

Consultants can't wear two hats: region

By RICHARD PETRASHEK
Herald Staff Writer
Consulting engineers will no longer be able to burn the candle at both ends in Halton by simultaneously working for private developers and the region, if a recommendation passed by the regional works committee is approved by council.

The recommendation, which Milton Mayor Don Gordon called "a very courageous motion", was approved at last Wednesday's committee meeting. It states that "in the future, retention of professional engineering consultants for regional studies must exclude those firms accepting appoint-

ments from the development industry for work within the corporate limits of the regional municipality of Halton". Ivor David, one of three consulting engineers who attended last week's meeting to protest the recommendation, called it "a classic case of overkill and a disservice to the region".

Mr. David contended that the recommendation was too restrictive and would reduce the expertise available for the region. He and the other consultants who opposed the recommendation felt that the professional engineer's code of ethics covered the question of possible conflicts of interest.

Thomas Fowle, a consulting engineer who has done much work with the region, disagreed with his fellow consultants and strongly supported the recommendation.

"Consulting engineers who work on a regional study are privy to information that is not released publicly", he said, "and this information can be very valuable to a land developer".

PRIVY TO INFO
The important thing, according to Mr. Fowle, was that the recommendation "makes the rules clear".

The reason for the recommendation was explained in a staff report, which noted that,

due to staff limitations, it is becoming more necessary for the region to rely extensively on outside consultants for professional engineering services.

The problems arise, according to the report, when a consultant is working for both the region and a developer within the region.

"This could lead to a difficult situation in which both the region and a developer might require the services of the same engineering company to provide professional evidence at, say, an Ontario Municipal Board or Environmental Board hearing", the report explained.

Reddot Realty sold to LePage

Anticipating "a significant expansion of real estate services in the near future" for the Halton Hills area, A.E. LePage (Ontario) Ltd. of Toronto has announced its acquisition of Reddot Realty Ltd.

Reddot's founder, owner and manager, Finn Poulstrup, will stay on at his former company's Norval office to manage A.E. LePage's Halton Hills operation, according to Elmar Moser, who made the announcement for A.E. LePage late last week.

"A.E. LePage will offer the full range of services necessary to meet the needs of a broad, growing, real estate market in the areas of Georgetown, Acton, Hillsburgh, and Erin," Mr. Moser said.

"Both my staff and I view our association with A.E. LePage as the best way to fulfill our career objectives, and we intend to be active in residential, out-of-town, commercial and industrial, and farm real estate," Mr. Poulstrup added.

A.E. LePage (Ontario) Limited forms part of the A.E. LePage group of companies, Canada's leading, totally-diversified real estate broker, employing more than 3,800

persons in over 200 offices across Canada.

Health needs study done by 1980

An ongoing study of Halton's health needs is expected to be complete by the end of next year.

In late 1978, the Halton District Health Council decided it needed more information, data and analysis in order to carry out its mandate of advising the Minister of Health on the present and future needs of Halton's citizens. It approached the ministry with a program proposal and funds were granted for the study in March of this year.

Daryl Tropea, project co-ordinator, and Sylvia Argue, her assistant, work under the direction of a steering committee made up of health council members and other Halton representatives.

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