

AMC plant almost selected for Halton

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff

It could have been Halton. According to the region's acting director of business development, Halton made it to the short list in the site selection process for the American Motors Corporation (AMC) plant.

Up till early June, Halton was one of three sites still in the running, Brent Kearsse told the region's administration and finance committee.

According to the provincial Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Brampton site was finally chosen because of its proximity to an already existing AMC plant in Brampton, as well as the loyal labor force that AMC had established over the years in that community.

(At the time of the announcement AMC had over 700 workers on recall notice, Mr. Kearsse noted.)

However, although Halton lost out on its bid to have the AMC plant, it's sure to benefit from the fact it shares a border with Brampton, Mr. Kearsse said.

There'll be direct and indirect employment of Halton's citizens as well as the suppliers and service industries in its borders.

"Materials and parts will be required for this new plant and we are anticipating large spin-

off effects as a result," Mr. Kearsse said.

He said the company, through its Chicago-based consultant, had looked at 200-300 sites before settling for Brampton.

Six months ago, the business development office recommended 10 different sites to the consultant, with at least one site from every Halton municipality, Mr. Kearsse said.

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HAY, HAY

Hay bales dot the landscape everywhere in Halton Hills as farmers prepare to harvest their crop. This is a typical scene taken of an area farm along Highway 7 near Limehouse. (Herald photo)

Ballinafad

Hamlet could double through development

A plan to nearly double the number of homes in this hamlet has drawn "mixed feelings from local residents."

The proposal calls for residential development on 42 acres at Lot 1, Con. 7 and six acres of parkland.

At a public meeting in the community hall Wednesday, Erin Township Reeve Mr. Bert Wheeler agreed with comments of one resident that the joint development proposed by Mr. Hank Burnett and Mr. Gerhard Rotzal will drastically change the community, Ballinafad has only 60 homes now and the proposal could add up to 40 more.

Mr. Wheeler said the council will consider residents' concerns as in its later deliberations on the proposal. Comments by the more than 40 people attending the meeting indicated reaction to the proposal was mixed ranging from approval of the six acres of parkland council will acquire if dedication from the developers to absolute opposition from residents who came to the community for the quiet of the county and believe more homes will spoil that.

In a joint presentation by township building inspector Mr. John Slamon and the developers' planning consultant Mr. John Cox, the meeting was told no real plan has been decided upon for the proposed development yet.

The developers are seeking an official plan amendment to change the designation on the parcel which lies west of the existing strip development on Trafalgar Road and the Erin Township-Halton Hills Town Line. The land is now designated agricultural and should become residential and open space to permit the proposal.

The parcel is really two pieces — the north owned by Mr. Burnett and the south owned by Mr. Rotzal. However the men have applied for a joint development and staging of it would presumably allow some building to proceed in each parcel at the same time rather than letting one man complete his section before the other can begin.

Mr. Cox explained current markets find developers usually building as homes are sold rather than building a number of homes on speculation the way development once occurred.

Even supposing the application received approval without any hitches it would be at least 1985 before construction could begin and probably it would be 1986. It is also probable that it will take five years or more to sell off all the lots and build all the homes which could be accommodated in that parcel.

Mr. Cox said no actual site plan had been worked on yet since it would be a waste of time and money until the designation was approved permitting such a proposal to be considered. The minimum lot size being a half-acre parcel could probably hold 30 to 40 homes after land was deducted for an internal road and the parkland dedication.

The proposal calls for exits from the development east onto Trafalgar Road and also south

onto the town line.

Council is concerned about getting land to give the community a better playing area because it recognizes the community's need for such a thing, Mr. Wheeler said. It does not have any plans however, for how that land will be turned into soccer pitches and baseball diamonds.

Some funding may be available through Win-

tario or the community centres grants but he was unsure of the exact details on those programs.

The township will also have some funds available through lot levies specifically set aside for recreational purposes. If tax dollars are used it would be township-wide money, not a special levy on Ballinafad residents, Mr. Wheeler said.

—Courtesy Guelph Mercury

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