Poor turnout for land use meeting

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

There were more Town staff and consultants than members of the public on hand at last week's open house to unveil options for development in Acton. Only three citizens showed up at the open house at the Acton arena to see the Town's consultant's preferred choices for development in town.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette speculated the poor turnout could be blamed on the fact that the Ontario Municipal Board will probably have to decide where growth will be allowed. "There is some concern with the turnout but with everybody going to the Board maybe there wasn't any point to coming to this open house. With a

Monday-Wednesday

Thursday-Friday

Saturday

Sunday

lot of Acton developers referring everything to the OMB to make the final decisions they may have thought there was no reason to come here."

Halton Hills deputy planning director Bruce MacLean said the focus for growth in Acton is on the east side of town. "By the year 2001, if our preferred option is approved by council, most of the new growth will occur east of Churchill Road both north and south of Highway 7. The development will include low and medium density housing, parkland and school sites. This is all within the framework of a total population of 10,000."

MacLean says they are expect-

9 am to 7 pm

9 am to 8 pm

9 am to 6 pm

Noon to 4 pm

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ing submissions from developers saying their land should have been chosen and they hope the public will comment on the plan before the end of the month.

MacLean says if the preferred options were approved as submitted the Acton of the future would include a re-enforced downtown area with some development around it. There would also be a concentration of growth, residential and commercial, in Acton east, where a new neighbourhood would develop, including 25,000 square feet of supermarket space and a new shopping centre.

Following review of any submissions, Town staff hope to have a report for Council in November.

Smith Report

BY MATT, SHANNON AND SHAWN

Last week, we kicked off our chocolate bar fundraiser to raise money for such stuff as: computers, sports equipment, uniforms and school trips. We will be selling them during the month of September. If you see a student please

This year, we have many new

McKenzie-

buy one. Thanks for your support.

teachers at McKenzie-Smith. Here they are: Mr. Walker replacing Mr. Murray, Mrs. Kellor replacing Mrs. Richards, Mr. Tadeson replacing Mr. Straw, Mr. Kramer replacing Mr. Pinkerton, Mrs. Massie replacing Mrs. Nodwell and Miss MacDougal replacing Mrs. Pennock. We will miss the teachers who have left our school, but we welcome the new.

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POWER member Joan Davison shows off one of the environmentalyfriendly products she picked up at the recent Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. (Frances Niblock photo)

Power member returns from Rio

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The road from Rio was not easy for north Halton environmentalist Joan Davison.

"I had to buy another suitcase in Brazil to bring home all of the information I picked up at the earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro," Davison laughed as she unloaded some of the brochures, studies and reports at Acton's McKenzie-Smith Wednesday night.

Davison was the guest speaker at the fall meeting of Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER), whose members are still celebrating last week's decision by the Environmental Assessment Board that derailed, at least for now, plans to build a landfill in an Acton quarry.

In an interview before her presentation Davison said the dump decision proves the "little guys" can make a big difference.

"The feeling of most of the nongovernmental people in Rio was that if anything is going to get done to save the environment it will come at the grassroots level. The ordinary people will have to fight this fight because governments are too caught up in the

power structures that are causing the problems in the first place," Davison explained.

"It's only many, many little people, like POWER members, who are willing to change their lifestyles that in the end will make a difference. RSI is not going to go away. Fighting damaging proposals is a life-time job."

POWER president Barbara Halsall cautioned members at the meeting not to give up the fight against the RSI proposal.

"RSI could appeal the decision. It could ask for a judicial review or it could go back and fill in the applications as it was told to. We have delayed them but they could be back in six months to a year with another application."

Halsall urged the group to maintain the fight against RSI and suggested the best plan was to support MPP Noel Duignan's private member's bill that would ban waste disposal in the Niagara Escarpment areas.

Davison echoed Halsall's appeal not to give up the fight. "You have to be willing to just keep on and keep on until the powers that be, see sense."

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