

'Positive progress' reported in Acton growth studies

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

There is an air of cautious optimism following last week's Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) pre-hearing concerning Acton growth.

The OMB recognized there had been "positive progress" in various studies relating to water, and laid out a timetable that could, in the best-case scenario, see some development approved in Acton this spring.

Residential and commercial development has been stalled, mainly by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, while complicated tests and studies are done to assess the potential impact of development on Black Creek and Fairy Lake.

Plans now on the books would see Acton grow to 10,000 people.

"The light at the end of the tunnel is that much closer — we hope," said Town planning director Bruce McLean on Friday.

"The OMB showed some optimism by saying there had been positive progress on the issues. The caveat to that is that we are still a long way to having all the I's dotted and the T's crossed."

McLean said the key now rests with the agencies — the conservation authorities, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Ministry of Energy and Environment and various levels of government — who must comment on the Water Implementation Plan and on subdivision and zoning changes, before the end of the year.

"Also, Halton Region has to resolve its responsibilities relative to necessary servicing improvements and financing."

In February the OMB will hold a pre-hearing to learn whether the servicing issues have been settled.

Between February and March, Town and Regional Councils will deal with staff reports on the development issues.

"Halton Council will deal with implementation of the servicing reports, where the money will come from and the timetable for implementation," McLean said.

"At the same time, the Town, armed with the results of the Jan. 31 Water Management Study, will be able to move on the plans of subdivision and zoning that have been submitted. By then we will know the maximum growth that can occur in Acton."

In early March the OMB will reconvene and the first part of the hearing will update final positions.

"Hypothetically, by March everybody could be in agreement and the OMB could be in a position to give OKs to everything. If there are problems, the OMB has set aside three weeks in April to try to resolve those issues."

"If all the pre-conditions have been satisfied then the OMB would be in a position to say that the

planning is OK and the subdivisions and zonings are OK and tell the developers to start building," McLean said.

There are a number of critical dates in the timetable laid out by the OMB:

Friday, Dec. 23 — Deadline for comments from all affected agencies on the Town's new and revised plans of subdivision.

Tuesday, Jan. 31 — Acceptance of the final Water Implementation Plan by all affected agencies and levels of government.

Monday, Feb. 6 — OMB pre-hearing update on results of comments on the Water Implementation Plan.

March 8, 9, 10 — OMB hearing to deal with a further updates, motions and rulings.

Tuesday, April 25 — If there are problems with the reports and studies the OMB will reconvene a full hearing to deal with the issues.

Busy weekend coming

Everyone knows that this Saturday marks Santa's return to Acton — but there are lots of other seasonal events to take in besides the big parade.

"Homefest" returns to the Nassagaweya Community Centre on the Guelph Line Saturday from 10 to 4. Homefest is known locally as "the biggest little craft show in the country," so it's a perfect place to do some Christmas shopping.

St. Joseph's church bazaar will be held in the church basement on Saturday from 10 to 2. As always, there will be lots of crafts at this bazaar, along with the popular tea.

There will be "something for everyone" at the Eden Mills Community Bazaar Saturday from 1:30 to 3:30 at the Community Hall. Baking, toys, a money tree and lucky draws highlight this event.



Robin's Sewing

Tues. - Fri 10-4

alterations, mending, repairs

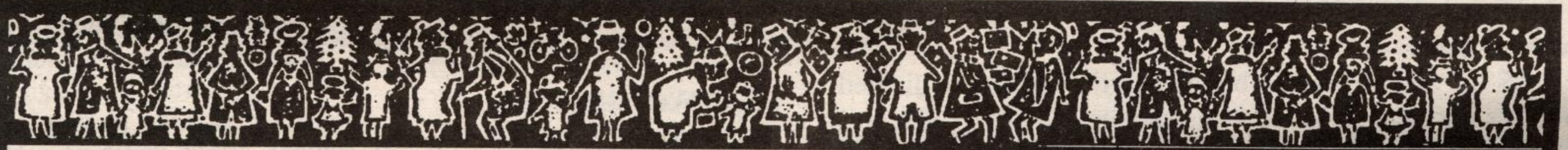
Roberta Holmes

853-0860
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New Location

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ACTON

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The only condition is that the money lent under this program must be spent in The Town of Halton Hills - Our Town.

The Whole Town Is On Sale!

And Christmas shopping in Halton Hills this year will be better than ever before!

Here's why: Through the participation of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce, many businesses and merchants in the town of Halton Hills will be involved in the **Our Town Christmas Cheques Program**. (see below)

That's great news, because it means that for the months from November to January 5, 1995, the whole town of Halton Hills will be on sale!

How Does It Work?

It's simple.

When your loan application is approved, Halton Credit Union will provide you with your own Our Town Christmas Cheques, and a Cheque Register. These Christmas Cheques look much like regular cheques, and are used in the same way.

Take these Cheques with you when you shop in town. When you make a purchase, simply fill out a Christmas Cheque and present it along with

your Cheque Register. The merchant will enter the purchase in your Cheque Register, and you're on your way. Easy!

Christmas cheques may be written in any amount up to the limit of your loan. Any purchase qualifies - not just Christmas items.

Use them to buy gifts, purchase everyday necessities, spruce up the homestead, throw a party, eat out, go on vacation, buy groceries, take up a hobby, obtain investments, required services or just treat yourself! For a host of other goods & services offered, refer to the list of participating businesses.

Interest-Free Money When You Need It Most

What a relief! Now you can spend what you need at Christmas, spread the cost of Christmas out over twelve months and escape any interest charges for six months, just by using **Our Town Christmas Cheques** from Halton Credit Union.

Anyone Can Apply

You don't have to be a Credit Union Member in order to apply. This offer is open to everyone. It's our way of saying Merry Christmas, and encouraging you to support the merchants of Our Town.

Sign me Up!

It's easy to take advantage of the **Our Town Christmas Cheques Program**. Just pick a loan application up at the Credit Union or at any participating business. Fill in the Application and drop it off at Halton Credit Union, or mail it to us at our address.

Apply now and beat the rush! The sooner your loan is processed and approved, the sooner you can start your Christmas shopping!



Halton Credit Union
187 Guelph Street
Georgetown, Ontario
L7G 4A1
(905) 877-6926

A Halton Community Credit Union
Community Enhancement Program

In Co-operation with the
Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce

Halton Credit Union
273 Queen Street
Acton, Ontario
(519) 853-0911

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