



ANNUAL FUND-RAISER: Senior Liberal party member Paul Martin, middle, was guest speaker at Thursday evening's annual Halton-Peel Federal Liberal Association fund-raising dinner at Jack Tanner's Table. He is flanked by Halton-Peel nominated candidate Julian Reed, left, and Peter Duffus, president of the Halton-Peel Federal Riding Association. It was the third year Jack Tanner's has hosted the dinner. (Doug Harrison photo)

Tower site search will continue

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
Rogers Cantel Inc. will not build a communications tower in Acton without the support of local residents, the mayor and Council.

Cantel spokesman C.B. Ross made the pledge at a meeting Thursday with home owners in the Dublin Line-Highway 7 area who successfully fought against a 340-foot tower in their agricultural community.

"We don't want to put the money into soil tests and surveys just to find again that the location won't work for everybody," Ross said.

"Before I get to that point I want to make sure that we have the site where we are going to build. I encourage anyone who might have other suggestions to talk to us."

The residents, with politicians' support, convinced Cantel to look for an alternate site that would have less impact on fewer people.

Cantel is now looking at five possible locations for a 300-foot tower in the Highway 25 and 25 Sideroad area.

Ross told the crowd of 75 at the second public meeting on the issue, that he appreciated their help in finding a suitable area.

"We have had some excellent luck in searching the area south of the town which is scarcely populated," Ross said.

"The main thing is to find a site

as soon as possible that is more acceptable. Acton needs the improved cellular service but we don't want to build the tower at anyone's expense."

One proposed site is the town-owned South Springs well which was abandoned by the Town because of contamination problems.

Ross said the site is a little small but Cantel is doing tests to see if it could be used. Two other proposed sites are on the east side of Highway 25, south of 25 Sideroad. Two sites owned by Maple Leaf Mills are also being investigated, one on the south side of 25 Sideroad, west of Highway 25 and the second north of 25 Sideroad, east of Highway 25.

Mayor Russ Miller said residents living near the new proposed sites will have a chance to comment on the plan.

"This is definitely going to take the problem away from the Dublin Line-Highway 7 area, but it's going to put in someone else's area where there might be less impact," Miller said.

Following the meeting, Dublin Line group spokesperson Dr. Ron Trenton said their successful campaign showed the political process works.

"The points we brought up are legitimate and we tried to present them the best we could."

NEC criticized for lack of vision

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette says he feels "vindicated" by a report released last week that attacks the Niagara Escarpment

Commission (NEC) for not having a suitable vision for the escarpment.

"I was criticized, personally attacked and told to resign by ratepayers upset with my stance that development control over NEC land should be turned over to Halton Region," Bonnette said in an interview Thursday.

"This independent, unbiased review (conducted by members of the Environmental Assessment Board) proves that the NEC is just what I said it was — inconsistent, arbitrary and confrontative."

The report, based on a massive public review of the escarpment plan, said the Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP) and all municipal official plans should be brought into conformity to allow the Province

to "rapidly" fulfill its original intention to delegate implementation to the municipalities.

"Those opposing the shift in development control power are paranoid that the change would weaken the Plan.

"This report makes it clear that would not happen and, in fact, shifting control would allow the NEC to do what it was set up to do: monitoring, research and education," Bonnette said.

The report also found insufficient evidence to support many of the NEC's proposals for new restrictions, including a prohibition of new sand and gravel pits and stone quarries, and making it almost impossible to build subdivisions on the 150,000 acres of rural escarpment land.

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Site plans approved

Town Council has approved site plans for owners of two neighbouring Acton businesses, one of which jumped the gun and opened before even applying for proper zoning.

Council has legitimized operations at the Big Scoop ice cream parlour on the north-west corner of Mill and Wilbur Streets, where former owner Claudio Orticello opened for business without going through the proper process.

Town administrative assistant Stephen Thomas said, "he

(Orticello) took unfair advantage of the system by opening without even applying for zoning approval, but he did come in with his applications when we told him what was required," Thomas said in an interview Thursday.

Council also approved a site plan agreement that allows the conversion of a house on the north-east corner of Mill and Wilbur Streets into a restaurant.

The owner, Carol Brunelle, has plans to open a 30-seat, licensed restaurant with an outdoor patio.

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