

Says Peter Branch

Town needs more growth to compensate for loss

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff

Since 1976, Halton Hills has lost 1,700 jobs, claims a Norval farmer.

Peter Branch told town councillors last week, that according to his calculations, a net 1,700 jobs have been lost by the town over the eight year period.

"If this continues, without some form of compensation in terms of more growth, we're going to run into assessment and financial problems," Mr. Branch warned.

He pointed out the town could expect the trend of less in government grants to continue.

"If we're not enticing more industry to this area, we're in trouble," Mr. Branch said.

He said he found it difficult to understand why a proposal to develop 760 acres along the Highway 401 Corridor for industrial use has been deferred for another two years by both the province and the region.

As long as that land is in a deferral situation, no matter which company comes and looks at it, intending to locate in Halton Hills, they aren't going to be interested, Mr. Branch said.

The same is true of 250 acres on Highway 25 south of Acton. Under the town's proposed Official Plan, these acres are to be deferred from an industrial designation, until the region settles its rural industrial land needs.

Mr. Branch noted the recently publicized Honda site in Alliston is located on rural land of a better quality than Halton Hills farmland, where "the finest crop of potatoes were growing up that you could wish for."

"Yet, when Halton Hills wants a teenage bit of industrial land, it's deferred. My question is how come in Alliston, with its limited water and sewage, that land would go immediately."

In 1976, the town of Halton Hills provided 9,200 jobs. For 1986, it's been forecast at 13,700 jobs. Employment within the town should be increasing at 500 jobs a year, Mr. Branch said.

The regional plan indicates an employment target for the town of 17,000 jobs in 2001.

By 1986, the population is estimated at 45,000 for Halton Hills. Since 1974, the population hasn't increased much, according to Mr. Branch.

"The population, as far as I can see, is standing still, which doesn't encourage industry to come here," he said.

Industry likes a labor pool and good housing before settling into a community.

Town planner Ian Keith said it was with difficulty that two months ago the provincial government finally approved 200 acres in south east Georgetown for industrial land.

"At the present time, we have no serviced industrial land," Mr. Keith said. "We've had an extremely difficult time convincing the Ministry that it's proper."

'Jobs lost' figures disputed

Herald Staff

Peter Branch's claim that 1,700 jobs have been lost in Halton Hills over the last eight years is attributed to information he says he received from the region and Statistics Canada.

The Herald called Statistics Canada and was told the town had had, instead, a net gain of 2,800 jobs from 1976 to 1980. A researcher said no layoff figures are kept by Statistics Canada.

The region's business development officer Brent Kearsa told The Herald that there's been a two to five per cent constant employment growth in Halton over the last 10 years.

"That's an awful large figure," Mr. Kearsa said in reference to Mr. Branch's 1,700 jobs lost.

"When you look over the last few years, there've been no major closures in Halton Hills. I would dispute it."

He noted Acton's Beardmore Tannery had dropped its staff from 600 to 280, but that there had been increases at The Olde Hide House and that in Georgetown, Neilson's had gone from 50 to 200 jobs.

Regional planner Bob White wasn't able to confirm Mr. Branch's figure, and said it was a politically sensitive one. "We have had a

recession and there has been some loss of jobs with industries moving out, but new industries have come in as well," Mr. White said.

Further information promised by Mr. White was not available as of press time.

Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed said he had no evidence that there were 1,700 jobs lost and said he would like to see Mr. Branch's figures.

"In terms of industrial-residential balance, I think Halton Hills really has to concentrate on industrial job development than on residential development," Mr. Reed

said. "That's true. You cannot sustain a community simply as a bedroom community, without paying a tremendous price in terms of taxes."

Asked again how he got the 1,700 figure, Mr. Branch wasn't able to verify it.

"I attribute my interpretation to discussions with the region," Mr. Branch said. "And I can't go back on those figures because the regional people aren't there."

"Whether it was a loss of forecast or a loss of actual jobs, I'm confused now. I don't know," he said.



HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU

Nick Markou, along with his brother George, have been owning and operating The McGibbon Hotel on Main Street in Georgetown for the past six years.

"The business itself is a family affair," Mr. Markou said.

Originally from Toronto, Mr. Markou said they were looking for a business close to the Toronto area and Georgetown looked like a good place.

Mr. Markou said like his grandfather and father he has always been in the food and beverage business.

Favorite Magazine: Newsweek.
Favorite Author: Graham Green.
Favorite Movie: The Graduate.
Favorite TV Show: MASH.
Favorite Music: Jim Croce.
Favorite Hobby: Sailing.
Favorite Good Time: Visiting friends.
Favorite Vacation Place: Mexico.
Philosophy of Life: "The strength to change what I can change and the intelligence to accept what I can't."
What do you hope to be doing ten years from now? "I hope to be retired."

Croatian land policy deferred

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff

Policies covering land owned by the Croatian Cultural Centre were deferred from the Halton Hills Official Plan last week.

Councillors were reviewing written submissions proposing changes in the town's Official Plan.

Lawyer for the Centre, Neil Davis asked councillors to defer adopting policies that would designate what development could take place on the Centre land.

He pointed out such a move would be premature as agricultural, traffic and storm water studies are underway on the property. Council requested the studies earlier this year in response to development plans by the Centre.

Public works committee turns up site search

By GREG KEENAN
Herald Special

Brampton's public works committee has a new song with an old melody for Peel Region in its search for a landfill site.

The committee voted last week to ask the Region to test the original prime site recommended by a consultant which was thrown out along with four other original sites by the Region in May.

It also wants a staff report about the costs of Brampton testing the site for suitability as a landfill location itself if Regional council refuses to test the site - called "Site B".

Site B - near Mississauga Road and 5th Line West - was thrown out last May after pressure from Markborough Properties, which owns an industrial park near Mississauga Road

and Highway 401.

Both public works committee recommendations will be considered by city council next week.

Testing of Site B would permit "a rational decision to be made by city council, as requested by some members of Region

nal council," said Coun. Dianne Sutter who introduced both recommendations.

Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion keeps telling Brampton to make a decision, Mrs. Sutter said, "we should tell them what we want."

"Site B is probably the

best site," Mrs. Sutter said. "I don't buy all the arguments about it affecting the prestige industrial park."

City council stopped just short of a similar decision last week.

—Courtesy
Brampton Daily Times

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Official Plan

Off to Queen's Park

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff

Now that the Official Plan for Halton Hills has once again been bundled off to Queen's Park for approval, a plateau of sorts has been achieved.

The Official Plan gives direction to growth in the town and is in accordance with the Regional Plan approved in 1980 by the province.

Last week, town councillors modified the plan, incorporating suggestions by the province and welcoming public input.

When all the changes were passed, accolades

went to Official Plan Task Force Committee chaired by Coun. Mike Armstrong, former mayor and now regional chairman Peter Pomeroy, town planners Ian Keith and Bruce McLean, Clerk Administrator Ken Richardson and current Mayor Russ Miller.

"We've been worrying about the Official Plan for a long time," Coun. Ross Knechtel said. "I've often wondered whether this is the reason Mayor Pomeroy went to the region, and now that the region is looking

at it, is the reason he wants to go to the province."

The joke was well taken, with the regional chairman laughing. "That may be true," from his seat in the audience.

Coun. Knechtel said it was a difficult job well done.

Coun. Marilyn Serjantson asked when the town could expect to have its Official Plan accepted by the province, and was told perhaps in time for Christmas, by Mr. Keith.

"You want a year, or a date," Mayor Miller joked in reference to the five year process.

Region's bill delays firms expansion

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff

Halton Hills councillors tried to bargain for more than the 75 per cent contribution the region's planning and public works committee was willing to pay toward upgrading a watermain on Acton's Eastern Avenue.

Last week, at regional council, they only succeeded in having the matter referred back to the planning and public works committee for consideration again.

Acton's Holly Industries can't go ahead with a 3,600 square foot addition to its building until the watermain has been upgraded.

They've been asked to put \$16,000 of their own money into the project, with the region making up the other \$48,000.

The watermain will improve fire protection for Holly Industries and its neighbor The Olde Hide House.

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller said company president J.A. Meyer had indicated to him that Holly Industries couldn't afford the \$18,000 cost.

Burlington councillor Joan Little pointed out the region had made an exception in the company's case, asking for only a 25 per cent contribution when normally it's 50-50.

"I'm afraid of the precedence this would set at the region if the region puts in 100 per cent," Mrs. Little said.

Coun. Mike Armstrong said it wasn't fair to ask Holly Industries to pay

for part of it, and tried to wangle money left over from another public works project for Halton Hills into this one.

"If we have savings on a project, it should go back and (the committee) see what is the greatest need in the region, not just the municipality," Oakville Coun. Anne Mulvale said.

The project is in the region's budget for 1986. If Mr. Meyer waits a year, he saves his \$16,000 and the region pays for the watermain 100 per cent.

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