

News at a Glance

Tourism Minister checks out Acton

Future provincial funding towards the construction of recreation facilities in Halton Hills first depends on the completion of a Town Park Master Plan.

That's the message Ontario Tourism and Recreation Minister Peter North left with Mayor Russ Miller during a recent meeting held at the Old Hide House in Acton.

A Park Master Plan highlights a municipality's long-term goals concerning recreation-related capital projects. The province needs to consider these plans in order to prioritize which municipalities receive funding for their respective projects.

Mayor Miller said the Town expects to finish its Park Master Plan sometime this spring.

For his part, Mayor Miller asked the minister to consider trying to eliminate some of the bureaucratic red tape municipalities are subjected to when applying for provincial funding to help finance capital projects.

In an interview after the meeting, Mayor Miller explained it costs the Town thousands of dollars to complete the preliminary studies the province requires be done before it

considers providing provincial money.

Mayor Miller asked Mr. North to look into finding a way to reduce the red tape without diminishing public participation in the process.

Others participating in the meeting included North-Halton MPP Noel Duignan, who arranged the meeting, and Old Hide House President Steve Dawkins.

The meeting was part of a tour Mr. North was taking of tourist attractions in North-Halton. Aside from the Old Hide House, Mr. North visited the Campbellville area including Mohawk Race Track.

Not surprisingly Mr. North told Mayor Miller the province has limited funding. However he did say his government wants to help fund as many projects as possible.

Mayor Miller said the minister was receptive to the idea of a new Acton arena and senior centres for both Georgetown and Acton.

"I think we'll (the Town) get the funding for the Acton arena once we secure some land for the project," said Mayor Miller.

"It was a good meeting, I'm glad I went," added the Mayor.



The Old Hide House in Acton was one of many North-Halton tourist attractions Ontario Tourism and Recreation Minister Peter North visited on a recent tour of the area with local MPP Noel Duignan. Mr. North was touring the area to find out

more information about the local tourist industry and what might be done to improve it. Pictured above, left to right, Town Mayor Russ Miller, Peter North, Steve Dawkins, Old Hide House President; and Mr. Duignan. (Herald Photo)

Pomeroy reign continues—fiscal responsibility is stressed

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

The first and foremost challenge facing the new Halton Regional Council is "the economy pure and simple," said Regional Chairman Pete Pomeroy at Wednesday's inaugural Halton Region Council meeting.

Chairman Pomeroy delivered his message after receiving unanimous support from Regional Council to retain the chairman's position for the its three year term.

Mr. Pomeroy's bid for re-election went unchallenged. However, a recorded vote was still required.

He was nominated by Burlington Regional Councillor Joyce Savoline. Halton Hills Regional Coun. Bill Robson seconded the nomination.

Questioned why he seconded the nomination, Coun. Robson replied, "I'm impressed with his focus on fiscal responsibility."

As leader of Halton Region, said Coun. Robson, he has to be credited with Halton maintaining its Triple A Credit Rating in light of the recession.

Aside from electing the Regional Chairman, the inaugural meeting also marked the official swearing in of Halton Hills Regional Councillors, Bill Robson, Pam Johnston, Mayor Russ Miller, Marilyn Sejeantson and Rick Bonnette, as well

as, the rest of the new Regional Council.

Chairman Pomeroy told Council members and approximately 150 onlookers in the gallery, the economic challenge means, "meeting the demands of our residents, businesses and the environment in a truly different way than we have before."

"We need to find better economic ways to manage our programs," said Chairman Pomeroy.

Offering few specifics during his address, Chairman Pomeroy was more candid in an interview following the meeting.

Chairman Pomeroy said to keep the 1992 Regional operating budget increase in line with inflation - something Halton residents want - services will have to be cut.

The preliminary budget is expected to be first considered by Regional Councillors Dec. 18. However, it won't go before Regional Council for approval until next March.

The Chairman predicted the budget will call for between a seven and nine per cent tax increase for 1992.

Even at a seven per cent increase, services would probably still have to be cut, said Chairman Pomeroy.

To reduce the budget to five per cent some major surgery will be

required, he added.

He attributes the impending difficulty of keeping down the 1992 tax rate increase to the substantial jump in the welfare caseload and public pressure on the Region to finance the hiring of more police officers.

On the issue of the ongoing police investigation into possible wrongdoings by elected and non-elected Halton Region officials, Chairman Pomeroy said he didn't want to make any comments on the investigation until it is complete.

Chairman Pomeroy did say he talked with the new Regional Councillors prior to Wednesday's meeting about his knowledge of the investigation.

With respect to conflict of issue matters, Chairman Pomeroy said, after conferring with Regional legal staff and the province's Ministry of Municipal Affairs on what constitutes conflicts of interest, he will disclose whatever personal information is required.

He predicted that information will centre on any properties he owns and how those properties are administered.

I have two small properties, one here (Halton Region) and one in Florida," said Chairman Pomeroy.

He also has two investments, both of which are outside the Region. The Chairman didn't offer any specifics on these investments.

Chairman Pomeroy has come under considerable scrutiny by the local press over the Florida property because it is a condominium in the same building in which construction owner Albert Tennant, who has building interests in Halton Region, also owns a condominium.

However as in the past, Chairman Pomeroy said the Florida situation in no way conflicts with his position as Regional Chairman.

Chairman Pomeroy said in future he will disclose ownership of property that he legally isn't required to if he thinks it could be perceived as putting him in conflict

with Regional business.

He stresses the condominium has been no secret in the building (the Regional building in Oakville) or among Regional Councillors.

Chairman Pomeroy said he will definitely be declaring a conflict of interest on Regional staff wage issues because of his planned marriage to Pat Crimmins, Regional Deputy Clerk.

Since they have decided to formalize their relationship in marriage, Chairman Pomeroy said, he is now in a conflict of interest situation with respect to wages and therefore must declare it.

Environment fair

The Town of Halton Hills' Environment Initiatives Committee will be hosting an Environmental Fair this upcoming week at the Civic Centre to promote waste reduction activities in the work place and in the home.

There will be a wide range of displays including those set up by Halton Hills Hydro and Consumers Gas promoting energy saving tips; others set up by the Town and Region demonstrating recycling and composting methods; and another set up by Waste Wise, a local organization dedicated to promoting the 3R's - reduce, reuse and recycle, said Paul Sargent, Town Refuse and Reduction Coordinator.

The Town's Environment Initiatives Committee, of which Mr. Sargent is a member, was formed a few months ago to teach Town em-

ployees what they could do within their respective departments to reduce waste.

Some suggestions the committee has relayed to Town employees include using scrap paper on which to write memos, and using both sides of a piece of paper when writing memos, explained Mr. Sargent.

Although the committee's mandate is to focus on teaching Town employees how to be more environmentally conscious, committee members decided to open next week's fair to the public because all members of the community can benefit from it, said Mr. Sargent.

The fair starts this Monday and runs through to Friday at the Civic Centre. The fair is open to the public during business hours, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Inflammatory rhetoric

"Turn up the heat," famed American environmentalist Lois Gibbs told approximately 75 people attending the Protect Our Environmental Resources, (POWER) Annual General meeting Wednesday at Georgetown District High School.

Ms. Gibbs used this rallying call to encourage POWER members to become more aggressive in their attempts to stop the Acton dump proposal.

"The coffin lid is shut, (on the proposal), all that is left is to hammer in that final nail," Ms. Gibbs told her audience.

Ms. Gibbs was the driving force behind the evacuation of families from the chemical dumping ground known as Love Canal in Niagara Falls, New York.

Full details of the meeting will appear in this Wednesday's edition of the Herald.

Tour of the Lights

The Seniors Tour of the Lights sponsored by the Georgetown Kinsmen is set to roll once again on Wednesday, December 18th. The tour in its 13th year has become a tradition in Georgetown. The Kinsmen will be starting out to pick up the seniors at 6:30 p.m. The pick up points include Preston's General Store, Georgetown Legion on Mill Street, Bennett Centre, Kincoart, Durham Street Apartments, Sargent Road Apartments, Delrex Smoke Shop, Moore Park Plaza, Silver Creek Towers and the Sands. The Kinsmen are also looking for any community minded business to donate door prizes for the party to be held at St. Andrew's United Church after the tour. For further information call Kinsman Randy Schaefer 877-7981.



Following the inaugural Halton Regional Council meeting, Wednesday, the five Halton Hills Regional representatives and Halton Chairman Peter Pomeroy decided to start off the new three-year

political term with a show of mutual support. (Pictured above, left to right), Bill Robson, Rick Bonnette, Chairman Pomeroy, Pam Johnston, and Marilyn Sejeantson. (Herald Photo)