

# \$8 million Terra Cotta project under scrutiny

By DONNA KELL  
Herald Staff

Some residents near the Terra Cotta Conservation Area northeast of Georgetown protested changes proposed by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority at a public meeting recently.

The CVCA held the second of two public meetings Sept. 12 to get public input on a proposed \$8-million project that would leave 1,600 acres of Terra Cotta and Silver Creek conservation areas "undisturbed" but would mean an overhaul of camping, hiking and swimming facilities.

Eighth Line resident Nancy

Mulhowland was at the public meeting. She said CVCA surveys to get public opinion were just "window dressing." Area residents concerns were ignored, she said.

Residents "don't have much to say" about how the CVCA handles the conservation area near area houses, she said. "(The authority) puts all sorts of obstacles in your way" when you want to change something on your property, she said.

Mrs. Mulhowland disagrees with the CVCA's planning approach. "They're very cavalier about how they do it. There's no consultation."

CVCA manager Ken Owen responded Monday, saying all comments from the public are considered as the Terra Cotta plan goes through an approval process. It presently has preliminary approval.

A plan to spend \$7 to \$8 million to reroute hiking facilities, move camping spots and provide electricity for the camping sites, and replace the present swimming pool with a "play splash" area could be approved when the concept goes to the CVCA governing body in November, Mr. Owen said.

Last week's public meeting collected input from 40 people, but

"there are over 100,000 others we have to consider," he said.

"There's a danger in designing your facilities to accommodate one individual."

Mr. Owen said some of the opposition to the project is "a general resistance to change," which is "always" there.

The proposed changes to Terra Cotta's swimming area caused a few park users to complain at the public meeting, Mr. Mulhowland said.

"It came as a surprise to me that there was so much opposition to changing it," Mr. Owen said Monday. He said 95 per cent of those

who use the pool now would find the new facility "quite enjoyable."

The new pool, if the proposed change is approved, would blend in with the landscape and would be shallow, he said. Parents can watch from the sides as children wade or families can play in the water, he added.

Those opposed to the pool likely have concerns about high levels of bacteria in local swimming spots, the CVCA manager said.

"People are reacting to the news reports about the beaches being closed. They see this facility, the

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## Halton needs "green growth" Ken Black says

By DONNA KELL  
Herald Staff

Ontario Minister of Tourism Ken Black pictures the Niagara Escarpment dotted with country inns as Halton surpasses 4.5 million visitors a year to the Region.

Mr. Black toured North Halton Tuesday with Halton North MPP Walt Elliot. The pair visited Kelso Park, the Dominion Seed House, Scotsdale Farm near Ballinacree, and the Olde Hide House in Acton.

Mr. Black referred to "sustainable growth" which he said would "promote the concept of green growth" in Halton.

"Much of what is good in this riding depends on retaining the natural resources," the tourism minister said. "This is something I am very aware of."

The minister said there is no "one way" to develop Halton for tourism, but the Dominion Seed House, with plans to expand building on its grounds to form a tourist village, possibly including a hotel, "is the kind of attraction we need to have."

North Halton residents don't realize the amount of revenue that

comes from tourism, Mr. Elliot said.

"The tourism dollar coming into the Region now is \$160 to \$170 million (a year)."

There were half a million visitors to Halton's over 30 conservation areas last year and a total of 4.5 million visitors to the Region. This is "just scratching the surface," Mr. Black said.

"There is tremendous potential for the area."

The tourism minister said the Region is using its land properly by building hiking trails through the Niagara Escarpment, and promoting growth that is "compatible" with the area's natural resources.

"This is a very crucial part of Ontario, (both) in terms of the Bruce Trail and the Niagara Escarpment," he said.

When asked how he pictures Niagara Escarpment tourism development, Mr. Black said, "I would like to see country inns - place for people to have accommodation and good meals."

There is a new consciousness of "green space" in the provincial ministries, Mr. Black said.



### On the go

Ontario Minister of Tourism Ken Black was in Georgetown Tuesday as part of a one-day tour of North Halton. The minister visited the Dominion Seed House. The Harding family recently announced plans for developing a tourist village on the site. Left to right are Ken Black, Margaret Harding, Walt Elliot and seed house general manager Douglas Peck. (Herald photo)

## Open House at Fire Dept.

You can find out if you've got what it takes to fight fires today (Saturday) when the Halton Hills Fire Department holds an Open House.

Participants will be able to practise firefighting tactics, auto extrication, high-level rescue, smoke house activity and C.P.R.

demonstrations.

The open house will be held at the fire department headquarters, 53 Maple Avenue in Georgetown from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

You can just watch or participate in the activities. Participants must be at least 18 years old.

## Health chief attacked "unfairly" — Flynn

An Oakville councillor with Halton Region said Wednesday that Regional health commissioner Graham Pollett was unfairly attacked after filing a routine AIDS report.

Oakville Coun. Kevin Flynn said Burlington Coun. Ralph Scholtens accused Dr. Pollett of being involved in a "cover up" by excluding details about homosexuality in the AIDS (Acquired Immune-

Deficiency Syndrome) report.

Coun. Flynn said Dr. Pollett's name should be cleared.

The cover-up accusations "shouldn't be made publicly because it did appear in the press," he said.

"I would feel Ralph Scholtens should make an apology. But I leave that up to him."

Coun. Scholtens has been outspoken in the past on the issue

of the often fatal AIDS virus and says its sources are homosexuality. He recently said Halton residents were getting "only half a bang for their buck" when it came to spending money on AIDS reports.

But Coun. Flynn said the report filed by Dr. Pollett was "thorough and factual."

"We still have faith in the doctor."

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