suggested developers should pay interest to cover the municipality's cost in issuing debentures.

For instance, if a major development required a new or expanded sewage plant the municipality would build the plant and charge the developers so much per housing unit as the development came on stream.

Treasurer Don Farmer said he was reluctant to ask for interest when developers are paying cash. Doing it his way, the developers would pay for the cost of the plant but not the interest that would occur over the life of the debenture. Several councillors insisted interest should be paid as well as the principal cost.

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett said developers should pay the full cost of the plant and the financing of it, not just the original cost.

He noted that by the time all debentures were retired, a \$5,000,000 plant would end up costing over \$12,000,000.

"You're asking people to pick up the tab for something they don't care about and won't be served by it," Barrett said a lot of people see new development as a detriment to their way of life, not an improvement, and he contended they shouldn't have to help pay for it.

Mr. Farmer agreed with the principle but noted the capital levy theory is a complex one and becomes even more complex when interest is involved.

Burlington Mayor Mary Munro objected to the idea of common capital levies across the region, noting that it is cheaper to treat sewage in the north than it is in the south.

She reminded councillors that council had opted for a system that would see each municipality pay for only those sewer and water works

that take place in any given municipality.

Mr. Farmer said he had always envisioned a capital levy system with common levies throughout the region, even though the costs of providing services aren't the same. He said sewage costs in the south were cheaper but water is more expensive in the south than the north be-

cause it requires more treatment.

The committee agreed that levies should be collected at the area level and turned over to the region on a monthly basis.

Mr. Farmer was asked to bring in a report incorporating the feelings and general comments made during the

meeting.

If the council does finally adopt a policy on capital levies, it will put to rest a long standing feud between segments of the council.

Some observers have seen the issue as a power struggle between advocates and opponents of regional government.



BERT STILL HAS GOOD AIM. Bert Davidson of Acton, president of Zone 13 of the Ontario Senior Citizens got into the heat of the action at Bronte Creek Provincial Park Wednesday afternoon, doing the Lifesaver trick with Alice Whittaker of Oakville.

Golden Agers enjoy picnic in Bronte Park

Twenty nine senior citizens from the Acton Golden Age Club enjoyed Bronte Provincial Park for their annual Zone picnic on June 29.

Nine clubs participated with about 200 attending, arriving there the group had their lunch on picnic tables provided.

The afternoon performance

was opened by Julian Reed, M.P.P. for Halton, opening with a sing song. Bert Davidson, Zone president, also welcomed all.

Each club was responsible for one number on the program, which consisted of several games, draws, etc. with Acton winning their share of the prizes.

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Province seeks input on Planning

Ontario municipalities and other parties interested in the province's Planning Act have three months to comment on recommendations contained in the Report of the Planning Act Review Committee, Housing Minister John Rhodes said Tuesday.

The deadline of Oct. 15, 1977 was set by Mr. Rhodes upon the release of the 210 page report and recommendations prepared by a three-member committee headed by Eli Comay, Professor of Environmental Studies, York University, and consisting of Eric Hardy and Earl Berger and committee, counsel Dennis Heferson of Osgoode Hall Law School.

The report is a result of a two year study of the Planning Act and the planning process in Ontario.

During that time the committee held more than 70 meetings across the province, listening to municipal officials, builders, developers, professionals and private citizens on the strengths and weaknesses of the existing planning process in Ontario. Almost 300 written submissions were received.

With regard to major recommendations Mr. Rhodes said that municipalities, planning boards and all others who are interested in the Planning Act review will have until the middle of October to comment.

"The comments I receive, together with a review that will be undertaken by the government agencies will form the basis of a white paper which I hope to present as soon as possible," Mr. Rhodes said. A white paper indicates the direction the government is considering in regard to major matters.

He said copies of the report are now being mailed to all municipalities, planning boards, committees of adjustment, land division committees, builders, professionals and developers and those who have made submissions to the committee. One of the major recommendations of the committee is to strip the OMB of much of its power.

"I personally like the Ontario Municipal Board," said Milton Mayor Don Gordon when asked about his comments on the report. "I feel that it is a safety valve for the municipalities. It is a 'god-father' to the municipalities in the sense that it has kept some of them from going bankrupt."

"It has served the rights of the individual in that it allows the individual to go before the board and fight against the municipality. I think you'll find that over the years, the individual has been proved right and the municipalities have been proved wrong," the Mayor added.

"The OMB doesn't get away without having its negative aspects, too,"

Mayor Gordon said. "Quite often it takes a long time, too long, to get a decision on different matters. The OMB is booked so solid it takes months to get a hearing."

"I like the idea of the OMB being made up of non-elected officials," Mayor Gordon said. "They don't have to worry about being re-elected and can rule by gut feeling."

"I support the Report of the Planning Act Review Committee recommendations for the handling of the Ontario Municipal Board," said Ed Cumming, Regional Planning Director. "The redefining of

its function is a desirable feature of the Review."

"There should be clarification for when senior approval is necessary and when it is not necessary," he added.

"The Report should make the OMB responsible for appeals rather than an initial

decision making body. I think that is a desirable thrust for them to take," Mr. Cumming said.

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