

Seniors' needs:

Stay in own home, public transportation

The older people in Town want to stay in their own homes and have some form of public transportation. A group of more than 40 seniors made that clear at a public forum on the needs of the elderly, Thursday afternoon.

The meeting was one of five being held throughout Halton, to seek reaction to the first phase of regional study on health and social service needs for the elderly in Halton. This phase simply identifies the issues, the second phase will make recommendations.

Support services to help the older residents stay at home, such as Meals on Wheels, and Halton Helping Hands are a necessity the audience told the regional representatives. But the older folk made it plain they do not expect everything for nothing. They stressed they are willing to pay for snow shovelling, window cleaning and grass cutting.

A minivan or small bus, which would be operated separately from Activan was suggested. In this way the seniors pointed out Activan could be left for the use of the handicapped or disabled only. They also

noted Activan must be booked ahead, ruling out spontaneous trips.

A recreation centre was the next priority mentioned and suggested if there is a new municipal centre, it could perhaps be included there. A "New Horizons" grant may be available for such a centre, the group stated.

The immediate need for a nursing home was repeated to each emphasized the desire to stay in their own area, if a nursing home becomes necessary.

Each of the small discussion groups emphasized the need for an elevator at the Medical Centre in Georgetown, pointing out there are stairs everywhere in the building. One group pointed out the ramp at the cultural centre is steep, needing "someone with a lot of strength" to push a wheelchair up it.

Public washrooms and benches scattered throughout downtown and shopping plazas would make shopping easier for the elderly, they told the regional representatives. Swimming sessions for this age group was also mentioned.

The study, which was summarized for the gathering, contends the elderly population

will make up more than 15 per cent of the total population by 2001, and notes North Halton appears to be poorly serviced compared to the south.

The study agreed with many of the points made by the seniors, but also stressed the residential care occupancy at Halton Centennial Manor is low, and terms Pettit House, a residential section of the Manor as an "outmoded facility."

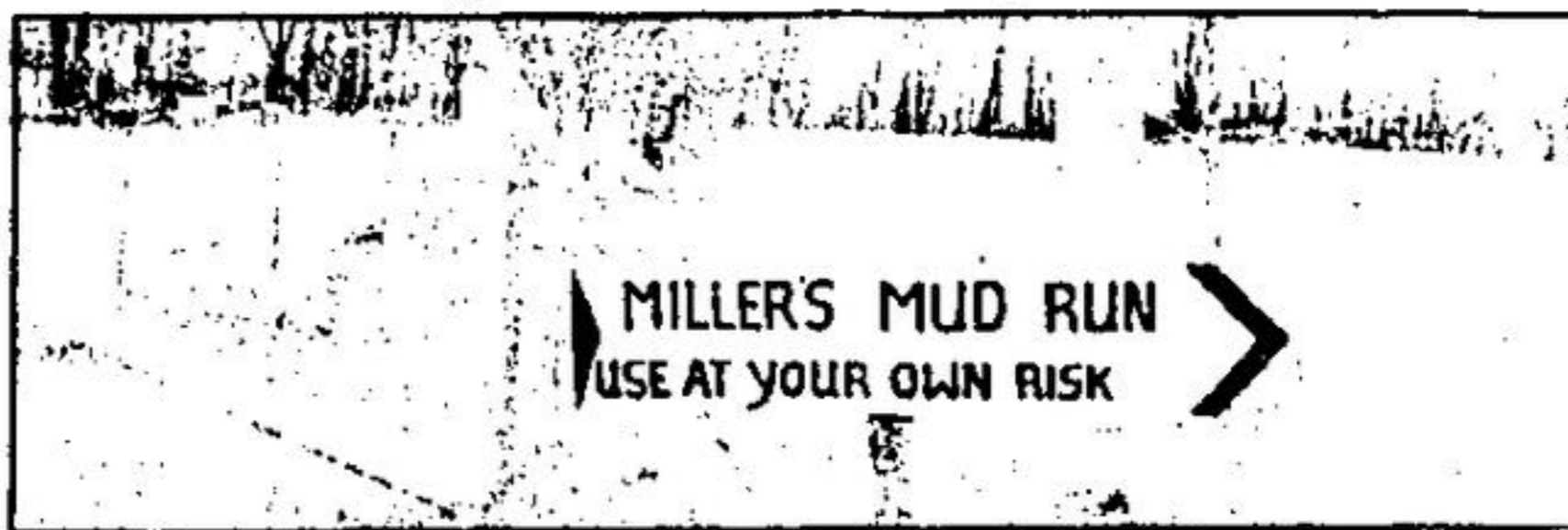
Mayor Pete Pomeroy explained the background of the study explaining regional council administers provincial programs. He said there has been confusion about the various services and agencies serving the older residents, and commented, "The services in the north leave a bit to be desired."

He stressed the meeting was to seek the opinions of the people concerned, and asked listeners to be comfortable and ask any questions they wanted. "Based on the study and what you tell us, we will try to develop a policy for the care for the elderly in Halton."

A similar meeting will be held in Acton, May 17.



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ACTON ONTARIO

newsmakers

Georgetown/Acton, Wednesday, April 27, 1983

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Martha Lewis looked comfortable in this ensemble.

Gloria Roberts encourages daughter Roxanna onto the stage.

It was the sporty look for Kathy Pouw.



June Jansen showed off a pantsuit.

Doreen McLean looked lovely in a pantsuit.

Helen Schwarz showed off a culotte ensemble.

Fashion show brings Spring to Ballinafad

Over 150 women jammed into Ballinafad Hall last Wednesday evening for a special fashion show presented by the Ballinafad United Church Women.

Spring fashions by Frills, Pomme and J.V. Clothing in Georgetown were featured following an early evening tea.

Young models Jeremy Bannerman, Patti Brown, Andrew Munro, Roxanna Roberts, Christy Ann Pinkerton and Lori Shortill all stole the show with their sometimes shy, sometimes mischievous antics.

Frills models were Doreen Burt, June Jansen, Margaret Jamieson, Martha Lewis, Doreen McLean, Kathy Pouw, Gloria Roberts, Helen Schwarz, Viola Shortill, Evaline Snow and Kay West. J.V. Clothing models were Mary Jane Guest, Becky Howes, Leigh Jessop, Wendy Jones, Christine Kerr, Jennifer Munro and Karen O'Connor.

Make-up was provided by Mary Kay Cosmetics and Helen Leitch, and the carpet for the runway was supplied by Lakeview Centre, Acton.

Door prizes were provided by: Linda O'Connor (Georgetown Ceramics), ceramic baking dish; Archie Lawr, Jewellery box; Odeon Theatre, 10 passes; Jack Tanner's Table, brunch for 2; Frills, Scarf; Helen Leitch, Mary Kay cosmetics; Shortill's Tack Shop, wallet; Shortill's General Store, stick pin; Peacockville Beauty Salon, cut, shampoo, set; Birchway Farms, \$15 gift certificate; Bill Lang Feed Mill, Lawn



Helen Schwartz was set to go in a casual outfit.

Fertilizer; Ann Inglis, Fuller Brush; French Electric, electric kettle; Neptune Restaurant, dinner for two; United Co-operatives (Erin), \$10 voucher for box plants; Pomme, sports carry-all bag and Sid Spear and Son, set of taps.

Foundation Aggregate Studies says

New aggregate policy iron fist in velvet glove

The new aggregates policy announced in December by the province is "an iron fist in a velvet glove" according to Clark Muirhead of the Foundation for Aggregate Studies.

He offered his group's view of the issue for an audience of nearly 300 Halton Hills and Milton citizens at a public meeting Thursday at Acton High School.

The province has changed the words in its policy, but it still means aggregate lands will be designated in Official Plans and this will be "open permission" for gravel companies to go after rezonings, and mining permits.

It was true the aggregate industry could be fought at the OMB, Muirhead said, but people will find themselves battling a \$500 million a year business with high priced lawyers. People might actually win a few battles, but never the war and in the end will be "worn down" and beaten. In the end gravel companies will get their rezonings, Muirhead predicted, and will just write off the lawyers' fees against their taxes.

The only difference between the new and old policies was the "velvet language" of the new policy.

The new policy, Muirhead noted, talks about rehabilitation and money for haul routes. However, the only quarry rehabilitation which has taken place in the past has been a few winddressing samples.

The new policy has been approved by cabinet and the province is "barrelling along" on its 15 year course.

According to Muirhead there are already 2,000 pits in the Toronto area and the only reason more aggregate lands are needed is so the industry can borrow money against huge reserves. The industry will be getting permits for mining until "eternity."

Other great cities aren't surrounded by pits, he observed, but because mining is being allowed around Toronto nobody is looking at alternatives to obtaining aggregate around Toronto.

The aggregate policy is an "Alice in Wonderland mad policy" and "barbaric," Muirhead declared. The policy is tackling the area of Ontario where all the farming takes place and many, many people live.

The only way to win the aggregate battle is to fight it on a very broad scale, areas can't fight singly. People are up against a very rich and powerful lobby and they can't outlast the bureaucracy.

It's easy to say councils control development through Official Plans, but in fact the province gets what it wants by overruling Plans with their policies, citizen Peter Branch charged. The province keeps bypassing local concerns.

The province has backed off on forcing aggregate designation maps because of the fight lodged by Halton citizens and councillors, Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed observed. Queen's Park says its directives were misinterpreted but the Niagara Escarpment Plan follows the old 10 point aggregate policy because the Niagara Escarpment Commission was told the old policy was mandatory.

The old unpassed aggregate policy was unacceptable and the Opposition parties proposed 132 amendments, but now the province plans to bring back the old bill almost unchanged.

Municipalities must retain the right to plan, with its citizens, its future. The province is trying to centralize authority for pits and quarries with the Ministry of Natural Resources destroying the traditional authority of municipalities, Reed declared.

The region will have to come up with a brand new aggregates policy for its Official Plan, but it won't be the old amendment number six designating thousands and thousands of acres of land for aggregates which blew the lid off this issue last fall, Mayor Peter Pomeroy said. Amendment number six is now on the shelf.



Councillors Brad Clements (Milton) and Pam Sheldon are joined by a citizen in questioning Assistant Deputy Minister for Municipal Affairs and Housing Mill Farrow following Thursday's aggregate meeting.

Cambridge Mayor Claudette Miller warned if municipalities reject rezonings for aggregate the decision will just be overturned by the Ontario Municipal Board. Official Plans will be reviewed every five years in the future which means every five years people will be in a state of "flux" with the aggregate issue coming up again and again.

The province denies it, but the new Planning act, upcoming Aggregate Act and new Aggregate Policy will mean a land freeze because people can't dispose of their property now, Miller said.

Branch charged there is a land freeze, or maybe a chilling, because municipalities must follow provincial policies or its Official Plan won't be approved and it must have an approved Plan. People are facing a chill now and a freeze later.

The municipality having "regard" for aggregate means designating lands for aggregate the same as they were on the old map, one Highway 25 resident observed.

The old map designating aggregate lands drew attention away from the text which was just as bad, Councillor Pam Sheldon said.

Municipalities must conform to provincial policy, she observed, so the province still is calling all the shots on aggregate. Moving

the maps from the Official Plan to an appendix of the Plan wasn't enough and the province would have to change its policies a lot more to satisfy North Halton citizens.

As far as she was concerned the province was doing nothing more than still freezing land for aggregate. The aggregate policy still didn't contain any incentive for getting aggregate from areas farther away from Toronto.

The province talked about rehabilitation of pits and quarries, but the province also said the Niagara Escarpment should remain natural. Sheldon said the Niagara Escarpment Plan hearing officer didn't keep the goal of keeping the area natural in mind and the report "flies in the face of democracy."

Restoration of pits and quarries to their old agricultural use was "very naive" and must have been dreamed up by some "Bay Street farmer," resident Jim Johnston said.

A representative of the Foundation for Aggregate Studies noted there is over 450 million tons of gravel still to be mined in licenced quarries and pits in the Niagara Escarpment. However, the amount of gravel still to be extracted from approved areas was never mentioned in the Niagara Escarpment plan hearing officers' report.

Pope says

Many improvements in aggregate policy

The new aggregates policy is a balance between the requirement of the aggregate industry and the "importance" of keeping planning in municipal hands, according to Minister of Natural Resources Alan Pope.

Pope reviewed the new policy at a public meeting at Acton High School Thursday night attended by nearly 300 North Halton citizens.

The new policy and upcoming new Aggregate Act will lead to a "new era" for aggregate extraction in Ontario, Pope declared. The new policy and legislation will have an "economic emphasis" on "progressive rehabilitation" as well as fees and charges to help municipalities offset the costs of having the aggregate industry.

Pope maintained local concerns aren't being bypassed by the province. After hearing many concerns from all over Ontario the government decided to come up

with a new policy to replace the old 10 point policy.

The Niagara Escarpment Commission made decisions based on the old policy, Pope admitted, but since the plan and hearing officers' report is now being reviewed any problems will be rectified. The Niagara Escarpment plan will reflect the new aggregates policy.

Both the old policy and the new aggregate policy have been approved by cabinet and many concerns and fears people now have will be answered by the new Aggregates Bill. The new bill will reflect many of the changes suggested by Legislature committees a couple of years ago, as well as some new changes Pope instituted.

The minister's powers to issue licences will still be restricted by municipal powers to control zoning, Pope said.

(Continued on B1)