

# Trailer residents fight to stay at Norval park site

## Compensation, relocation concerns

By MARY-LIZ SHAW  
Herald Staff

Residents of a trailer park subject to heavy flooding in Norval were left with unanswered questions Thursday night. They met with the mayor and trailer park owner Norm Guthrie.

The Willow Park trailer site is currently under review by the Town of Halton Hills and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority. The CVCA wants to buy the land because it is located on a flood plain.

The town and the CVCA, however, have not yet reached a sale price. If Norm Guthrie does not accept the CVCA's offer, the CVCA will acquire the land by expropriation.

CVCA General Manager Vicki Barron told the Herald Friday the Authority will only resort to the Expropriations Act if it could not settle on a price with Mr. Guthrie.

"We have sympathy we would be relocating people, we understand that," she said.

Ms. Barron added, however, the job of relocating park residents is "more of a town issue."

Lawyer Stephen Wagne admitted he had not addressed the most immediate concerns of the residents. "But there really isn't an answer to many of your questions right now," he added.

Resident spokesman Mike Vermeesch said residents are worried they will be asked to leave the property without compensation. He asked Mayor Russ Miller if the town had seriously considered relocating the park.

"I am in favor of relocating you," Russ Miller said. "I support the idea of a trailer park in Halton Hills."

Mr. Vermeesch pressed the mayor to tell the group whether a new spot has been chosen for the park.

"I could name you a hundred spots," the mayor said. "But I don't live next to them. People on the Sixth Line might think (a trailer park) is a great idea providing it's on the

Tenth Line."

The mayor reminded the group of the involved process of finding a new location for the trailer park. Re-zoning requires public hearings and the town is obliged to hear everyone's views, he added. "Everyone has their rights," Mr. Miller said.

The controversy began in October 1986 when Park owner Norm Guthrie objected to Enterac development proposals above the Park along Silver Creek. Mr. Guthrie discovered, through a study conducted by a hydraulic engineer, that the development would increase the risk and level of flooding in the trailer park.

Storm sewers would increase the speed of water flowing into the creek, causing excessive flooding in the park's low lying area, Mr. Waques said.

"The engineering report proved without a doubt that there would be enough water to endanger the lives of you people," Mr. Guthrie said. The owner declined to expand on the findings of the report because the "issue may go to court," he said.

The CVCA agrees that the park is in serious danger, General Manager Vicki Barron said. It was the Authority's concern for the lives of the people which prompted it to try to acquire the land, she added.

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# Elliot wins Liberal nomination

By BRIAN MacLEOD  
Herald Special

Walt Elliot will take his fourth run at provincial politics as a Liberal candidate in the Sept. 10 election.

Mr. Elliot edged former NHL referee Bruce Hood in the third ballot of the Halton North Liberal nomination meeting Friday at the John Tonelli Sports Centre in Milton.

Mr. Elliot prevailed with 339 votes to Mr. Hood's 250.

Twenty-year-old Ben Colabrese was eliminated after the first ballot while Halton Hills Councillor Joe Hewitt was eliminated after the second ballot.

Ontario Premier David Peterson opened the meeting with a campaign style speech.

Mr. Elliot was gracious in victory. "I've stood on a podium like this. You feel like your guts are ripped out. You go away and put the pieces back together," he said.

"The real enemy is in the other two camps," he added.

Mr. Elliot won the nomination by a fairly comfortable margin, but the night was not without suspense.

Results after the first ballot, confirmed by one of the candidates after the meeting, showed Bruce Hood with 283 votes, Mr. Elliot with 247, Joe Hewitt at close to 150 and Ben Colabrese with around 30 votes.

The actual numbers were not released publicly at the meeting.

Liberal party rules say the candidate in last place plus anyone with less than five per cent of the vote are eliminated from further ballots.

Mr. Colabrese threw his support behind Mr. Elliot saying, "I'm 99.9 per cent confident that Walt Elliot would make a good candidate."

In Mr. Elliot's favor, was his long time service to the Liberal party, a fact he mentioned three times during his seven-minute nomination speech.

"I'd been leaning towards him (Mr. Elliot), Mr. Colabrese said after his first ballot. "I like the idea that he's been with the Liberal Party that long," he said.

Mr. Elliot has been active in the Liberal Party since he first ran as a candidate in Peel-Dufferin in 1971.

"I feel great. I honestly don't feel I've lost anything Mr. Colabrese said.

Mr. Colabrese said his showing would have been better if he had more time to prepare.

He said this would not be his last attempt at a political nomination.

After the first ballot, Mr. Colabrese was beside the stage in an intensive conversation with Kevin Hood, Bruce Hood's son and campaign manager.

"He made some waves," Mr. Colabrese said.

Mr. Hewitt would not comment on his position between ballots, but his responses were less than enthusiastic.

Mr. Hewitt made no attempt to recruit Mr. Colabrese's support after the first ballot. "Hewitt didn't approach me and I didn't approach him," Mr. Colabrese said.

He admitted he would have been willing to talk to Mr. Hewitt.

If signs were an indication of how the voting would go, it was clear the final ballot would be between Mr. Elliot and Mr. Hood, although Mr. Hewitt's supporters were numerous and somewhat vocal.

Second ballot results had Mr. Elliot and Mr. Hood tied at 246 votes, while Mr. Hewitt pulled in 125 votes.

When it was announced that only Mr. Hood and Mr. Elliot would be on the last ballot, a wild cheer went up from Mr. Elliot's workers.

It was clear they knew the intentions of Mr. Hewitt.

And he didn't disappoint them. Less than a minute after the result was announced Mr. Hewitt strolled very purposefully over to Mr. Elliot shaking hands with a congratulatory smile.

Chants of Joe, Joe emanated from Mr. Elliot's supporters as Mr. Hewitt smiled and posed for pictures with Mr. Elliot.

"It's in the best interest of the Liberal Party," Mr. Hewitt said of his support of Mr. Elliot.

"There's more depth of the candidate," he added.

No attempts were made by Mr. Hood to recruit his support. Mr. Hewitt said.

Kevin Hood admitted making no attempt to talk to Mr. Hewitt.

But he did say he hoped for some support. "As a long time resident (of the riding), I thought there would be some affiliation," Kevin Hood said of Mr. Hewitt.

While Bruce Hood made his way up and down the voters line up shaking hands with his son Kevin watching closely, the third ballot results quickly became obvious.

Hewitt and Elliot supporters were walking around with Hewitt and Elliot signs and badges together. It was clear that Mr. Hewitt's supporters were going to follow his lead and vote for Mr. Elliot.



**KINGMAKER** — Walt Elliot (left) thanks Joe Hewitt (center) for his support after Mr. Hewitt was eliminated in the second ballot of the Liberal nomination meeting at the John Tonelli Sports Centre in Milton on Friday. Mr. Elliot went on to defeat Bruce Hood by less than a hundred votes to take the Liberal nomination for the new riding of Halton North. The fourth candidate, Ben Colabrese, was eliminated after the first ballot. (Photo by Brian MacLeod)

Before the third ballot results were announced, Mr. Elliot confidently invited his workers to a party after the meeting.

He told reporters he had a good indication of which way Mr. Hewitt would go in the final ballot.

"My people have been talking to Joe's people. A lot of my supporters are from Ward 2 (Mr. Hewitt's ward as a councillor) so they all knew each other and were talking over the last week," he said.

"But there were no deals," he added.

When the third ballot victor was announced shortly before 1 a.m., Bruce Hood, who enjoyed the support of long-time Liberal MPP Julian Reed, was visibly disappointed at losing his party's nomination. "I'm not bitter, I'm disappointed," he said.

He blamed the media for the public perception of him as a Conservative dressed in red.

"The President of the Conservative organization said he had phoned me and in fact I didn't even know the man. But the newspapers ran it that way," he said.

Mr. Elliot's long-time affiliation with the party was probably the deciding factor, Mr. Hood admitted.

## Whiting acclaimed as Tory candidate

A former town and regional councillor for Halton Hills was uncontested at the Progressive Conservative nomination for Halton North.

Acton resident and real estate agent Dave Whiting was acclaimed as the Tory candidate by the local riding association Monday.

Speaking to a crowd of about 70 at the Bayerischer Hof restaurant in Milton, Mr. Whiting said he wouldn't be a sacrificial lamb during the campaign.

"I want to assure you that I am not here as a sacrificial lamb awaiting the slaughter. I entered this race with one and only one end in mind — to win this riding on Sept. 10."

Mr. Whiting levelled criticism at the Liberal government of David Peterson as well as outlining several local issues he would campaign on.

The Premier is a puppet master who controls the Liberal show and MPPs know it, said Mr. Whiting. "Peterson pulls the strings and his puppet show responds," he said.

"When I think of David Peterson I'm reminded of the '70's and that one man show the Liberals ran in Ottawa," the candidate said.

Halton had been short-changed on a number of local issues, he said. For example, the Halton public school system isn't receiving enough funding along with roads "which have been and are still the worse roads in Ontario."

A former Niagara Escarpment Commission representative, Mr. Whiting complained of a situation where the government did not pick a candidate from north Halton to sit on the NEC board. "One of the concerns in our riding is that a full 30 per cent of our land is controlled by the Niagara Escarpment Commission and we have no representation on that body."



Dave Whiting

## Rae's wife at NDP nomination

The Halton North riding association of the New Democratic Party is preparing for its nomination meeting in Milton tonight.

Preparations are going smoothly according to candidate Fern Wolf, who is currently uncontested for the NDP nomination spot.

The association held two pre-nomination meetings Monday and Tuesday.

Until about two weeks ago, the NDP association had candidate for the riding of Halton North. Now the party has set up a constituency office in Dorset Park, Milton and has

received strong support from the NDP main office in Toronto, Fern Wolf said.

"The party is being very supportive of women candidates," she said. "We're getting tremendous support from head office."

Ms. Wolf added that as of this week 30 women are nominated across the province and by the end of the election, 45 women will have sought positions either as nominees or candidates. That is the largest number of women the party has ever had running in a single election, the candidate said.

At tonight's nomination meeting at the CAW Union Hall in Milton, Arlene Perly Rae will be guest speaker. Mrs. Rae is the wife of Ontario NDP Leader Bob Rae.

Last week Fern Wolf attended an information meeting for residents of Willow Park trailer park. The residents of the park are facing possible eviction because the park lies on a flood plain.

Ms. Wolf also attended a nomination meeting Hamilton. The nomination meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. The CAW Union Hall is located at 105 Martin St., Milton.



**Winging it**

**FORMATION** — Bob Mairs, Gerry Hale, Gary Verdome and Noel Young display their unique aircraft. They are members of the Georgetown radio-controlled flying club which meets in a field at 10 Sideroad and the Ninth

Line. The planes weigh about nine pounds, with a 60-inch wingspan, and can fly at speeds of up to 125 miles per hour. The plane kit and radio controls may cost as much as \$2,000. (Herald photo)

## At Halton Region

# Call for fewer reps causes stormy debate

Regional councillors agreed to a formal request for a review of Halton by the Province, Aug. 5.

In a 17-4 vote last Wednesday, all three Halton Hills councillors present voted against the review. Council instructed staff to prepare the terms of reference for the review.

Those terms of reference will likely include a study of the Region's boundaries.

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller and councillors Rick Bonnette and Pam Sheldon all voted against the review. Councillors Marilyn Serjeantson and John McDonald were absent from the meeting.

Oakville Coun. Kevin Flynn was the only other dissenting voice on council.

July 15, Mayor Miller said he would be in favor of review.

Despite the jovial attempts of Burlington Councillors Mulkewich and Pat McLaughlin to pull him to his feet when the affirmative vote was called, the mayor wouldn't budge.

"I'm always changing my mind when I think about things," Mayor Miller said after the meeting. "I didn't want to see it pass unanimously (and) I didn't want to see us in Halton Hills lose a representative."

Burlington Mayor Bird has suggested dropping Halton Hills representatives on a regional council from five to three.

"Why split Halton Hills (votes)?" Mr. Miller asked. "I knew it would pass."

A study on the Region's boundaries represents a new aspect of

the review. Burlington Coun. Walter Mulkewich called for the Region's boundaries to come under scrutiny at the Aug. 5 council meeting.

"Are our boundaries the appropriate boundaries? Does it make sense in 1985. It made sense in the nineteenth century. That's when it was set up," Coun. Mulkewich said.

All three Halton Hills councillors said the fact that Halton Hills has distinct centres means they need their current five representatives on regional council. That formed the basis of their rejection of the review, which calls for a study on representation.

Heading from a prepared statement Coun. Bonnette said Mr. Bird's comments in his position paper reflected the Rodney Dangerfield syndrome of "I get no respect."

Where, Coun. Bonnette wondered, would you reduce the representation of Halton Hills? "Acton sure, it's the smallest and furthest north, nobody will notice. You're damn right they will," Coun. Bonnette said.

Coun. Sheldon said no one has yet shown her a good reason for having a review. "Don't use a review to appease or pacify a particular position," she said.

"If we want to know where we're going and where we've been, look at the Chairman's report (submitted by Mr. Pomeroy in response to Mr. Bird's July position paper). Don't use a review," she said.

"I would never consent to a review in any way that would undermine Halton Hills representation on regional council," she added.

The candidate also said it was a silly idea of putting garbage in quarries. "...Because of the rock and gravel nature of quarries, you can't control the lechete that is produced. That's the poison that seeps from the dump sites. That poison would eventually destroy the drinking water in this area."

Mr. Whiting said he's not a puppet on a string and he's a candidate willing to work hard and long for his constituents. The former Acton councillor said he has "full knowledge" of the riding and he is a proven representative. "I have determination to win at anything and everything," he said.

In an interview afterwards, the candidate said the top issue in the campaign would be representation. "We need good solid representation from this area. Otherwise the little guy gets missed," he said.

He said the PC campaign would be positive and he would tell people of the riding what he can do for them. But it won't be a laid-back campaign, he said. "I won't sit back or wait for things to happen," he said.

Continued on page A2

## Lowest bid

The Town is set to spend over \$326,600 on road reconstruction on Edward Street and storm sewer construction on Bairdrow Crescent.

Dawn Enterprises Ltd. of Thornhill was hired by the Town's General Committee Monday for the work.

Dawn Enterprises was the lowest bid at just over \$410,000 for the work.

But the Region will kick in more than \$89,500 for work on the roads leaving the town with a bill of \$326,667.