

'Sprawl' and 'squeeze' options to house 2 million

By ROB KELLY

Metro Toronto and surrounding regions still have time to create a plan that will keep the area prosperous without sacrificing quality of life, but it's growing short, provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs John Sweeney said Monday.

The Minister's comments followed a presentation on possible alternatives for coping with an expected stampede of new residents to what is now called the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). In the next 20 years, more than two million people are expected to swell the population in the GTA (comprising Metro, Halton, Peel, York and Durham regions).

Halton's population could reach approximately 600,000, up from the current 271,000, should the maximum anticipated growth take place.

Flanked by regional and local politicians, Sweeney, together with fellow ministers Bill Wrye (transportation) and Charles Beer (social services), addressed several hundred government officials from various levels at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

"We are approaching a time when somebody is going to be

making decisions about our future," Sweeney said. "That ought to be us."

A study released at the meeting painted three broad strategies for dealing with a population surge across the GTA which is expected to mean six million people, up from the current 3.7 million, will live in the area. The three growth options are:

- Maintaining the status quo. That means sprawling new residential subdivisions and road networks to feed people into Toronto, which is still expected to be the employment centre.

- Squeezing residential development into the central areas in and immediately around Toronto - with population densities similar to many European cities.

- An in-between plan, which will see new growth centred primarily around existing towns and small cities within the GTA.

Perhaps surprisingly, all three schemes are expected to be roughly equal in cost. All hover between \$74-79 billion over the 31 years. That's a 42 per cent increase in capital costs (construction of roads, water plants, etc.) over cur-

rent levels, but only a seven per cent increase if the expected two million extra taxpayers materialize to help shoulder the load.

Each plan is seen as offering both opportunities and drawbacks. The status quo design is a tried and true growth method, but it involves extensive new road systems, meaning a dramatic increase in already snarled commuter traffic into Toronto, and it eats up substantial land.

The centralized 'squeeze' concept means less pollution from vehicles, more efficient commuting on mass transit systems and less gobbling up of land. But it may be a hard sell in that residents would be sandwiched into smaller pockets than is currently the case.

Sweeney admitted that if it is adopted, single-lot subdivision type homes will "not be possible to any great extent."

Sweeney spoke of possible "hybrid" solutions utilizing parts of various proposals.

Whatever option or options gain momentum, "sooner or later decisions will have to be made and they will be made," Sweeney said.

After discussions at the various regional and local councils involved, as well as public meetings to gain voter input, Sweeney expects an action plan around "spring of 1991. We don't have a long time."

(Rob Kelly is the news editor of The Milton Canadian Champion, a sister Metroland publication.)



School's Out

Students at St. Joseph's Separate School in Acton let everyone know how they feel on the last day of school on Thursday. From left are Jamie Lee, Gary Genzler, Shane Hasler, David Hatch and Elizabeth Coles.

Man, 32 charged with assault

A 32-year-old Etobicoke man has been charged with aggravated assault in connection with a June 10 incident in Norval. The charge was laid after police interviewed a man at the Georgetown detachment Monday. At about 1:45 a.m. June 10 an altercation between two men left a 34-year-old Brampton man with a broken arm, a cut lip and a footprint on his head. The Etobicoke man is set to appear in court July 23.

House entered

Halton Regional Police are continuing their investigation of a daylight entry at a Maple Ave. residence Monday. According to police, someone entered the residence after a door was forced open. The culprit removed a part from a fuel injection system for a car that was sitting in the kitchen, the culprit then removed jewelry and cash from a bedroom. The property was worth more than \$2,000.

Shoes stolen

Several pairs of Dr. Marten's boots were removed from a Mill St., Georgetown store sometime early Wednesday morning. Police believe the culprits smashed the glass in the front door and removed only an as yet undetermined number of boots. The investigation continues.

Coping with illness topic at annual

By Wilma Blokhuis

Coping with illness is like learning to adjust to any event that changes your life, says Dr. Margaret Fitch, whose specialty is adaptation to disease.

Illness affects each individual differently, she told the recent annual meeting of the Halton Lung Association held at Oakville's Briarwood Inn. "Some experience changes in the body, sudden or gradual, which have an impact on what we can and can't do. Our body changes affect our feelings towards the illness, she says."

Dealing with emotions

Dr. Fitch, who holds a Master of Science degree in nursing and a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Toronto, explained how people who are ill with a chronic disorder deal with their emotions.

She said the change in one's life brought on by chronic illness brings out an "overwhelming imbalance of reactions. It's like the panic we would feel if we were in an airplane and suddenly all of the oxygen masks dropped down

at once. Or, it would come as a painful shock, like putting your hand on a hot burner."

People react so quickly, she explained, that if a person in a doctor's office, clinic or hospital is told they cancer, "then that word cancer is the first and only word they've heard, and nothing else."

Predicting people's "combination of reactions to disease" is difficult as each reacts differently according to their "perception of that situation, and not the situation itself."

Usually, the first reaction to consider is "what's at stake" as to personal harm or loss of capabilities, followed by reviewing one's resources.

She likened it to the threat posed by a potentially violent situation like when "you're walking down a dark street and there are no street lights for the next half mile. You go half way and hear a noise in the bushes to the left behind you, and you don't know if it's a person or an animal. You ask yourself; 'how much strength do I have, how fast can I run, how hard can I hit?' You will be sur-

prised to find capabilities who didn't know you possessed."

Dr. Fitch said people need to understand the situation they are facing before they can react appropriately.

"To me, coping is the way individuals change and manipulate their environment, but the challenge is whether to change the environment or yourself. People usually tend to change their environment first."

Quite often, coping requires a shift in one's personal goals. "Part of coping with chronic illness is finding ways to do what you want to do within your limitations."

When dealing with the coping strategies of those who are ill, "we need to be very cognizant of what they believe their illness is about and what (constraints) they believe their illness is causing them", said Dr. Fitch. "We should really try to understand what they would like to do instead of seeing the illness as a limitation."

(Wilma Blokhuis is with The Oakville Beaver, a sister publication.)

Canada Day...

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Visitors, between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. can visit with pioneers and British soldiers in their tent encampments, taste the open hearth cooking of Ontario's early settlers, participate in 19th Century games and military drills and try their hand at art of turning wool into clothing.

In addition to the ongoing presentations of military drills and skirmishes dating to the War of 1812, activities reflecting the joys and toils of early pioneer life such as quilting, spinning and weaving, butter churning, rug braiding, cooking, musical performances and open heart cooking will be presented throughout the Museum grounds by costumed interpreters.

The Halton Regional Museum is located in the Kelso Conservation Area, seven kms west of Milton on Regional Road 28. Look for signs.

Then pop over to the Ontario Agricultural Museum next door, to take a trip back to the time of Confederation. The museum celebrates Canada Day, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free for this special event which features a puppet workshop, wagon rides and 19th Century games in which visitors can participate.

The museum is located five kms east of Milton. Look for signs.

SUNDAY BRUNCH

A casual relaxing mid-day meal among family and friends is a delightful activity for many on Sunday.

The cosy, country setting offers a warm and inviting feeling for your gathering.

For your enjoyment our chef prepares new & seasonal breakfast specialties each Sunday.

Traditional favorites include our carving station and the popular Create Your Own Omelette Station.

Plus - fresh made waffles, a selection of country breads, fresh fruits and berries, pastries from Dufflets. Fruit Juices, homemade desserts and other creations to please your palate.

The tradition continues Sundays, at Jack Tanner's Table.

A Family Tradition

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED: 853-3440

the olde Hide House