

Editorial..... 6
 Sports 8
 Calendar 9
 Classifieds..... 10,11
 Directory.....BL 2



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THE INDEPENDENT

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Keeping her eye on the ball

So close yet so far away. Shelby Mayberry tries to hang onto the ball in a game of silent ball at the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department Summer Fun Centre at Christ the King High School Monday.

Photo by Ted Brown

Mayor's message to Province: Pay the costs of growth fights

By **LISATALLYN**
Staff Writer

Mayor Rick Bonnette wants the Province to provide intervener funding to municipalities that have to go to the Ontario Municipal Board to defend their Official Plan amendments passed in accordance with the Provincial Growth Plan.

At a recent council meeting Halton Hills Council supported a motion by the mayor calling for just that. The motion was seconded by Regional Councillor Jane Fogal.

"If you say, you have to pay," said Bonnette.

He said there have already been developers in the council chamber telling Council they plan to appeal Town official plan amendments to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) in connection with the Sustainable Halton process.

One of those developers is the South Georgetown Landowners Group, which owns land between Eighth and Ninth Lines and 5 and 10 Sideroads and had plans for 40,000 population development there. It has indicated it intends to fight the Town's decision not to include that area in the expanded urban boundary at the Ontario Municipal Board.

"This really ticks me off. This is a provincial initiative," said Bonnette.

He said the Province's Growth Plan stated Halton must grow to 780,000 people from the current 400,000 by 2031, and the Region had a date to come up with a plan.

He said the Town and Region did the homework, came up with a plan and now will likely be facing an OMB challenge.

See **REGION**, pg. 2

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