

Three-year-old Michael Tanti was enjoying the sun and his toy boat on the beach last Saturday on Fairy Lake at Acton Prospect Park. photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

"Bureaucratic jackasses" stall Acton progress

By Oksana Buhel

Various extremes of opinion concerning Acton development were expressed at the public meeting of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing Monday at the Town of Halton Hills Civic Centre. Izaak Walton, of the Fly Fisherman's Association, said he fully supported the view of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Ministry of Energy and the Environment (MOEE) and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), while Acton businessman Ted Tyler called DFO representatives "bureaucratic jackasses."

Walton, who has worked on projects with Halton Region Department of Public Works, the MNR and the MOEE, explained Black Creek has the highest concentration of brook trout in southern Ontario. He compared the fish habitat issue with canaries used in coal mines to check if the mines were fit for humans. "If the canaries died, the people got out," Walton explained. "It's the same with the trout. If the trout go, the people will fol-

low closely."

Walton claimed he was not against development, but insisted studies were necessary before development begins. "I am concerned this OMB meeting dealing with Acton does not make any contravention to the Fisheries Act."

He defended MOEE's decision to allow development in increments of 1,000, assuming studies show Black

Creek and fish within it are not affected by increased pumping of the Prospect Park well, by stating the 10,000 population goal is not necessary to achieve all at once. "Things aren't going to happen that fast," he said. "They haven't in the past, and they won't in the future."

Town of Halton Hills solicitor, Roger Beaman, pointed out Walton was incorrectly assuming the

town had heard from the MNR.

Speakers following Walton were less supportive of the provincial and federal agencies.

Acton resident Theo Ancker, claimed he was being "blackmailed by the conservation people" for his Main St. property, which he claimed was the only remaining private land crossed by

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Water extension approved by region

By Oksana Buhel

Residents of the Sixth Line/20 Side Road area in Halton Hills will finally receive a municipally-piped water extension, despite the fact they are outside the urban boundary. During last Wednesday's Halton Regional council meeting, bylaw 103-93 was introduced, briefly discussed, and carried.

"I'm surprised," admitted Regional Planning and Public Works Chair, and Town of Halton Hills Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson. "Nobody said a word about it." Serjeantson explained several council-

ors, including Burlington Mayor Walter Mulkeewich and Burlington Councillor Joyce Savoline, had previously objected to the pumping of municipal water outside an urban boundary, but both were not present at the regional meeting to vote on the bylaw.

Serjeantson explained some individuals are concerned that if water is pumped outside urban boundaries, more subdivisions will be constructed in the area, and the urban boundary will expand by default. She admitted councillors must be firm about the way they monitor the sit-

uation.

Other individuals believe Halton Hills is experiencing a water shortage and cannot afford to allocate water outside the urban boundary.

Serjeantson said area residents are already buying water out of the system, but the water is being transported by trucks. "These people are experiencing a crisis situation in their lifestyle," she said. Area residents will be paying for the pipe, which Serjeantson believes "will not be a horrendous amount of money." However, an agreement must still be made with the region regarding the details of construction.

Halton Hills

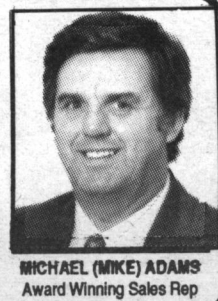
THIS WEEK

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Halton Hills invited to join unique environment program

By Oksana Buhel

Halton Hills has been invited by the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MOEE) to participate in a neighborhood composting program, to increase the number of individuals promoting and participating in backyard composting.

"This is a very different project," explained Sudhir Khanna, project advisor for the Waste Reduction Office of MOEE. "Halton Hills will be a composting demonstration site." Currently, there are only three other demonstration sites in Ontario - the closest being Brampton.

The invitation was issued after Wastewise, located on Armstrong Ave. in Georgetown, had applied for funding to the MOEE. Initially, the application was rejected because it was addressed incorrectly to the

Research and Technology Branch. The application was then forwarded to the Waste Reduction Office, and the invitation was subsequently issued.

In a letter addressed to Paul Sargent, Town of Halton Hills refuse reduction co-ordinator, Khanna wrote "funding is available for eligible items." Khanna explained he was not sure what the items will be, until he meets next Wednesday with Halton Hills town staff and Diane van de Valk of Wastewise.

"We will have to deter-

mine how interested Halton Hills is before we come to an agreement (regarding funding)," Khanna said. This contradicts van de Valk's written claim "the cost to the Town will be limited to minimal staff time only."

After the Wednesday meeting, an approval process will begin during which time an application will be submitted by the municipality to the Waste Reduction Office, which will be assessed, and responded to. Khanna could not provide a deadline by which the process would be

completed.

Wastewise is currently conducting neighborhood composting programs, which began at the start of the summer. Block representatives are chosen to encourage their neighbors to compost, and to answer any questions they may have. Ellen Froemmel, a summer student working at Wastewise, said 27 per cent of Halton Hills residents are composting. "Through our program, we'd like to increase this number to 40," she said.

Khanna claimed he did not know Wastewise already had a program in place. Asked if the existing program is only a skeleton program which Wastewise wants to improve through funding, or if this is the finalized program, Khanna responded he will find out after the scheduled meeting.



Diane van de Valk

Police Auction



Two-year-old Benjamin Green saw the potential for an excellent swing in this rubber tire last Friday during the Halton Regional Police District 1 auction held at Gordon Alcott arena. photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

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