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(Continued from Page 1) Longmore to design and build the complex, but the Mayor says every part of the project will go to public tender. Some studies dealing with the municipal complex must still be completed, Pomeroy said. He explained the present administration building and site were studied in 1976, and a downtown redevelopment study does suggest the Town Hall should be located downtown, but really there haven't been any in-depth studies of the Town's space needs for now and the future. quate.

Pomeroy said council feels it will need a building of 40,000 to 50,000 square feet, but that must still be proved. The Town is planning its space needs not just for now, but for the anticipated growth which will swell Halton Hills population to about 60,000 people by the turn of the Century. Council feels the present site simply isn't ade-

A staff analysis of space needs was conducted, the Mayor said, but that probe didn't work out too

Pomeroy acknowledged councillors received little advance notice that the municipal complex issue was being raised November 22, there wasn't time for a "full blown" report, but they were advised through a mention on the agenda that a matter involving the reserve fund was coming up for discussion. Pomeroy said to the best of his knowledge the agreement between Longmore and the Town wasn't finalized until the week before the meeting. He concluded he could "appreciate" councillors saying they didn't know the complex was coming up.

Because staff was aware this issue had been left hanging since September and it would have to come up again, Pomeroy said the legal opinion that the Town obtained, (it says it was legal for the lame duck council to spend money from the reserve fund) was sought up to a month before it was brought up November 22.

The mayor again said he "understood" why the media and some citizens find it so suspicious that this matter was raised at the first council meeting after the election. He called the timing "unfortunate". He asked what council should have done, stop doing all business just because there was an election on, or delay everything until enough time had passed between the election and the complex issue. He noted councillors' jobs and responsibilit-

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Acton Unit of the Red Cross Society held an open co-ordinator, Alice Schreiber, blood donor chair-

house and euchre Friday evening. Executive Elleen McFadden, public relations, Mary Waterfield, secretary, Garry McFadden, major disaster

man and Henry Kroes, president organized the

les go on despite elections. He said it means nothing that a straw vote in September showed all 13 members of council were in favor of picking up Longmore's deposit on the site and taking a closer look at the proposal. He said the straw vote was just a "consensus" to proceed, something that is a common practice.

He also pointed out only one councillor, Marilyn Serjeantson, was opposed to the bylaw authorizing the \$10,000 deposit and "most councillors reconfirmed what we had done" in-camera. Councillors Terry Grubbe and John McDonald were absent November 22 while Pomeroy and Councillors Mike Armstrong, George Maltby, Pam Sheldon, Harry Levy, Walter Biehn, Russ Miller, Ross Knechtel, Roy Booth and Dave Whiting voted for the deposit.

22 agenda. He said it is common for him and the clerk to discuss the contents of the agenda in advance.

Pomeroy concluded they felt it was important not to dump the whole issue into the lap of the new council and the old council had operated in "a positive, step by step fashion."

## Drop-in this Fri.

Do you have some councillors' questions about complex and municipal issue which has erupted Centre. in recent weeks? Then the place to be this Fri- evening drop-in is being day will be the ward one

from 1 to 3 p.m. at the council's handling of the Acton Social Service Information

On December 16 an

held at the Acton Library to deal with questions residents' about water and sewer rates. Councillor Dave Whiting is asking customers with specific questions about their water bills to contact him in advance at 853-3725 so he can have staff pull their records and have them available at this drop-in.

## Pit stop Lobby group formed

BY STEVE ARNOLD

A small group of north Halton residents. concerned about their property rights in the face of land demands by the aggregate industry, have formed themselves into a lobby

group. Operating under the name Halton's Escarpment Heritage, the residents are now studying the many routes they hope to use to protest against a proposed amendment to Halton

Region's official plan. "We are not at this moment fighting the Aggregate Producer's Group, but we are very much opposed to the sloppy proposals and policies of the Ministry of Natural Resources regarding this matter," said Cyril Jenkins, chairof the

association.

Mr. Jenkins said the group currently does not have an alternative to offer to the proposals of ligiton's planning department, "but that will depend largely on what happens in the near future."

The residents of north Milton and south Halton Hills are concerned proposed about amendment to the Regional official plan that would freeze up to 14,000 acres of land in their area for the exclusive future use of quarries.

Mr. Jenkins said a petition against the Regional proposal has already been signed by 400 residents of the area and further action is being planned.

Among the concerns being raised by the residents, in addition to the negative effect a neighboring would have on their already high property values is the lack of rehabilitation

worked out quarries. are disgusted with what has not been done in the past," he said. "These operators have simply raped the land."

The current amendment to the official plan, which regional negotiated with local quarry owners, has been shelved indefinitely by Regional Council pending final approval of the new Ontario Aggregates Act and the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

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