

OMB decision supports development in Acton East

By LISA TALLYN
Staff writer

Just two days after the 28-day Acton Ontario Municipal Board hearing adjourned, hearing officer J.R. Mills handed down a decision Friday that supported the future development of Acton East.

But Mills did not issue any board orders on the recommendations until Halton Region completes the two studies requested by the federal Department of

Fisheries and Oceans.

Mills urged the region to get on with the studies.

"I hope Mr. Floras' (lawyer for Halton Region) estimate of two years to complete the studies is wrong," said Mills. "I urge the region to give the studies top priority. If the board (OMB) can speed up the process then others can as well."

Mills said the Ministry of Environment and Energy will not allow any new development in

Acton and no increased water taking from the Prospect Park Well, until the region's studies are completed.

Mills approved the extension of the town's boundaries in Acton East, which includes the Rinarin, Bond Arch, Coscan and Sprowl lands, and added development agreements should be reached with all developers. He recommended two school sites be maintained on the Coscan lands, until it could be definitely decided a public

school site is not required.

Mills deferred the commercial aspect of the hearing until April 25 next year, following a pre-hearing conference in January. He expects to hear progress reports from Halton Region then on the status of the two studies.

The hearing officer supported in part the town's redesignation of the Blackhawk Leather Lands and Dawkins property, in Acton's urban area, from industrial to residential.

"The board finds the redesignation of the Blackhawk property to be premature. Blackhawk is a very successful employer in Acton. It shouldn't be redesignated until Blackhawk ceases to exist."

He recommended a split designation on the Dawkins land, including some low-density residential, open space, and industrial.

Regarding the Goose lands, in southwest Acton, the board recommended allowing the developer to

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HALTON HILLS

WEEKEND

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News

Digest

It's on Monday

Seniors, family members and interested persons are invited to attend an informal community meeting on supportive housing at the Bennett Health Care Centre at Georgetown Hospital Monday, 2 to 3:30 p.m. The meetings are hosted by the Halton Supportive Housing Consultation Committee. Registration is not required. For more information call Karen at 878-8113, ext. 7295.

NDP selects candidate

A nomination meeting for the federal NDP Halton-Peel candidate is being held on Sunday. The only candidate is Norma Peterson, a member of MPP Noel Duignan's staff, according to Kathleen Livingston, who is working as an organizer with the federal NDP.

Still time to visit the fair

The Acton Fall Fair continues today (Sunday). Today's events kick off at 10 a.m. with the reopening of the Homecrafts and craft exhibits. Check out the western horse show, dairy show and antique tractor pull and more. At noon the midway reopens, and at 12:30 p.m. motorcycle stunts. At 1 p.m. remote control car races and the pet show. The fair wraps up with the award presentations at 4 p.m. in the arena.

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Shirley Lyons of the Georgetown Rug Hooking Guild displays some of the various rugs and wall hangings on display at the Gallery of the Cultural Centre, marking the 25th anniversary of the group. Shirley was instrumental in organizing the Guild when she moved to Georgetown in 1967, and helped organize the first show by Guild

members in May of 1968, at Cedarvale cottage. The rug on display behind Shirley is a project she worked on 25 years ago in conjunction with Catherine D'Estere, while she displays a teddy bear rug hooked by Audrey Milward. The show runs until September 25.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

MVA report gets good feedback

By JANET BAINE
Staff writer

Presenters from the Citizens' Committee on property tax reform spoke to a room of mostly empty chairs Tuesday night.

The open meeting ended in little over an hour, after four of the 15 members of the public present had asked questions or spoken words of praise.

It was an opportunity for the public to comment on the impending changes regional council will make in calculating regional tax bills.

"Tremendous hard work has gone into this (report). I don't know why this hall is not bursting at the seams. You've gone far beyond what most of us could hope for," Ernest Ball, a resident of Georgetown for 40 years told the committee. He said he spent about 10 hours studying the report, which looks at both long and short-term changes to property tax, and examines numerous scenarios.

Ball's words were echoed by Ray King, town administrator, who prefaced his comments by saying he tends to be a cynic.

"I'm highly impressed with this report. The recommendations are very sound. I'd just like to say I like them, it's a truly excellent report," he said.

By contrast, a meeting at the region on market value assessment (MVA) Dec. 3, 1992 went on for nine hours, with 450 people crowded into the auditorium and an additional 200 watching on monitors. There were 56 delegations protesting the region's plans to implement MVA. This was the hottest issue Mayor Russ Miller can remember.

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