

Outlook on Halton Hills



Art Opening

The Halton Hills Palette and Pencil Club opened its annual exhibition at the Halton Hills Cultural Centre Gallery Feb. 1. There are 18 artists from town displaying 46 pieces of work at the Gallery. The ex-

hibition will run until Feb. 26. Here, Mayor Russ Miller (left), artist Les Battea and club president Shirley Brambley admire one of Mr. Battea's oil paintings entitled Mountain Lake. (Herald photo)

Legislation protects environment

Proposed provincial legislation governing the aggregate industry should help protect the environment surrounding the 25 pits and quarries in Halton, Regional planner Rash Mohammed says.

The Aggregate Resources Act, which received first reading in the legislature last summer will replace the fragmented legislation currently regulating the aggregate industry, said Mr. Mohammed.

"The bill attempts to place more emphasis on environmental concerns and rehabilitation," he said. But the proposed royalties aggregate producers must pay to

help pay for rehabilitation, protection of surrounding environment and road repairs is not enough, Mr. Mohammed says. He wants the proposed six cents a tonne royalty increased to nine cents.

When a tonne of aggregate is mined, under the proposed legislation, aggregate companies would pay four cents to the local municipality, one cent to the province and a half a cent each to the Region and the pit and quarry rehabilitation fund.

Halton would get only \$94,000 from the aggregate mined in 1987 from the pits and quarries

throughout the Region, said Mr. Mohammed.

That is enough to resurface only one kilometre of the roads which are heavily damaged by aggregate trucks each year, he said. The major provisions of the act are:

- greater consideration of the environment through assessment of the impact of the pits and quarries with annual reviews;
- financial compensation for municipalities from active pits and quarries;
- increased rehabilitation. Aggregate producers would be required to rehabilitate sections of quarries as they finish mining them;
- an abandoned pit and quarry fund will be established to rehabilitate derelict pits and quarries on private land and in designated areas;
- immediate suspension of licences and permits if companies are seriously abusing the act;
- better administration and enforcement capabilities to control illegal operations and contraventions of the act and;
- better site plans showing greater detail of existing natural features, methods of operation and rehabilitation.

police say. In Acton, two Kingham Road residents went out to their cars Sunday to find flattened tires. The right rear tire of a 1987 Mazda was slashed, causing \$100 damage. The rear tire of a 1988 Oldsmobile parked on the same street overnight Feb. 4 was also slashed, at an estimated \$100 damage. Halton police continue to investigate the incidents.

Police probe tire slashings

Tires slashed around town Saturday night have police looking for suspects.

Halton Regional Police report four incidents of tire slashings with a total damage value of some \$600 in both Acton and Georgetown.

Two slashing incidents occurred on Weber Drive sometime Feb. 4 or Feb. 5. Police say two tires were punctured on a Ford Capri causing "several hundred dollars" damage. Two tires on a 1983 Nissan were slashed while the car was parked in the roadway in front of a residence causing \$200 damage,

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Mayor Miller alters committee alignments

When Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller appointed members to the town's committees last week, he left 13 committees in limbo. Some have been disbanded, others will be reformed if they're needed.

The arena feasibility study committee has been disbanded. The committee was examining the need for building new arenas in Acton and Georgetown. Although the need for a second arena in Acton is well-documented, the committee did not conclude 100 per cent that the Acton facility will have priority, said Mayor Miller.

The sidewalk snow clearing committee is disbanded in favor of handling it through the budget.

The performance review committee will set up again later this year after the new administrator-clerk, Dan Costea, has been in the position for a year.

The Halton Hills housing task force has been disbanded because there is "nothing for it to do," said Mayor Miller. Mayor Miller said he has submitted a proposal to the province along with local real estate agent Phil Carney but he has had no response.

The Acton urban boundaries implementation study committee which was examining development in Acton has also been disbanded.

The arts council policy committee has been disbanded because there was nothing for it to do, said Mayor Miller.

The town's development review committee will be re-established in a different form later this term, he said.

The North Halton Social Planning Council has been disbanded in favor of Halton Region's social planning council.

The town's Highland Games association has been disbanded because council doesn't set up such a committee for any other group, said Mayor Miller.

The municipally-owned properties committee has been disbanded because work on the property the town was dealing with, on Princess Anne Drive and in Georgetown West, has been settled, said Mayor Miller.

Business from the pits and quarries committee will be handled through council, from now on, he said.

The energy from waste committee is not needed because that lies in the jurisdiction of Halton Region, said Mayor Miller.

Finally, the business advisory committee will be re-established in a different form later this term.

Lane Court residents want roads repaired

Lane Court residents are getting fed up with waiting for repairs to their road. They want an "encouraging plan to remedy the aggravating appearance of Lane Court," according to Lane Court resident Joe Harris.

"The street is a mess with water holes, cracked edges of old pavement, sinking manholes and unsightly dust and dirt," Mr. Harris said in a letter to Halton Hills councillors recently.

Lane Court residents in Georgetown first appealed to councillors to fix the road in early 1986. No action has been taken since, said Mr. Harris.

"Three years is a long time to await positive news regarding the upgrading of our street."

Residents want the street upgraded in 1988.

The town's budget committee will consider the request.

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