

Halton Hills could be split in boundary restructuring

By JANET BAINE
Staff Writer

The federal riding of Halton-Peel will likely change before the next election, according to MP Julian Reed.

The Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the province of Ontario filed its report with the Chief Electoral Officer last week.

Reed said he hasn't seen the report, which is not being released until next month. The last recommendation involved splitting the community of Halton Hills, so that it would become part of two different ridings, roughly dividing Acton and

Georgetown. Reed doesn't want to see this happen and said the new report might rectify this problem.

The commission held 17 days of hearings across Ontario, and everywhere it heard presentations from people who were not happy with the proposed changes, because communities were being divided.

At the same time, a bill in the Senate might make the entire exercise irrelevant, Reed said. Bill C-18 would suspend the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act until June 22, 1995, and could prevent any changes



JULIAN REED

from being made before the next federal election.

"This bill is on the front burner so far as we've been told," Reed said, but the Senate doesn't get back in session until October.

"The majority of the Senate (which is dominated by Conservatives) originally wanted to leave things as they were for the next election... We're hopeful that cooler heads will prevail," Reid said. He explained the Conservatives thought they would have a better chance of gaining an election victory if the boundaries don't change.

The current proposal would create six new seats, including two in Ontario. But Reed would prefer to see the parameters changed, so that each MP represents more voters. He said each MP costs about \$500,000 annually and adding six new representatives would add to the budget problems. In Canada one MP represents roughly 100,000 voters, but in Australia each elected official represents about 200,000 members.

"I don't think Australia is served any less-well than Canada," he said, but the costs are far less. In addition, Parliament Hill is becoming a crowded place, and Reed said there is no room for more politicians.

HALTON HILLS

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News

Digest

Jackson running

Add the name Jay Jackson to the list of those seeking a seat on council in the November 14 municipal election. Jackson, a nine-year resident, will challenge Kathy Gastle, Rob Heaton and Kevin Kuiack for one of two Ward Two council seats.

New homes

MPP Noel Duignan was to announce 140 new non-profit homes to be constructed under jobsOntario Homes in Halton Hills Friday afternoon. Forty of the units are to be constructed on the grounds of Georgetown Hospital and will include some long-awaited supportive housing, another 40 are to be part of Milltown Co-operative Homes Inc. and 60 will be through Halton Development and Non-Profit Housing Accommodation Corp.

Fall fair lost and found

Forgot your sweater, your coat or anything else at the Acton Fall Fair? A number of forgotten items were found on the grounds by fair volunteers last weekend, and can be claimed by calling fair board member Daniel Varanelli, at 853-4311.

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King for a day



35th anniversary celebration

King Russell, (a.k.a. Halton Hills mayor Russ Miller) listened intently as his trusty court jester read the final draft of a proclamation declaring the week of September 26 to October 1 Georgetown Little Theatre Week in Halton Hills. Mayor Russ, er... King Russell,

was joined by GLT member Donna Courneya to promote the week, which will feature GLT presentations in Georgetown Marketplace Mall, September 30 and October 1, in celebration of 35 years of theatre in Halton Hills.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Taxpayers could get even break

Beginning next year Halton Hills residents should be able to pay their realty taxes with equal monthly payments.

At the committee meeting Monday night committee authorized town staff to prepare a bylaw for council's approval to introduce the pre-authorized tax payment plan.

In his report to council town treasurer Andy Koopmans said due to the installation of the new auto-administrator computer in the finance department, improved software allows the town to offer improved service.

Under the proposed pre-authorized plan staff recommended the implementation of three types of plans, 10 installments for realty taxes, four installments for realty and business taxes, and a pre-authorized payroll deduction plan for town employees.

For those on the 10 installment plan the payment due for the month will be automatically deducted from the taxpayer's bank account.

Those on the four installment plan will also have the funds automatically withdrawn from their account, but only four times a year, on the due dates stipulated on the tax bills they receive.

"It is an easy method for ratepayers to make recurring payments without the necessity of cheque writing and meeting the ever rising costs of postage or the embarrassment of missed payments due to vacations etc.," said Koopmans.

He added people won't be allowed to participate in the plan unless their taxes are current.

Council is expected to pass the plan recommendation Monday.

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