

Wednesday, July 3, 1991

Region Planner complains about lack of comment time

The amount of time given Halton Region's four municipalities to comment on proposed changes to the Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP) review was too little, said Halton Hills Planner Ian Keith during an interview Thursday.

Halton's municipalities include Halton Hills, Oakville, Burlington and Milton. Each of the municipalities were given four months to comment on the changes proposed by Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) concerning the NEP review. This process is part of the NEC five-year review of its plan.

For comments to be considered they had to have been submitted to NEC staff by June 10.

Halton Hills Council only approved its staff comments on the NEP changes last week, said Mr. Keith. The comments now must go to Regional planning staff for

consideration. Once the Region receives comments from all four municipalities, Regional staff will review them along with its own comments and then submit all comments to the NEC.

Mr. Keith called the four-month comment period "unfair and unrealistic" especially given the workload of each municipal planning department.

Acknowledging the Town's comments won't be submitted to the NEC until later this month, Mr. Keith speculated his department's comments could "quite possibly be ignored."

Mr. Keith explained the four-month waiting commenting period was too short because staff was required to do a comprehensive review of 21 NEC policy reports. Together, the documents are approximately five inches thick, he said.

NEC Senior Planner Marion

Plaut said Thursday the Town's comments or those submitted by any of Halton's three other municipalities won't be ignored by the commission despite the fact they will be handed in late.

Once the comments are submitted to the commission, staff will consider them and determine whether or not similar comments have already been submitted to the commission by other commenting agencies. If the town comments are new to the commission, then NEC staff will write a report and submit a report to NEC commissioners for consideration.

Like Mr. Keith, Halton Region Planner Ho Wong said staff "is not really happy" with the four-month comment period. Told of Mr. Keith's comments concerning the time frame, Mr. Wong said "I tend to agree with Mr. Keith."



Safe at first

And sheeee's safe. While Halton Hills Councillor Al Cook waits for the ball at first base during the Glen Williams Canada Day celebration softball game Monday between local councillors, and the Glen Williams Taxpayers, Lyne Lefleur of the Taxpayers successful makes it to first base. Glen Williams Taxpayers won the game 8-5. (Herald photo)

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