

# GTA population report will need action - Church

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TORONTO - A report outlining possible solutions to an impending population explosion will soon be presented to the 35 municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area.

The report, which is being presented by the Greater Toronto Co-ordinating Committee, is to be presented to mayors and regional chairmen before the end of the month.

The report looks at a number of potential solutions although it doesn't endorse a specific one, said Gardner Church, the deputy minister of the Office of the Greater Toronto Area.

Mr. Church said Friday it's likely municipal officials will see a need to take some action.

"We will have to get a consensus of some sort."

The population in the Greater Toronto Area (an area covering the regions of Durham, Halton, Peel, York and Metro) is expected to increase by about two million people in the next 10 years. Some estimates say the population could grow by six million.

Mr. Church said he believes residential areas in the municipalities must become more compact. However, he said

municipal officials will be left to reach their own conclusions.

It's expected public meetings will soon be called in the various municipalities. A consensus from the 35 different areas is to be reached before the end of this year, Mr. Church said.

After a consensus is reached, a more detailed report will be written.

Three options are being considered in the current report. The options include focusing growth in one large area or concentrating development in a number of large urban areas.

"It's a very detailed evaluation of what the implications of various forms of development would be," Mr. Church said.



## 30 years young

Acton Lions Club president Joe Donaghue (left) and past president Tim Price (centre) were presented with certificates of appreciation from the town of Halton Hills and the province of Ontario by Mayor Russ Miller last week. The certificates acknowledged the 30th anniversary of the Lions Club in Acton. (Herald photo)

# Acton invites people "back" for celebration

Acton's residents, business people and sports and service clubs are inviting all of Halton Hills to travel along Highway 7 this Saturday.

"Back to Acton Days" gives people a chance to experience the satisfying sense of belonging to a community, the warmth of being welcomed home and the small town hospitality for visitors to the community, the organizer of the event says.

The only thing missing during the day at Prospect Park will be the "smell of the tannery," the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce says.

Fishing enthusiasts will be able to participate in the Fletcher's Tackle sponsored fishing derby which gets underway bright and early at 8 a.m. The event finishes at 4 p.m. at which time prizes will be awarded to the successful fishing folk.

There will also be a draw for a

four hour fishing trip on a Lake Ontario salmon charter.

Registration for the event will be held at 8 a.m. Registrants will be greeted by the Acton firefighters association 1926 Studebaker fire truck, the Dingy I, the inflatable raft and a pumper.

To help raise funds for its yearly rodeo, the Acton Optimists will be hosting a horse-shoe pitching tournament. Registration runs from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and the event starts an hour later.

The local soccer club will be sponsoring a dunk tank. And no less than 14 coaches have volunteered to be the dunkees. This event starts at 10 a.m.

Any aspiring Wayne Gretzky's will be able to participate in the goal-scoring contest which starts at 10 a.m. and runs through to 6 p.m. Contestants will be eligible to win one week at the Sports Operations hockey school.

Famous gun-slingers Black Bart

and Tom Destry will be ready, willing and able to take on any would-be challengers starting at 1 p.m. There will also be hot-air balloon tethered rides sponsored by the Halton Hills Weed Man from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Other events include:

- The Acton Social service Information Centre draw, the first prize being a quilt. All proceeds go to the proposed Acton senior centre.

- A minnow racing tank.
- The Acton Citizen's Marching Band which will march from the Old Town Hall to the park, starting at 11:30 a.m.

- The town councillors will also go head to head against the Acton Minors in the "duel at the baseball diamond."

As well the chamber and the Lions Club will be serving up a barbecue lunch and there will be several craft booths, clowns and pony rides to round off the day.

The day wraps up around 8 p.m.

# Hydro bill to increase by 15% in Halton Hills

Hydro users in Halton Hills should expect an increase of almost 15 per cent in their hydro bill for 1991, the general manager of Halton Hills hydro, Gerry Trudell said at the utility's monthly hydro commissioners meeting Friday.

The increase will result from an expected 7.9 per cent increase in the wholesale cost to the utility to buy power from Ontario Hydro, and the expected seven-per-cent Goods and Services tax, said Mr. Trudell.

The general manager couldn't translate the increase into dollar figures.

But he told commissioners he will have that information for their next meeting, July 20.

Ontario Hydro is currently appearing before the Ontario Energy Board to justify the 7.9 per cent increase, but Mr. Trudell predicted that it will encounter no opposition.

The increase is within provincial guidelines, said Mr. Trudell. The increase accounts for inflation and the increased cost of producing power, Mr. Trudell explained.

If the increase is approved and the GST is introduced in 1991, all utilities across the province will

be forced to pass the additional cost to their customers, said the general manager.

# Recreation department gets new computers

A recent provincial grant to the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department to help it computerize the office will save hundreds of hours in staff time, enabling the department to service more of the town's residents.

Automation means the recreation department will no longer have to schedule pools, arenas, parks, schools and community centres by hand, said the superintendent of recreation services, Joy Thompson.

When staff becomes fully adept with the computers, they could be used by various community groups to help them schedule their events, Ms. Thompson said. But this is a long-term idea, she said.

The \$40,000 grant covers half the

cost of the system's \$80,000 price tag. The town is paying the other half.

Ms. Thompson predicted that the new system will also allow the department to accommodate the expected population growth in the area without adding new scheduling staff because a lot of the department's clerical duties will have been eliminated.

Halton Hills isn't the only municipality to adopt this computer system. Brampton, Aurora and Pickering are three other similar sized municipalities whose recreation departments have automated.

The system will be operating out of all town facilities, said Ms. Thompson.

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