

# MEETING THE CHALLENGE

## REALITIES 1991

### Industrial & Community News

## Harsh realities of '91 lead to hope for future

### Long range planning is Region's goal

Long-range planning will continue to be the focus of Halton Region in the upcoming year.

Over the last several months, three long-range planning documents have been publicized by the Region to outline the ground work for Halton's growth during the next 20 years.

One document is the 20-year corporate plan for the Region. Halton Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy refers to the document "as being as much a plan for discussion as much as anything else."

The document sets out the parameters Halton must abide by if it is to successfully address the issues of the environment, quality of life, fiscal strength and effective corporate management of Regional government.

Chairman Pomeroy is hopeful the public will offer their opinion on the document throughout the rest of the year.

Chairman Pomeroy says the plan, as proposed, is meant to maintain the inroads Halton has already made in the areas of providing people with a good quality of life, and the preservation of agricultural lands and green space.

To ensure this outcome, Mr. Pomeroy states the Region will have to lobby the provincial government for funding to improve Halton's infrastructure.

Not only does the infrastructure have to be updated, it also must be environmentally friendly, says the chairman.

An environmentally safe infrastructure system will ensure that people and business now in Halton, stay, and that new businesses move into the area, he said.

The other two important planning documents are the Halton Urban Structure Review and the Regional Plan Review.

The Urban Structure Review calls for the province to provide increased funding if the Region is expected to accommodate growth in Halton.

The Official Plan Review, which is expected to be finalized by the end of this year, calls for higher density housing in the Region in order that a pollution-reducing transportation system can be developed. As well, this type of development will allow for more green space and agricultural lands in Halton, said the Chairman.

### Town to focus on development

If there has been one good thing that has come out of the recession and how it has affected Halton Hills, it's that the Town has had time to take stock of how the community should develop, says Mayor Russ Miller.

The downturn in the economy has meant little construction, providing council with the opportunity to focus attention on aspects of development, Council has put less emphasis on in the past.

Architecture is one aspect of development Council has started to consider more closely, said the mayor.

Mayor Miller stresses he doesn't oppose development as long as it is controlled. One way of keeping a check on development is to ensure it conforms with the Halton Hills "rural urban landscape and architecture. Unlike in the past, said the mayor, Council is more adamant about seeing architect drawings when considering whether or not



RUSS MILLER

difficulty maintaining its current character.

As was the case last year, environmental issues will again dominate the local political agenda, said Mayor Miller. The mayor predicted the Acton landfill proposal will go to a hearing sometime during the near future.

Mayor Miller said he opposes the proposal, saying it is impossible to build a leak-proof landfill.

Other environmental issues that will stand out this year include the possible expansion of the United Aggregates quarry in Acton, the Leferink Transfer Station application to handle more garbage than currently being produced and the ongoing concern of protecting the Town's rivers and streams, said Mayor Miller.

Those who decide to run in the November municipal election will have to provide to the electorate their sincerity on protecting all aspects of the environment, he said.

to approve a project. The mayor said he is pleased the Town only has enough water supply to support a maximum of 60,000 people. There is approximately 33,000 people living in Halton Hills now. Mayor Miller predicted if the Town ever grew beyond its limit there would be

### Georgetown hospital building for future needs

Just as 1990 was busy for the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital, so too will 1991.

Last year saw the hospital convert the Bennett Health Care Centre into a 36-bed chronic care operation, the introduction of a quality assurance program to ensure the hospital's various departments meet provincial standards, a new roof, accreditation ensuring the hospital meets national medical care standards, and a new Executive Director.

John Oliver, who replaced Mark Rochon last December, was hired to ensure the hospital maintain financial strength.

Mr. Oliver says the hospital's 1990/91 fiscal year which ended in March ended with a surplus.

Mr. Oliver said during the upcoming year his attention will be focused on securing a nursing home operator to locate a nursing home operation in Georgetown.

Other hospital-related news includes the upcoming upgrading of the hospital's ventilation and heating system and the replacement of some windows, he said.

As well, renovations are expected to be done to the hospital's emergency area, he said.



JOHN OLIVER

Finally, Mr. Oliver said hospital administration staff will complete a five-year strategic plan for the hospital in 1991. The plan will outline changes that must happen at the hospital and what new programs must be offered to ensure the hospital meets the community's future medical needs.

As part of the plan the hospital will carry out a study to determine how it can best service the local seniors community. For example, Mr. Oliver said, the hospital is trying to develop programs that ensure seniors are able to stay in their homes as long as possible.



### Planning for the future

Several children of employees of The Prudential Insurance Company of America did their part to help the environment by helping plant part of a 25,000-tree forest at the Silver Creek Conservation

Education Centre. From left to right are Kelli Barbeau, Chris Barbeau, Colleen Barbeau, Kristy Toth, Erin Gillen and Stacey Barbeau. (Herald photo)

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