

Town future 'scary'

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

"It's scary."

That is Halton planner Robert White's assessment of the stringent new water quality and quantity controls Acton faces as it searches for water and sewage capacity for growth.

"The new rules mean it could cost a substantial amount of money to improve the Acton sewage treatment plant," said White, in Acton on Thursday for a public meeting on the draft Regional Official Plan, Halton's development blueprint.

Halton is expected to grow by more than half-a-million people over the next 40 years, with most of that development in north Oakville and Milton.

Now, the limited growth proposed for Acton — 2,500 people — is in jeopardy because of concerns about trout.

Effluent from the Acton water treatment plant is discharged into Black Creek, which has been reclassified as a cold water stream by the Provincial Department of

Fisheries (DOF).

White said the plant would have to be expanded and upgraded to improve the quality of the discharge under new DOF criteria.

"All of the planning for Acton has been based on improving the water supply and that's where all the effort has been going. That was based on the assumption that Black Creek was a warm water stream," White explained.

"The Ministry of Environment told Halton 10 years ago that we didn't need to expand the treatment plant to go to 10,000 people. Now Fisheries says Black Creek trout must be protected by improving what we put into the creek.

"We can do that. The issue now is who is going to pay," White said.



FIVE STAR BOYS: The First Ospringe Cubs gathered at Ospringe Public School last Wednesday evening for an awards presentation, fun and games and to paint wooden Easter eggs. Receiving their Five-Star awards were 10-year-old third-year members, from left to right, Rory Tooke of Ballinafad, Lars Bredahl of Acton and Jeremy Hallett of Ballinafad. (Doug Harrison photo)

AHS grads gather on April 24

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The upcoming reunion of Acton High's first graduates has sparked international interest with RSVPs to the 15-year party arriving from as far away as Australia and Germany.

Over 100 of the first grads will reminisce about 1978-79 and compare lives and hair lines at reunion on Saturday, April 24.

The get-together is the brain-child of grad Deb James, of Durham, who recruited Acton's Patti Gordon, and others, to help organize the school tour, open house and dance.

"I'm getting excited about who is coming," Gordon said in an interview last Wednesday. "And there's always the anticipation of who will surprise us and come at the end."

Gordon said former and current teachers have been invited and grad Peter Zions will be the master of ceremonies at the dance.

Tickets are available by calling Patti Gordon at 853-4728 or Elaine (Foster) Petkoff at 853-0104.

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