

Community

Planning direction review a long-term project

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the end of this year or the beginning of 1991.

One of the more controversial changes being proposed by the Region is to discontinue retirement land severances, acknowledged Mr. Mohammed. Currently, "bona fide" farmers in Halton can obtain a land severance on their property to build a retirement home.

Acton Councillor Norm Elliott and Coun. Alf Spence both raised concerns there hasn't been enough public input from the rural community on which to make a decision on this proposal, especially since it is so controversial.

Mr. Mohammed agreed that not all of the farming community knows about the proposed change, but the Region has done everything within its means to inform the public about the change, he said. Several public meetings

have been held. As well, the review has been advertised in all of the Region's local newspapers, he pointed out.

The explanation, however, did not satisfy Coun. Spence who refused to endorse any of the changes because written notification hadn't been given to every resident in Halton's rural area.

Mr. Mohammed explained the elimination of retirement severances was introduced because the majority of the public has been saying Halton's farmland must be protected.

Coun. Pam Johnston questioned Mr. Mohammed on the issue of high density housing and housing developments in the same area as commercial development.

Agreeing with Coun. Johnston, that this proposal concerns many residents in Halton Hills, Mr. Mohammed said high density housing will only happen in areas where public transportation

could be established. "It won't be a free for all," said the planner.

He suggested the area around the Georgetown GO Station is a possible location where high density housing may be suitable. High density housing does not mean major high rises, he added.

Coun. Al Cook expressed concern that insufficient attention had been focused on the needs of the Region's seniors. He wanted assurances from the planner that more attention would be given to this area since there will be an ever-increasing number of seniors in Halton, in the coming years.

Mr. Mohammed agreed, saying "We (the Region) haven't approached the senior issue with as much force as we should have."

Acton Coun. Gerald Rennie seemed to sum up the feelings of several councillors, when he said the changes are good in principle but if adopted, they will make

council's job more difficult. "Instead of looking at things piecemeal as council does now, it will have to look at things from a global perspective," said the councillor.

The next official plan review public meeting will be held March 25 at Halton Region Administration building in Oakville.

March is Red Cross Month



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Province should pay fair share

Continued from Page 1
money Halton receives is relatively insignificant because its water and sewage treatment plants meet the provincial government's environmental safety guidelines. Halton has a total of 11 water and sewage treatment plants, of which five are located in Halton Hills.

The brief states that if the crown corporation is established, the province may phase out water and sewage grants, creating a 100 per cent user-pay approach to billing, and financing of new capital projects. Halton already has this type of pay system in place. Halton,

however, has received provincial funding for particular projects, notably the Glen Williams reservoir.

The purpose behind a user-pay system is to encourage water conservation, states the brief. While Canada is one of the highest per capita users of water in the world, the price of Canadian water is the "absolute lowest," states the report.

Mr. Birkett couldn't say how Halton's water and sewer rates would be affected if it no longer received its existing limited provincial funding. Assuming Halton continued to be financed as it is

presently, during future years, then Halton predicts water and sewage rates will increase annually between six and eight per cent between 1992 and the year 2000.

According to the report, the average Ontarian household could see its water and sewage expenditures increase from today's \$250 to \$800 by the year 2000 if the province stops providing grants.

North-Halton MPP Noel Duignan couldn't be reached for comment on the possible creation of a crown corporation to deal with water and sewage systems at press time.

The Ontario Farm Safety Association 18th Annual Conference was held in Toronto on March 11.

Halton Farm Safety delegates attending included Lance Pocock of Oakville, Cecil Patterson of Milton and Mae Brander of Norval.

One of the speakers was J.

Veenstra. M.D. Drayton spoke on "Child Proofing Your Farm," Rob Larman, War Amputations Canada, Toronto, spoke on "Testimony of a Young Accident Victim," and Ann Harrison of Don Mills presented a testimony of "The World's First Double Lung Transplant." Annual Banquet guest speaker was Sister

Thomas Mae Bertels, Silverlake College, Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Her address on "Her accomplishments as a writer and researcher for the Agricultural Industry and Community," have won her recognition in many areas.

She has addressed audiences in 48 states and 8 Canadian provinces.

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