

# Townhall meeting gets bogged down in rhetoric

By Jamie Harrison

Over 100 people gathered at Acton High School's cafetorium Wednesday night, for a special townhall meeting called by Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner.

Turner called the meeting to discuss the future Acton in relation to the possible permanent closure of the olde Hide House and related stores and other community issues.

Turner started off the meeting by updating the crowd concerning the future of the olde Hide House, saying he had just come from a meeting with olde Hide House owner Steve Dawkins, and would be working closely with Dawkins to resolve the issues surrounding the closing of the olde Hide House and its related stores.

"The olde Hide House companies are not finished. It is a serious matter but there is still hope," Turner said, adding that new bankruptcy laws in Canada may be used to help restructure the Acton landmarks.

"I don't know if I'm going to be successful with what I've been asked to do. Its going to take co-



Garth Turner

operation."

Several Acton business owners were at the meeting and expressed concern at the possible loss of the olde Hide House stores.

Also at the meeting were councillors Rick Bonette and Norm Elliott, as well as P.O.W.E.R.'s Barb Halsall.

Halsall expressed concern that the possible development in Acton could lead to increased pollution in

Black Creek.

"P.O.W.E.R. has no wish to halt development in Acton or to influence what developer proceeds first," she pointed out.

She also implored area residents to use water saving devices such as low-flow showerheads and reduced water capacity toilets.

Elliott then addressed the gathering saying that water saving devices and rainwater collection systems had been written into the subdivision agreements for each of the 800 housing units approved for Acton East.

The rest of the meeting mainly centered on the future of Acton and where the area's water supply should come from, with Elliott and Halsall trading facts and figures concerning various proposals for the area.

Elliott then asked that the adversarial relationship between P.O.W.E.R. and both the town and region end, and that a new era of co-operation begin centering on what is best for Halton Hills.

Apparently one Acton resident



Norm Elliott

was not impressed with the meeting, questioning Turner for calling the gathering a "townhall meeting", then asking about the effectiveness of such a forum.

Turner countered by giving the historical significance of such a meeting and said that it gave him an opportunity to hear the problems of the community he represents.

After spending much of the evening on the issue of Acton's

water supply, Turner then reiterated what he had said at the beginning of the meeting about the closing of the olde Hide House and its effect of local businesses and tourism.

Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce president Bob Malcolmson then spoke saying that since the Chamber office opened in Georgetown, they had been deluged by calls about the olde Hide House from out-of-town tourists. He then made an impassioned plea to the crowd saying: "You've got a business that just shut down that will effect five per cent of the population base. If you lose the olde Hide House, you lose a lot of other business. Nobody is going to fight for Halton Hills except the people who live here."

The mood of the people exiting the meeting seemed to be mixed. On the one hand, glad that people were working behind the scenes to help Acton, while on the other hand still apprehensive about the future of their community.

*Halton Hills This*

# WEEKEND

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## Region uses "unique" process to select waste water site

By Oksana Buhel

Staff from the Halton Region Public Works Department were on hand at the Town of Halton Hills Civic Centre Monday to answer questions regarding a proposed additional waste water truck facility which is to be built in Halton Hills. Currently, there is one such

facility in the Silver Creek valley, but it has inadequate sewage capacity for the development of Georgetown West and the western portion of Georgetown South.

The public information centre ended the third stage of the class environmental assessment process. One more stage remains

before construction, operation and monitoring of the facility begins. Seven proposed sites were described, along with their degrees of suitability. The Region's recommended concept was gravity sewers along Black Creek, terminating at a pumping station at Black Creek Valley and Main St., from which flows will be pumped, via a force main on Main St. and a gravity sewer through the future Georgetown South subdivision development, to the sanitary sewer system at Mountainview Road.

Paul Robinson, member of the Silver Creek Environmental Association, agrees the chosen site has minimal environmental

impact and saves ratepayers the most amount of money. "However, I still have some ques-

tions regarding the cumulative environmental assessment process," he added.

## Pomeroy faces third charge

By Colin Gibson

For embattled Halton Region Chairman - and Norval resident - Peter Pomeroy, Tuesday was not the best of days.

He appeared in provincial division court in Oakville Tuesday to answer to corruption charges laid by Project 80 - a provincial investigative unit established to look into municipal corruption - shortly after appearing in Milton where he was jointly charged with former Georgetown developer Ab Tennant on a third charge of breach of trust.

Pomeroy had previously been charged with two counts of breach of trust and two counts of accepting a secret commission by Project 80 investigators.

Pomeroy's wife of six months Pat Crimmins (Halton deputy clerk),

Tennant and Georgetown Lawyer Bert Arnold had previously been charged with offering a secret commission.

On Tuesday, on the initial charges, the four were remanded to March 16.

Pomeroy was not returning call to Halton Hills This Week (nor did he reply to a fax request for comments) but in an interview with a Burlington Spectator reporter Tuesday he said he was "terribly disappointed" the trial on the initial charges won't get under way this year.

Pomeroy's lawyer, Bill MacDonald of Mississauga, said, "He (Pomeroy) plans to keep his job, plead not guilty, and fight the thing right to the wall. He doesn't feel guilty, and he's not going to plead guilty."

## No takers for locals Hudson and Bennett

By Colin Gibson

The National Hockey League's seventh expansion draft was held Thursday in Quebec City - to stock new league entries Anaheim Mighty Ducks and Florida Panthers - and two area hockey products were no doubt viewing the proceedings with more than a passing interest.

Both Rockwood's Mike Hudson and Georgetown's Adam Bennett

were left unprotected by their respective clubs - Edmonton Oilers and Chicago Blackhawks - and could have found themselves basking in balmy climes.

Hudson, a journeyman forward picked up by Edmonton from the Blackhawks (who reportedly showed up with a tender shoulder and saw little ice-time) would likely have welcomed the change in venue, while Bennett, a defenseman, was

likely a little shaken.

In an earlier interview with Halton Hills This Week, Bennett said he had been assured by management he was considered part of Chicago's future plans and would be protected.

The duo could still change addresses anyway.

The second part of the expansion draft (Phase II) went Friday afternoon, after HHTW went to press.

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