

Duane Wilson of the Dawgs yanks the flags from Meznic Electric's Rob Spiteri ending a fine kickoff return in Georgetown Mens Flag Football League action last Sunday at GDHS. League-leading Dawgs downed Meznic 36-13. For game stories, please see page 19. photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

## OMB pausing to sort through material

By Oksana Buhel

Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearings have paused until this coming Thursday, but meetings are planned between those involved, to sort through information and clarify definitions.

A meeting has been scheduled Aug. 10 between representatives of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Ministry of Energy and the Environment (MOEE), Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) municipal and regional town staff and Acton East developers.

"We're meeting to figure out what the DFO means by 'status quo' with respect to water quality," explained Benson Leung, manager of special studies and research for Halton Region. "It means many things to many people," he said. Three types of water will be affected by development - waste water, ground water and storm water.

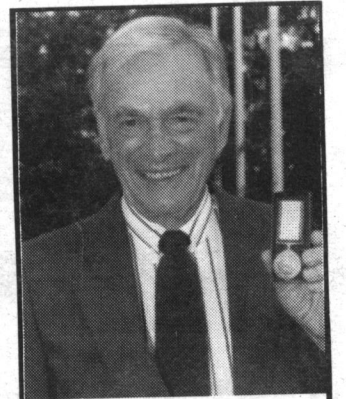
Another issue to be discussed at the Aug. 10 meeting is liability in the case of

increased effluents in Black Creek. Leung seemed confident the sewage treatment plant would be able to manage increased development. "The plant performs very well," he insisted. "We've consistently improved every aspect of its sewage treatment capability."

If the Aug. 10 meeting is successful, Leung hopes the MOEE will issue a permit to take water. This may enable development to take place simultaneously with the region's two-year study, required by the DFO. Wes Lammers, special projects co-ordinator for the MOEE, will return to the OMB hearing Aug. 16 to interpret the ministry's position.

If everything goes according to plan, Leung anticipates the region will be able to issue authorization for 80 new units during the first year. This is a change from the predicted 480 new units which, along with the 520 units already approved, would make up the 1,000 unit allotment previously favored by MOEE. "It's better if we commit to smaller numbers," Leung explained.

"We don't need all the development at once, and it'll be easier for the creek to handle 80 units than 480."



Ted Lang, Halton Hills resident, and past chair of the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada, proudly displays the commemorative medal he received at Monday's Town of Halton Hills council meeting, for his 25-year volunteer work. The medal was presented by Mayor Russ Miller on behalf of Governor-General Ray Hnatyshyn. Asked if he is still involved with the association, Lang, an honorary director, responded, "Oh yeah, I'm still there."

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Vol. 2, No. 4
Saturday, July 31, 1993
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## Official Plan Amendments hotly contested at special council meeting

By Oksana Buhel

The newly-formed Mill-Dayfoot-Chapel (M-D-C) Neighbourhood Ratepayers Association claimed a victory at Thursday evening's Town of Halton Hills council meeting.

Councillors voted to defer Official Plan Amendment (OPA) 48, dealing with Mill St. and the Memorial Arena area, until the association has a chance to provide further response to town staff's recommendations.

Councillor Gail Rutherford was unbending in her support for the M-D-C group. She questioned town consultant Wendy Nott on whether the concerns of the group had been addressed, which Lawson Oates, spokesperson for the association, listed to council members July 21 and again Monday evening.

Issues included rezoning; number of access points to the proposed development; preservation of Sacre Coeur Church; maintenance of current green space and the outdoor pool and the arena, until another arena is constructed; special consideration of residences bordering the arena and integration of the M-L-C group in further planning processes.

Nott addressed each concern individually, but many of her replies referred back to information in the 1991



Gail Rutherford

Urban Area Study, which she felt "adequately addressed the issue."

Rutherford recommended the arena site could be better used as a grocery store, especially because of its proximity to the GO Train station.

Councillor Anne Currie and Mayor Russ Miller felt this would be contradicting the concerns of the ratepayers association, as it would increase traffic flow.

Discussion continued before councillors agreed to defer OPA 48 until Aug. 9. OPA 46, dealing with

downtown policies for Acton and Georgetown, was also contested. "I think the downtown policies are really good," admitted Rutherford, "but I cannot support this amendment because of its reference to one building."

(The proposed height of the MacKenzie/Ferraro building is to exceed maximum height restrictions for the rest of the downtown core.) She addressed the issue of road widening, and was told by Nott a Ministry of Transportation study is to be done for this area.

"Are you referring to the



Bruce MacLean

same study which has been chopped out because of the social contract?" Ward 2 Councillor Heaton challenged. Municipal deputy planner Bruce MacLean responded by saying he "did not believe"

any studies already in the system would be chopped out.

The amendment was ultimately carried.

The Dominion Seed House property, generally bounded by Maple Ave., Mountainview Rd. and Guelph St. in Georgetown, also came under hot debate.

The lands, currently designated agricultural, were proposed for a special mixed-use node, which would include residential, retail commercial, office, community, transit, parks and open space uses.

"I think to designate such a large portion of land for commercial use is premature," insisted Rutherford. "In these economic times, such a designation is unprecedented." Prior to the proposed amendment, the designation for the majority of the property was "held in limbo," until a specification was required. Rutherford added if three commercial nodes were formed, the smallest one (the downtown core) would die, and she promised "not to vote on anything which will leave downtown unprotected."

Continued on page 3

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