



ROAD WORK! Worker Tony Delnero, left, and Halton Region's Brent Hoey look over the plans for construction on Park Avenue Thursday afternoon. The project includes work on the neighbourhood's water main, and a storm sewer will be constructed. The federal infrastructure program provided funding for the work, which won't be finished for a couple of months. (Paul Nolan photo)

Halt GTA reform, Council demands

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

Until Metro Toronto cleans up its act, Halton Hills councillors want the Province to halt the planned implementation of municipal government reform in the Greater Toronto Area outside of Metro.

If that doesn't happen, Council has drafted a second preference — a follow-up to its earlier submission to the GTA Task Force, which will report to the Province on restructuring of GTA governments.

Councillors want to preserve the existing quality of life and not get swallowed up in a "super city" of someone else's design.

Councillors are concerned that solutions for Metro problems, like unequal assessment, will be forced on Halton Hills and Halton, which have worked together to implement Market Value Assessment, urban structure review and to open the only new landfill in the GTA.

Town Council's second choice involves eight recommendations, including Metro Toronto reforming its tax assessment system before any further consideration of GTA reform.

The Town also wants the usefulness and necessity of special purpose bodies to be evaluated, and a review of education funding with a view to removing it from the property tax, along with changes in the Municipal Act giving municipalities more power and

more responsibility in decision-making.

Acton Councillor Norm Elliott said that the Town had put together a well-considered response to GTA reform, but he was unsure that anyone would listen to what they recommended.

"I'm very concerned about the prospect of a brand new government that hasn't really even called the House back together yet, that has shortened the deadline for making major overhauls in governments in the GTA," Elliott said.

"It's almost bordering on trying to shanghai the agenda of Ontario because the GTA wants to be set up as only second to the Provincial government as a power-grab."

Councillor Rick Bonnette also wondered if the Harris government will listen.

"I think that the Golden Task Force on GTA reform will listen to what we have to say, but whether the Premier and his cabinet will listen, I don't know. Part of me thinks that the Province is going to do what it wants," Bonnette said.

Councillor Gerald Rennie, who drafted the additional submission to the Task Force, said that Council's comments are pertinent.

"It is also precise and concise and that will help our position. We think it would be ridiculous to turn ourselves into part of a super city and although our resolution doesn't say that, that is the intent."

Now 8 school trustee hopefuls

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

Acton and Esquesing voters have a large field to choose from in the race to fill the Ward 1 and 2 seat on the Halton Board of Education.

At Monday's close of nominations, eight people were registered and nominated to fill the seat vacated by Acton's Dave Whiting.

The *Tanner* has already profiled the first four candidates to enter, including Acton businesswoman and community volunteer Elly Tuitman, mother of two Susan McPhail-Job, Gary Crosbie of Georgetown (who is schooling his children at home) and Norval's Ria Wilson, a former teacher, farmer and businesswoman.

The fifth candidate to enter the race is former teacher Ethel Gardiner, who taught in local schools for 39 years.

"I retired in June and being a trustee would be a way to continue working for the children," Gardiner said on Friday.

"I taught at Robert Little school in Acton for 18 years so I know the school, the community and the children, even though I live in Georgetown," Gardiner said.

The sixth candidate is Acton businessman and former politician Jake Kuiken, who said he has both the time and experience to be a good trustee.

Kuiken, semi-retired from his Halton Hills Furniture store, sat on the Board of the Georgetown and District Christian School for 11 years until 1975 and was a Town and Regional Councillor from 1985 to 1987.

Kuiken said one of his priorities, if elected, would be to lobby for year-round schooling.

"I think today's students need 12 months of education, not 10," Kuiken said on Friday.

"Students are on the streets for the summer months and I feel that they would be much further ahead if they went to school all year."

Retired school teacher Ron

Nelson of Georgetown was the seventh candidate to enter the race.

Nelson, who taught in Halton schools for 26 years, said after being on the inside looking out, now he wants to be on the outside looking in at education issues.

"I'm also very concerned about how our education tax dollars are being spent because I don't think that money is being used properly," Nelson said on Monday.

The final candidate in the race is Silvercreek's John Morton, a self-employed consulting engineer who was an elected member of the Board of Governors of the University of Toronto and an adjunct professor at U of T and Ryerson.

"The major problem facing the Board is to bring spending under control," Morton said Monday.

The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce will hold a meet-the-candidates session on Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 7:30 pm at Acton High.

The by-election is slated for Monday, Oct. 23.

One

STOP PARTIES

"THE FUN PLACE TO SHOP"

**Early Bird
Hallowe'en
Specials**
Clown Wigs \$3
Masks \$5

**10% OFF
THANKSGIVING
DECORATIONS**
clip & save

**COSTUMES
ARRIVING
DAILY**

The Paper Factory

355 Main St. 878-2339

Parking at rear

It works hard for the money

With our GT242 Lawn and Garden Tractor, you can get a lot done without spending an awful lot. Plus, the modern styling and sleek rear-fender flares are almost as good looking as the price. This lawn & garden tractor is equipped with a 48" mower blade.

NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE

Only
\$4295⁰⁰

Optional Equipment includes 38" Snow Blower & 42" Front Blade

TO LONDON
TO MISSISSAUGA
TO WINDSOR
TO KITCHENER

HALTON GROUNDS CARE EQUIPMENT
1589 Steeles Avenue East, Milton L9T 2X8
(905) 878-2121