

Allendale is tightening its acceptance criteria

By BRAD REAUME

Special to The Independent/Free Press

Allendale, Halton Region's home for the aged in Milton, is changing its focus amid community fears that a gap in care for the elderly has developed.

A smaller number of bed spaces per capita, an aging population and provincial initiatives to keep seniors in community-based programs, will make it more difficult for semi-independent seniors to gain admission to Allendale.

Provincial initiatives to build a comprehensive long-term care and

community support system for seniors and adults with physical disabilities have begun to trickle down to the local level.

"There is certainly a move to centralize the admission system," said Karen Chan, acting commissioner of social services for Halton Region. "The idea is to remain locally based but to work within provincial guidelines."

The province is working on a plan a multi-service agency in each community which will merge all long-term care agencies, according to Ellis Katsoff, regional director of community services. There

are some 25-30 such agencies in Halton currently delivering some form of service.

"The multi-service agency will be the access point to long term care facilities as well as community-based support. People will no longer be able to go directly to the institution."

Katsoff added that the multi-service agency will be administered locally but bound by provincial standards and guidelines. He stressed that much of the plan's detail has not been determined yet.

However, as of January 1, 1994 the multi-service agency will be in

control of admission at Allendale. They will oversee eligibility, waiting lists, and criteria issued by the province for admission to all programs.

Allendale previously offered two levels of care, residential and extended. Residential care was "supported living" for those elderly who required some help with their daily tasks but were generally independent. Extended care was for those who required a large amount of attention each day. The minimum level of competence for acceptance into long-term care facilities lies somewhere between those two previous levels of care.

Local fears that Allendale will be more difficult to access are probably accurate because, according to Margaret Strecker, administrator of Allendale, Halton is the lowest bedded community in the province in terms of care for the aged.

"The patient coordination service (multi-service agency) will be the gatekeeper and will insure that only those needing care will get it," Strecker said. That is true for residential facilities and programs within the community.

"On July 1, Allendale was designated a 'long term care facility' the new term for nursing homes, charitable homes and municipal homes for the aged," said Strecker. "The funding formula changed."

She explained that each institution is now funded the same way, with additional money based on each individual resident's classification.

Strecker said the change was of mixed value to those living at Allendale.

"The philosophy of funding is excellent, with seven resident classifications based on the level of care required," she said.

"Under the old system, nursing homes received the least funding and municipal homes received the highest level, regardless of who was resident."

"Now with all services run out of the same pot of money, municipal homes will receive less. We are going to have to pare back and

deliver less service than before."

"The philosophy of the government is to keep seniors in the community as long as possible by increasing the support net," Strecker said. "Right now there aren't enough supports in the community but that's supposed to change."

In addition, Strecker said age guidelines had been thrown open, which would allow people as young as 18 who qualified for long term care to live with a primarily elderly population.

"I don't know if that's an issue in Milton because I have no idea of the number of young people eligible for long term care," she said. "I do have some concerns with that arrangement."

Local fear of province wide admissions to Allendale appear generally unfounded. Under the new system the placement agency, if it felt the need was desperate enough, could place a person in an institution outside of his or her area. But efforts would be made to move people back to their community when space became available.

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Brampton Canada Employment Centre at 21 Queen Street East, 2nd Floor Reception.

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Public meetings on Rec Plan

Two public meetings to unveil the new Recreation Master Plan for Halton Hills will be held next month.

The consultant will present the plan, which makes recommendations and sets priorities for the next 10 years in the development of recreation facilities, programs, parks and open space. This is the community's chance to hear, firsthand, the recommendations that will be sent to council.

There will be a chance for discussion at the meetings.

The meetings are at 7 p.m. Wednesday, December 1, at Acton High School Cafeteria and 7 p.m. Thursday, December 2, at Centennial Middle School, Georgetown.

LANDFILL SEARCH UPDATE

Preferred Site Chosen

Dear Peel Resident:

As you may know, the Interim Waste Authority Ltd. (IWA) has been searching for an environmentally-suitable landfill site to handle the Region of Peel's waste over the next 20 years. When operating, this site will be used to dispose of waste which remains after Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (3Rs) efforts have been aggressively implemented.

Detailed Environmental Studies

Following detailed environmental studies and public consultation, the IWA has recently identified the preferred landfill site in Peel. Our environmental investigations included drilling to determine soil and groundwater conditions, and in depth study of biological, agricultural and surface water resources.

Public Consultation

In selecting the preferred site, we have seriously considered public comments and concerns. We heard concern about the potential effects of landfilling on people and water quality, and adjusted the ranks and weights of the criteria used to choose the preferred site. We heard that people needed more details about compensation, and released our *Impact Management and Compensation Policy*. We also provided participant funding to assist community groups and municipalities in reviewing our work.

Next Steps

The next phase of the landfill site search involves additional investigations on and near the preferred site. We will continue to seek your input as this work progresses. Key components in our public consultation program will include dialogue with affected residents, and the formation of a community committee to address local concerns.

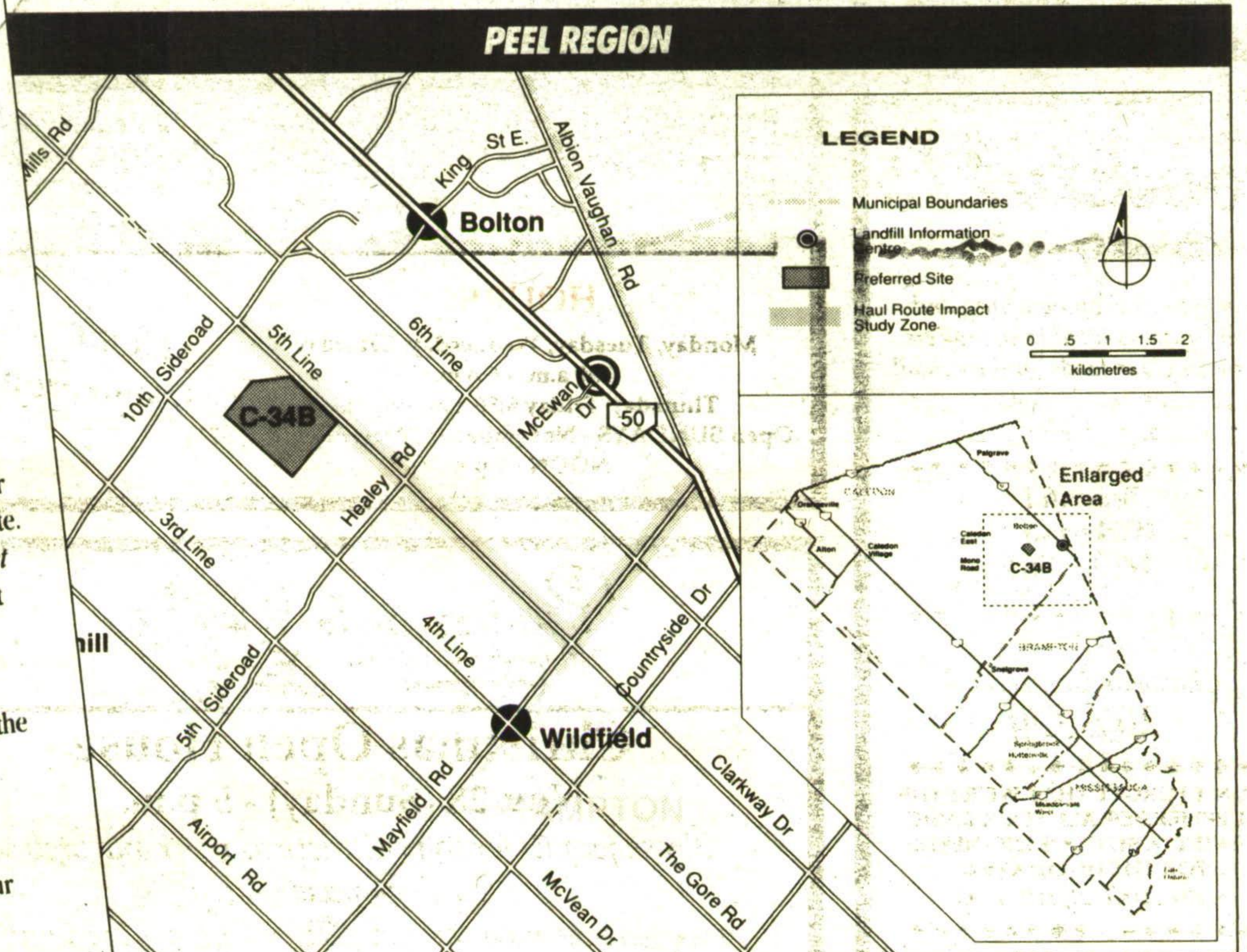
Over the 120-day review period which is now under way, we encourage you to call our Public Information Office or visit the IWA Information Centre.

The final decision on approval of the preferred site rests with the Joint Board, which includes members of the Environmental Assessment and Ontario Municipal Boards.

Yours sincerely,

Walter Pitman, Chairman of the Board

Erv McIntyre, General Manager



PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE: 1-800-361-5448

IWA INFORMATION CENTRE: In Bolton
10 McEwan Dr., Unit 4B Telephone: 951-1510

HOURS: Monday to Friday, 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

November 12 to December 10, 1993

Hours after December 10 - to be announced

Note: the Snelgrove Information Centre will close as of 5 p.m., Saturday, November 13.

Pour obtenir des renseignements en français sur la sélection d'un lieu d'élimination des déchets dans la région de Peel, veuillez appeler 1-800-361-5448.