

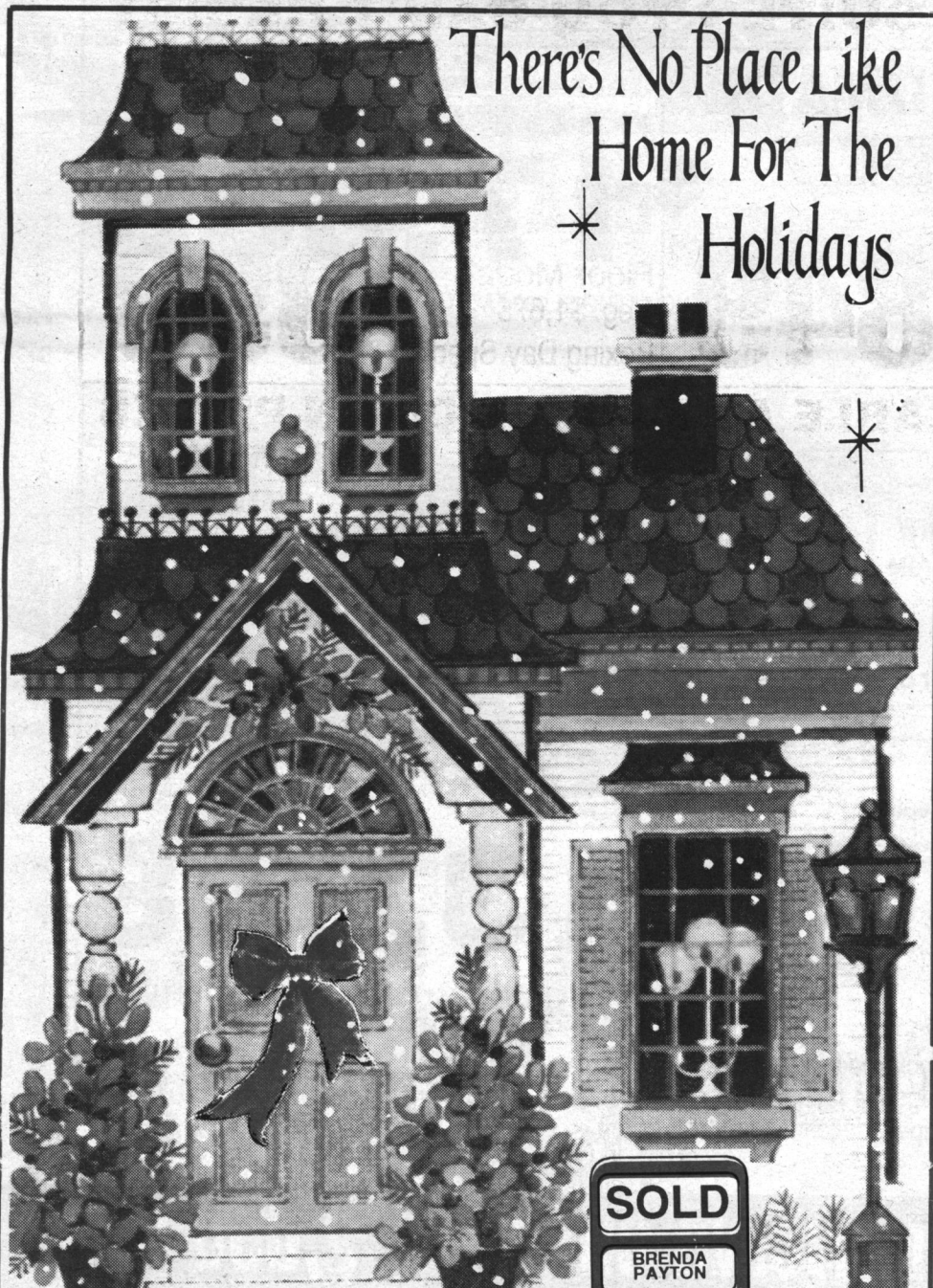


Largest scout troop

1st Ashgrove Scout Troop is the largest in the North Halton District. The Troop grew from six Scouts and one Leader in 1992 to 20 Scouts and four Leaders in 1993. 1st Ashgrove is a very active Troop both at regular meetings and District events. D.C. Steve Thompson and A.D.C. John Sharples invested all new Scouts and new Leader, Bernie Coyle.

photo by Jean Layman

Halton Hills This Week Classifieds...
Get Results 873-2254



There's No Place Like
 Home For The
 Holidays

Here's hoping yours is filled
 with joy. My very best wishes
 to all!

Brenda Payton

ARTHUR F.
**JOHNSON &
 ASSOCIATES**
 LTD., REALTOR

Res. 877-7578
 Bus. 877-5165



Brenda Payton
 Sales Representative



Halton gets bigger say in planning

By David Stover
 Special to HHTW

The Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs has announced a reform of the provincial planning and development system that will streamline the planning process, ensure better environmental protection and give local municipalities a greater say in development decisions.

Rash Mohammed, commissioner of planning and development for Halton region, said the reforms - currently on the table for public comment before legislation is expected to be introduced next spring - will give municipalities a bigger role in the planning process.

"It will put more burden (on municipalities) but the decisions will remain here at least," he said.

Under the proposed new system, "land use decisions will be made more at a local level," Mohammed said. As well, the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) will no longer hear appeals of minor variances.

The result, Mohammed suggested, will be that local municipalities will have to be more careful in balancing different community interests as they make land use decisions.

"It will be a challenge for councils to balance off these diverse interests," Mohammed said.

"Municipalities will be

forced to consider planning consequences (and) won't be able to blame the province."

Under the proposed new system, each level of government's responsibilities will be more carefully defined. According to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, "the provincial government will set policy, municipal governments will make development decisions and the Ontario Municipal Board will resolve disputes."

As part of the reforms, the provincial government will streamline its process for dealing with municipalities, and will also integrate and harmonize its policies on different land use issues, Mohammed said. For instance, the province will have to think out how land use policies affecting housing can be integrated and harmonized with those affecting agricultural land or energy and water conservation.

"It's a rather good attempt to integrate these policy statements so you don't have conflicts among them," Mohammed said of the provincial reforms. "Things will be more in coordination with each other. All the municipalities' plans must conform to the regional plan and it must conform to provincial policies."

Because the province will be coming up with defined, binding policies in six major areas - mineral resources,

energy and water conservation, agricultural land, housing, community development and infrastructure, and the protection of an hazards to natural heritage and ecosystems - municipalities will find it easier to apply these policies to local development decisions under the new system, Mohammed said.

"When a provincial policy statement is approved (under the proposed new system) it becomes a requirement in law," Mohammed said. "The municipality must follow it. It is not optional."

But Mohammed said the fact provincial policies will be better defined is a plus for municipalities. "It makes the decision-making framework easier," he said. "At least you know what the provincial interest is."

And, he noted, municipalities will then have more freedom to decide how to actually implement the broad policy guidelines in relation to specific development issues.

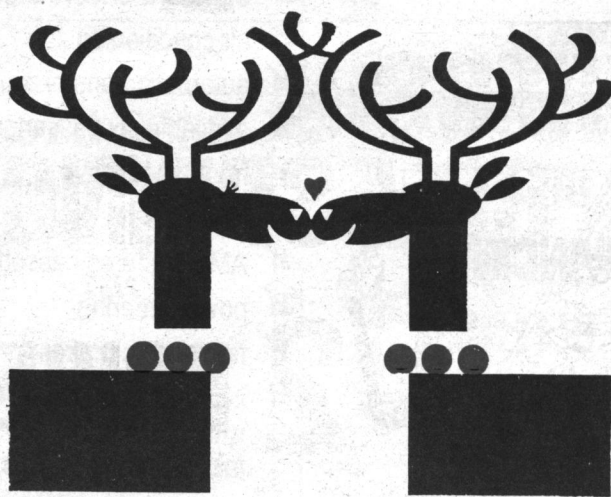
The provincial initiative is a reaction to the Commission on Planning and Development Reform, created by the Ontario government two years ago and headed by John Sewell, former Mayor of Toronto. That commission submitted its report last June.

In making its announcement of the planning and development reforms, the province also released proposed land use statements that will govern planning and development. Public comment on those statements is welcomed until March 14, 1994.

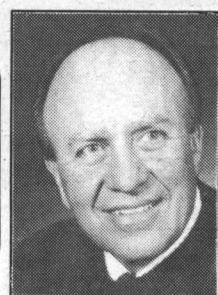
Full texts of the statements can be obtained by contacting the Ministry of Municipal Affairs' consultation project office at (416) 585-6226.

GREETINGS

*May your homes
 be filled
 with joy.*



GLEND A HUGHES
 Sales Representative



JOHN HILL
 Sales Representative

ARTHUR F.
**JOHNSON &
 ASSOCIATES**
 LTD., REALTOR

Blue Box bucks

Noel Duignan, Halton North MPP, announced last Friday a payment of \$148,693 has been made to the regional municipality of Halton for its Blue Box program. The payment is part of a total grant of \$1,521,400. The funding, announced on behalf of Environment and Energy Minister Bud Wildman, is made available under the Municipal Recycling Support Program.

"I am pleased to announce this grant to Halton", Duignan said. "This project has the potential to further promote 3Rs activities in this area. Today, more than three million households in Ontario use the Blue Box to recycle materials that once went directly to landfill sites."

The municipality will use the funds to help pay for the cost of processing and getting the materials ready for market that were collected through its Blue Box program.