



SAP ON TAP

Edward Hale escorted his young grandson David Hale through Mountsberg's sugar bush last Saturday near Campbellville. The beautiful sunny day provided the perfect backdrop for touring through the bush learning about the making of maple syrup and sampling! Mountsberg Wildlife Centre features a maple syrup program until April 17.

(Herald photo)

Region contests housing plan

By CIRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer
Regional councillors are standing by Halton's official plan to the letter and will appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) to have a property development east of Stewarttown quashed.

Georgetown's Aler Investments Ltd. and Senga Construction Ltd. want to build three homes on the 3.6-acre site on Sideroad 15 east of Stewarttown Public School. But regional planning staff in reports to the region's planning committee and council maintain that, while two homes would be acceptable, three would encourage "strip development" outside Stewarttown, erode the region's fledgling official plan and mean a residential intrusion into land which should be protected for agricultural uses.

At last Wednesday's regional council, Georgetown lawyer Bert Arnold, representing the property owners, urged council to make a decision "on the merits" of the proposal, and not strictly by what the official plan says.

Building three homes on the 3.6 acres is "commonsense", he said, and fewer homes on the property would be a waste of space. There are two derelict homes already on the property which will be torn down if the land is developed.

RECONSIDER
Although councillors voted to proceed with the appeal in January, it agreed to reconsider its decision last month following a request from Aler Investment's Al Pillutti. Despite Mr. Arnold's comments, council last week voted 12-9 to appeal an Oct. 26, 1982 Land Division Committee decision approving the development proposal. Burlington Coun. Joan Little indicated that

following the regional plan was the only way of dealing fairly with all of the taxpayers. She voted in favor of the appeal.

The development proposal, Halton Hills Coun. Mike Armstrong said, "would clean up a mess which already exists", by removing the derelict houses and replacing them with new ones. Neighboring residents, he added, have told him they

aren't opposed to the development.

At a Halton Hills town council meeting earlier this year, nine of 12 councillors supported the Aler Investments-Senga Construction bid. Coun. Dave Whiting said he believed that the three "no" votes expressed doubt that the town should get involved with the issue at regional council, rather than opposi-

tion to the proposal. Coun. Whiting told regional council last week that the three homes would generate tax revenue for the town. Referring to an earlier discussion about housing needs in Halton, he said the three homes proposed might free up three badly needed apartments or vacate three less expensive homes in town for moderate income families.

Study 'info' bylaw

Taking a page from Hamilton-Wentworth region, Halton is studying an information bylaw of its own.

The information legislation, which will be applied as amendment to the region's procedural bylaw, was given two readings last Wednesday by council. It will be submitted to the Halton's Public Awareness Implementation committee through which the public can comment on the bill.

Only those meetings which deal with legal issues, personnel (including collective bargaining issues with Halton's unionized employees), property acquisition and disposal, security involving the regional police force and matters cover-

ed by federal or provincial confidentiality statutes will be held behind closed doors.

Initial details and inquiries about locating, relocating, or expanding a business may also be discussed "in camera".

AVAILABILITY
The same criteria are applied to the availability of regional documents.

Regional agendas available to the public and the press are generally the same as those read by councillors, although councillors' committee agendas often contain a special section in yellow paper marked "confidential".

Once reviewed by the public, all information not falling under the six restrictive categories, can be viewed by the public

during the regional administration's regular office hours. Copies, the bylaw states, "shall be provided by the regional clerk...in accordance with the then current policy of regional council respecting reproduction charges".

The bylaw also "encourages" local boards of the region to have open meetings and liberal access to information. Any group or person applying to the region for grants of money must provide information which can be viewed by the public.

The bylaw is to be administered and enforced by the region's chief administrative office.

Copies of the proposed bylaw can be viewed at the Halton Hills clerk's office on Trafalgar Road.

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VALUABLE COUPON

Town council may have a second proposition regarding the fate of the 6 Church St. property in the Georgetown Business Improvement Area (BIA).

Coun. Phil Carney presented the town's general committee with a letter from builder James Watson Monday night, asking for a chance to present his proposal to town council next week.

Mr. Watson said he had toured the building and believes he has a "proposal more favorable to the town" than the one offered to council last month by Mississauga electrician Jeff Alworth.

Mr. Alworth has offered to buy the building, located across from the town's library-cultural centre, for \$65,000, plus any hard costs incurred by the town under a renovation scheme taking advantage of a federal-provincial job creation program.

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