

Standing room only at planning meeting

By Dianne Cornish

Developers, lawyers and consultants represented the bulk of the audience attending Wednesday night's public meeting to discuss the Urban Area Land Use Study for Georgetown and Acton and the Residential Implementation Study for the Acton Urban Area.

There was standing room only at the meeting held at the Civic Centre, in Georgetown. A small number of interested town residents also attended.

It became clear during the delegation stage, when 16 speakers addressed town council, that developers and their legal representatives were there to protect their respective development proposals.

The Urban Area Study, which offers a blueprint of residential and commercial planning for Georgetown and Acton for the next 20 years, drew most of the comments from delegations.

The Acton Urban Area Residential Implementation Study, which will serve as a guideline for consideration of draft plans of subdivision within servicing capacities identified by Halton Region, didn't raise as many questions or comments.

According to a report prepared last November by the town's planning director Ian Keith, "The priority for council should be the overall Land Use Study which sets the general policy framework to be followed by the Acton Residential Implementation Study."

The Urban Area Study recommends the establishment of a sub-regional shopping centre on the Dominion Seed property. The centre will include a department store and food store as anchor tenants and is designed to serve the population of Georgetown, which is expected to grow to 40,000 by 2011. It also recommends the Coscan Development proposal for a commercial shopping mall, with a food store, in Acton East. Acton's projected population over the next 20 years is 10,000.

Dominion Gardens representatives, Stanley Stein and planner Phil Weinstein, were generally in agreement with the Urban Area Study for development of the Guelph Street property, but asked for more room for its residential component. The plan for the overall development proposes mixed use, including a department store, food store and high and medium density residential.

"The plan says only 25 acres to work with in residential; we need 35," Weinstein said.

Georgetown lawyer Bert Arnold, representing Halton Hills Village Homes, made a pitch for a shopping centre in Georgetown South.

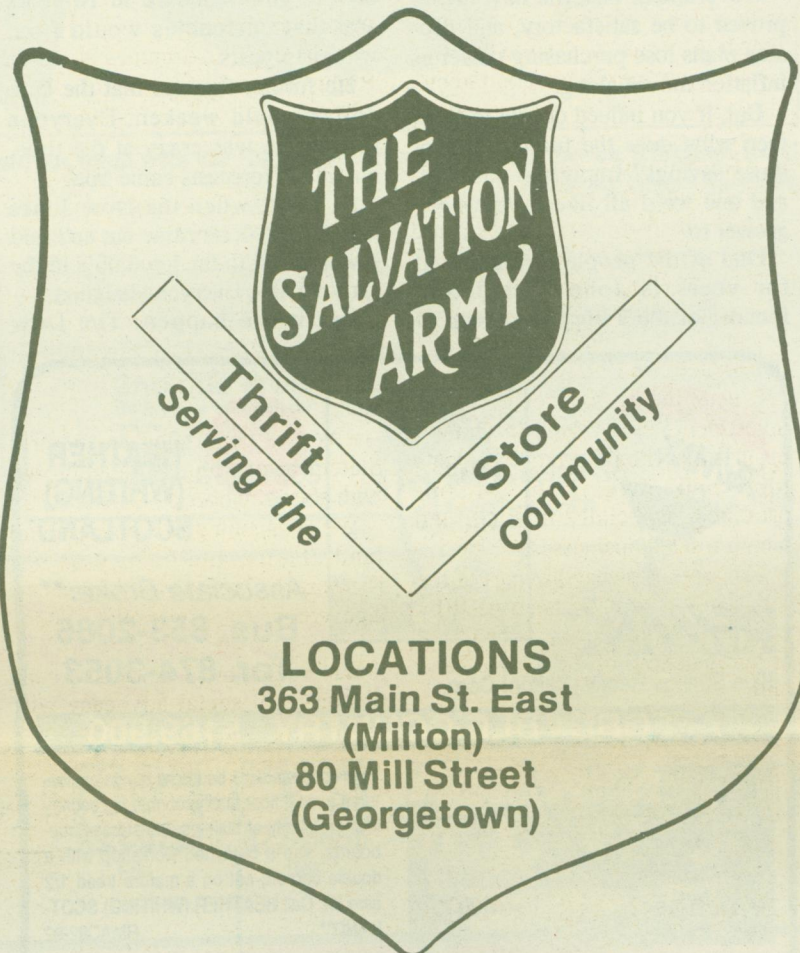
Saying it was "premature" to look at the Dominion Garden proposal "now or in the next review of Halton Hills Official Plan (OP)," Arnold said the OP, as it now stands, states that there be "no

redesignation of the Dominion Seed property without comprehensive planning, engineering and traffic studies." These haven't been done, he said.

Georgetown South would be a logical location for a future shopping centre because "that's where all the new demand (for retail development) is being generated from" and a facility in that part of town "will lessen Mountainview Road traffic," Arnold contended.

Paul Britton, a representative of Freure Management, objected to the report's recommendation that major commercial space be allotted to the Coscan proposal in Acton East.

Because of the many delegations at the meeting and the length of the presentations, council decided to debate the studies and make recommendations next Thursday at 5 p.m., in the Civic Centre.



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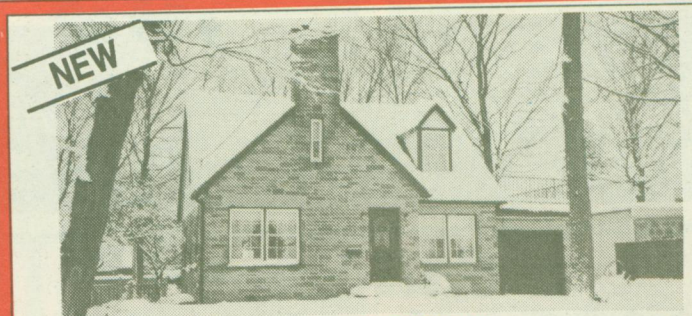


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DATE: Tuesday, January 19, 1993
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
PLACE: North Halton Golf & Country Club,
Maple & Trafalgar Rds, Georgetown

SEATING IS LIMITED TO 100 PEOPLE

Please call Bill Hopkins at 416-873-2381 or Pete Masson at 416-877-7216 to reserve your seat

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