



Let Acton grow

John Reeve, owner of Leathertown Feed Supply in Acton, shares the view of many frustrated Acton residents. The Ontario Municipal Board hearing will end in approximately two weeks, by which time the fate of Acton should be decided. "I believe there is lots of water in Acton for the town to grow," Reeve insisted.

photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

Niagara Escarpment Commission fights back

By Oksana Buhel

Disturbed by a report by Ministry of Energy and the Environment (MOEE) officers in March, the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) released its own recommendations for a revised Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP).

The recommendations, entitled "Renewing the Vision," were submitted Monday to provincial Environment Minister Bud Wildman, as a final contribution to a five-year review of Canada's first large-scale environmental land use plan. Wildman will use the information to present his own proposals to the Ontario cabinet.

NEC members were concerned hearing officers Mary Munro and John McLellan focused on Plan implementation and administrative issues instead of adhering to

the terms of reference set out in 1990, at the beginning of the Plan review, by former Minister of the Environment Jim Bradley. One administrative issue of particular concern was the proposed delegation of development control to municipalities.

Delegation of controls to municipalities a concern

Another issue of discontent was the constant referral of the officers to the development-oriented Planning Act, which varies substantially from the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act.

NEC members rejected approximately 20 per cent of the recommendations made by Munro and McLellan. Another 42 proposals, deal-

ing with the administration of the NEP, are still being studied by NEC, before another report is submitted to Wildman.

Some of the suggestions listed in "Renewing the Vision" include; alleviation of bans on recreational ponds, but tighter controls on their placement and construction; improved protection of historic sites and structures; permission of commercial uses accessory to agriculture (i.e. cottage wineries); allowing retirement lots for farmers; less lot creation by land severance and no plans of subdivision in the Escarpment Rural area; a ban on new pits and quarries; recognition of the importance of the Bruce Trail in providing public access to the Escarpment and changes to strengthen the Niagara Escarpment Parks System.

Halton Hills

THIS WEEK

Vol. 2, No. 10 Wednesday, September 1, 1993

24 pages

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Heritage Conservation District in the Glen?

In 1990, Halton Hills town council enacted a by-law defining a portion of Glen Williams as a Study Area for a possible Heritage Conservation District. The bylaw was initiated at the request of L.A.C.A.C., (now called Heritage Halton Hills) and residents of Glen Williams interested in the unique historic character of the village.

A Heritage Conservation District is mandated through the Ontario Heritage Act and is concerned with the protection and enhancement of groups of properties that collectively give an area a special character. This character could be derived from individual properties which may be of architectural or historical interest but also from the overall historic and aesthetic values of buildings, streets and open spaces seen together.

Since the enactment of the Study Area bylaw, Heritage Halton Hills has been proceeding slowly, with its own resources, researching the history of Glen Williams, its buildings

and its founders. It has also been looking into the process of a District Designation to find out the impact it could have on property owners and the methods available for preserving village character. Last summer, this work involved the compilation of an inventory of buildings, infrastructure and landscape features to be used as reference catalogue for future historic research.

This year, Heritage Halton Hills has again been able to hire Tom Wilson, a University of Waterloo Architecture student, to begin work on the second stage of the Heritage District Study. This stage will provide a draft technical report to examine the affects of planning and engineering policies (like road improvements and municipal servicing) as well as the impact of guidelines and possible implementation strategies for a Heritage Conservation District Designation.

Why is so much time being spent on the study? Although the Ontario

Heritage Act provides regulations regarding Heritage Conservation Districts, the municipality needs to spend time identifying what features are most important to the District and what guidelines are most appropriate to their conservation. Because every Heritage District is unique many of the guidelines need to be developed from first principles.

Heritage Halton Hills is also a volunteer Committee of Council and members cannot always afford full-time commitment to the project. The solution has been to break the project down into smaller pieces completing a series of smaller studies. Now it looks as if most of the research is complete.

The Committee is hoping to hold a public meeting at the Glen Town Hall on Sept. 9 to present findings and recommendations and get feedback from residents before proceeding with a possible recommendation to Town Council for a Heritage District Designation.



Reed tosses hat into ring

Julian Reed, Liberal candidate for the riding of Halton Peel, seemed to enjoy performing the ribbon-cutting to open his federal election campaign headquarters located at 122 Guelph Street in Georgetown. Pictured at the ribbon-cutting ceremony (from left), is Kay Lawson campaign helper, Julian Reed, Rud Whiting, campaign helper, Alice Walker, campaign helper, and Don Boudria MP for the federal riding of Glengarry-Prescott-Russell.

photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

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