

New bill could keep Halton Hills in same riding

By JANET BAINE
Staff writer

A new bill on federal riding boundaries could override the current plans to split Halton Hills down the middle, with Georgetown in one riding and Acton in another.

"The present boundaries commission will be negated through Bill C-18," said MP Julian Reed.

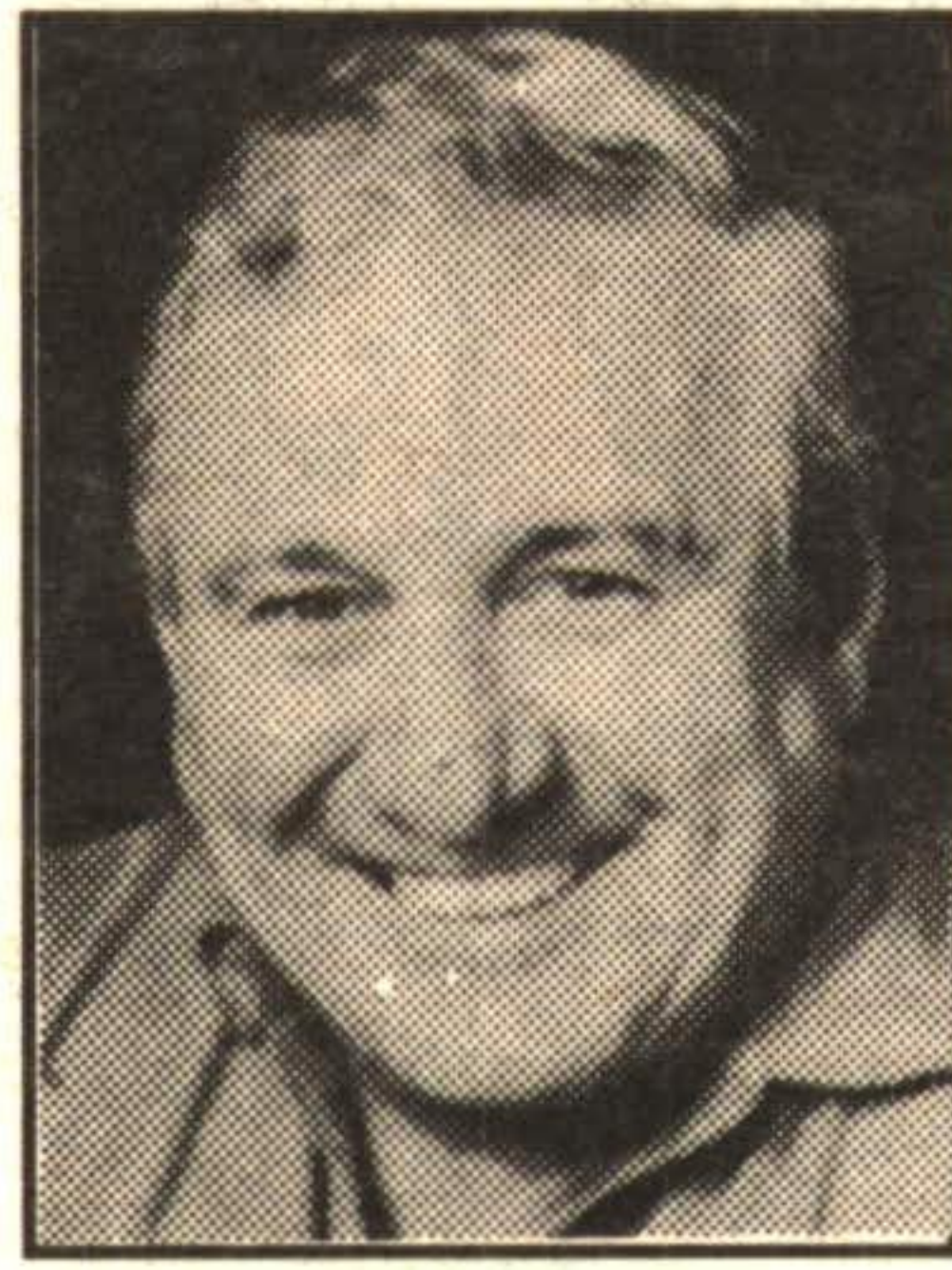
The Liberal bill, which is currently being debated in the senate, would change the way of setting new boundaries.

Currently, there is one MP for every 100,000 people in Canada, but this varies from region to region, Reed said.

After each census, the riding boundaries have to be examined and earlier this year the Boundaries Commission recommended six new MPs seats, four for Ontario and two for British Columbia.

This will cost the government about \$3 million annually, according to Reed.

As the population of Canada grows, so too will the number of representa-



JULIAN REED

tives, and Reed said that there are now 295 members in the House of Commons, and physically the building is at capacity.

"Other democracies around the world have different ratios. Australia is 200,000 people to one, so we think Canada's could change too," Reed said. "When you look at what is happening among elected people at other levels of government, the trend is to decrease the number of members to save money."

While the Liberals originally wanted two years set aside to study a new

way of setting boundaries, which would have meant that the electoral boundaries would have remained the same until after the next election, the Tory-dominated Senate has amended that, cutting the time down to eight months.

Due to protests from British Columbia politicians, the amendment to Bill C-18 will ensure B.C. and Ontario get their new seats.

Reed said he doesn't like this amendment, since it will add to the tax bill. But, he said Halton Hills won't be split as a result of it.

HALTON HILLS

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News

Digest

Man injured

A driver was trapped inside a van after an accident on Tuesday evening. The Mississauga driver of a 1992 Mazda van was driving south on Townline Rd. approaching a wood road barrier which was difficult to see due to the light, police said. He swerved left, then right to avoid the barrier, and the van ended up rolling over and hitting a telephone pole. Firefighters freed him from the car and then he was taken to Georgetown Hospital by ambulance where he was treated and released.

Chamber book

Look for the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce Directory in your mailbox this weekend. It's a who's who of Halton Hills business, along with telephone listings for community service organizations, sports groups, friends and neighbors. Call *The Independent/Free Press* at 873-0301 if you don't receive your copy by Tuesday.



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Fine feathered friend



Jim Aikenhead, education coordinator for Mountsberg Conservation Area introduced four-year-old great horned owl Chomper to patrons as they dropped by Canada Trust in Georgetown Thursday morning. The visit was planned to build awareness of Canada Trust's Friends of the Environment Foundation, in which community groups can apply for funding for local environmental projects (like Mountsberg) funded by private donations, which are matched by Canada Trust.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Townhouses a concern to residents

By LISA TALLYN
Staff writer

Georgetown south residents raised some concerns about the prospect of a townhouse development going up in their neighborhood at a public meeting Monday night.

The meeting focused on the application by Halton Hills Village Homes to build 40 freehold townhouse units east of Mountainview Rd. between Argyll Rd. and McKinnon Ave. in Georgetown south. The property is a block within the previously registered Canada Homes plan of subdivision.

Planner for the town Glen Wellings said the property was originally targeted for a non-profit development, but that plan has been abandoned.

He explained the townhouses would be in blocks of six with a 20 ft setback from the road. The minimum size of each townhouse would be 950 sq. ft.

Barber Dr. resident Mike Jurcic said he didn't want the development in that area.

"I would be happy to welcome homes of equal or higher value to the area," said Jurcic. He added he was concerned that the high density population resulting from the townhouses would require public transportation, and he didn't want public transportation in that neighborhood.

Jurcic said he understood when he bought his home a commercial development was slated for that location.

Roman Lewchychyn, said he wasn't told when he bought his home there would be townhouses located there.

Wellings said the area had been identified for high density housing in the mid-80s, long before the homes went up in that area.

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