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Friday, August 5, 1983

## Halton Hills planning department busy responding to official plan



### ONE LITTLE, TWO LITTLE...

One little, two little, twelve little Indians painted up their faces and played games at George Kennedy as part of a summer activity centre program. Seen here are: (top, left to right) Scott Johnson, Phil Millener, Jeff Sandifer, Paul Sandifer, Robin Buckley (middle row), Tracy Hitchcock, John Crawford, Val Keslick, Greg Taylor, Charlie Gibbs. (bottom, left) Liz Beecker and Harita Bonejl.

Halton Hills' planning staff is going to be busy for a while responding to Halton region's critique of the town's official plan.

Halton's endorsement is one of the last hurdles before the plan is forwarded to the province's housing and municipal affairs ministry for final approval.

Last week, Halton's planners submitted their report on the local official plan, suggesting dozens of changes. Most are minor details, but others outline substantial disagreement between the town's plan and the regional document to which it must conform.

In light of the number of changes proposed, Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy convinced planning and public works committee members at the region last week to delay sending the region's comments to the ministry.

The extra time will allow town planners to try and resolve differences, rather than let housing minister Claude Bennett make the decision for the two levels of government.

Many of the region's concerns cover policies for the town's rural areas.

The town and the region disagree on which areas should be classified as rural clusters—groupings of homes, where, while

not in a hamlet or village, residential development may be allowed to take place.

Speyside, the region maintains, cannot be considered a rural cluster because there are too few homes—five instead of the required six; nor are there enough homes to qualify in the Steeles Avenue-Ninth Line area.

Currently, there's a proposed amendment to the region's official plan to allow "infilling" (building homes between established houses) anywhere in the rural area and not just in hamlets and recognized rural clusters.

Halton Hills has also applied for an amendment to the region's plan to allow large-lot estate residential development by judging each subdivision application on its own merits.

But the region doesn't want them close to the urban areas of Acton or Georgetown. Halton also wants the town to more clearly define policies for "environmentally sensitive areas". Halton also wants the town to more clearly state that non-farm development in the agricultural area is discouraged, unless the applicant needs a home for a retiring farmer or for farm labor.

### Orienteering Aug. 27

The date for an orienteering demonstration and instruction clinic has been changed to August 27.

## Councillors dislike Bennett's refusal

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
Herald staff writer

Some regional councillors aren't happy with housing and municipal affairs minister Claude Bennett refusing to hold a review of regional government.

They accused him of "burying his head in the sand" by declining Burlington Mayor Roly Bird's suggestion of a thorough critique.

Mr. Bennett, in a letter to regional chairman Jack Raffis late last month, said the province has already reviewed regional governments and finds them working satisfactorily.

Halton is not alone in seeking an assessment of

regional administrations. Mayor Bird commented, "Early in 1982, some municipalities joined forces to press for changes in the province's regional government policies, the mayor noted, adding that Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett is a member of the "ad hoc" committee lobbying for change.

"Regional government is here to stay," Mayor Bird said. "But there are ways to improve it. I wish he (Mr. Bennett) wouldn't stick his head in the sand when municipalities have these ideas."

But Mr. Raffis argued that the region is capable of doing its own assessment of services it provides residents without ask-

ing the province for help.

Regional staff are already working on ways to reduce services duplicated between regional and local administrations, Mr. Raffis added.

Mayor Barrett charged that Mr. Raffis is partly responsible for the province's refusal to critique Halton's government.

"If Mr. Bennett is burying his head, you dug the

hole for him," he said.

As councillors philosophized on the issue Milton Coun. Bill Johnson quipped: "There won't be any change at the region, unless things change at Queen's Park".

## Be a rare bird

Red Cross blood clinic Monday



Summer blood donors are rare birds, but the demand for blood takes no holiday.

Be a Red Cross rare bird and make a donation on Monday August 8th at Holy Cross from 1:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

## Recreation Report

### New nature camp

The Halton Hills Recreation Department is offering a NEW Camp! Experience Nature Camp is a 3 day, 2 night expedition to Rockwood Conservation Area to learn and practise various camping skills.

The cost of this program is \$40 which includes transportation to Rockwood, meals while at the camp, canoe rental, craft supplies and much more!

Those interested can register at 25 James St., Georgetown or 40 Mill Street Acton. Please register for this specialized program by 4:00 p.m. on August 10 so arrangements can be made to accommodate all participants.

For further information call the Summer Activities Hotline at 877-5185, ext. 63 and ask for Heather Gage.

### Aug. 12 theatre

All programs will be involved in two extra-special events! On Friday August 12, Poppyseed Children's Theatre Co. presents theatre in the park of Cedarvale Park.

The whole community is invited to come and see this free show at 10:00 a.m.! And let's not forget finale! On August 18th, all past participants are invited to be part of our evening parade through Acton.

The booths are all planned for our penny carnival in the Acton Arena afterward, and will include everyone's favourite the Dunking Booth! See you there!

For more information, call Summer Activities at 877-5185 ext. 63.

### More room

There are two weeks left of summer programs, and the recreation staff are busy making sure that the last two weeks are the most fun for everyone...

We still have room for more in nearly all of our programs.

Dramatic Arts is having world tour week next week, and on the week of August 15th, we will all be at the court of King Arthur.

### Our mistake

Summer gremlins are sneaking into The Herald's editorial department. Wednesday we told you that council is making plans to celebrate Georgetown's centennial.

But Coun. John McDonald, has corrected us, saying that Georgetown will celebrate its 120th anniversary. The Herald regrets the error.

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