

Condo plan meets little resistance

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

Although a dozen tenants of an Acton apartment building attended a public meeting on plans to convert the 31 units to condominiums, just one resident spoke against the

plan. After the meeting the remainder said that they had a lot of questions but were too nervous and unsure of the process to speak.

Tenants of the Ransom Street building will have another chance to comment and

question the proposal when staff report back on Megna Real Estate and Insurance's conversion application under the Rental Housing Protection Act.

After listening to building co-owner Bruno Megna list the repairs and improvements that would be done to the building, tenant Cathy MacKenzie told Town councillors that she was not in favour of the plan.

"Everything that was mentioned as repairs should be done anyway," MacKenzie said. "We deserve the right to security and the right to have our units free of breakdowns. The whole building is a mess - the parking lot is a mess."

Megna responded saying that since they bought the building all necessary repairs had been done and promised

that the parking lot would be repaired, regardless of the outcome of the conversion application.

The Provincial Rental Housing Protection Act gives the Town authority to decide if the conversion will be approved or not, and to attach conditions if it is approved including: giving existing tenants first right of refusal; providing a period of security for tenants from eviction; and doing a structural audit and reserve fund analysis.

Halton Region's policy is to discourage the conversion or demolition of rental units into condos or co-ops until the vacancy rate reaches an acceptable level, for example, three per cent. The Region said that Acton's vacancy rate is currently two per cent.

If the conversion is approved, tenants who don't want to buy their unit have the option of signing a one to five year lease or staying on a month-to-month basis.

A majority of tenants are paying \$550 to \$600 a month in rent and the asking price for the units will be approximately \$60,000. Megna said each tenant who wishes to buy will receive rent rebates and other financial incentives totalling approximately \$9,000 per unit, allowing tenants to purchase without a down payment.

Pictures with Santa!

The Kinette Club of Acton is expecting a visit from Santa Claus this Sunday (Dec. 22) from 1 to 4 pm at Power Entertainment, with pictures available!

A cash donation or a new toy donation towards "Operation Santa Claus" would be greatly appreciated.

NEWS SHORTS

R.I.D.E. figures in

Halton Regional Police stopped 16,975 vehicles as part of its R.I.D.E. program for Nov. 28 to Dec. 16. In all, 80 roadside tests were administered, resulting in 13 12-hour licence suspensions and three impaired driving charges.

Seen your old glasses?

Lions International and Lens Crafters are again collecting old used eyeglasses. Glasses collected will be refurbished by Lens Crafters and taken by a special team to countries in need. The eyeglasses will be donated to people who require them to see.

Last year more than 1,000 pairs of glasses were collected at police stations in Halton Region. Drop off your used eyeglasses to any police station before Jan. 15, 1997 and help give the gift of sight.

Scholtens seeks Reed's job

Halton Regional Councillor Ralph Scholtens has announced he is seeking to be nominated as the Progressive Conservative candidate for Halton in the next federal election.

"I think I can effectively serve my community and country as Halton's MP," Scholtens said. "While I've been working with my municipal colleagues to maintain services while keeping taxes at the same level, the federal government has raised taxes more than 40 times since 1993. I think it's time to go to work in Ottawa and get some things done there."

In addition to his eight years of municipal political experience, Scholtens has a long history of community and business involvements.

"I'm an entrepreneur who has been involved in building up three businesses, all of which have been successful," he said. "I realize no single person is going to change the political culture by themselves, but I want to go to Ottawa and sell the agenda of political change everyone seems to be looking for."

The nomination meeting for the Halton P.C. Association is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 11, 1997 at E.C. Drury school in Milton.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"It is really sad for the new, young members, who have only been in the club for a few months and now it is dead."
— Claude Morissette, Acton Lions Club, Page 5

DID YOU KNOW?

The letters S-O-S, as in "help," don't stand for anything. They were chosen for Morse Code as a distress signal because of their simplicity - three dots, three dashes and three dots.

BLOOMS AWAY

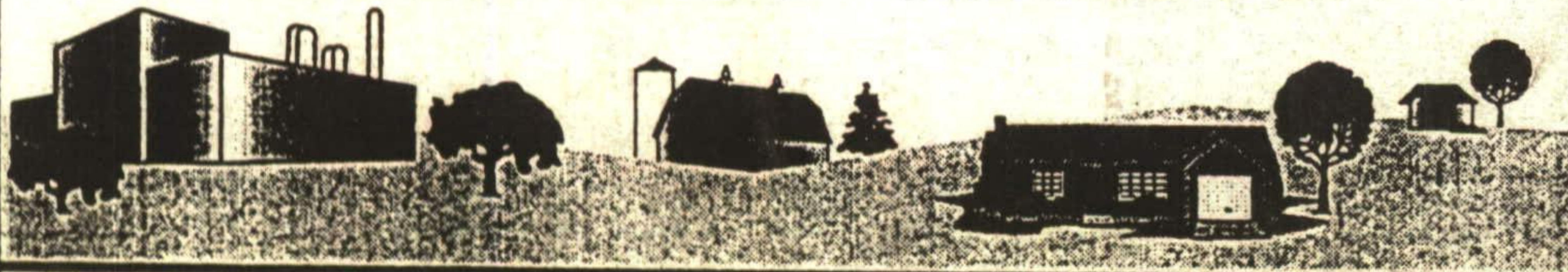
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REGION OF HALTON



Chairman Joyce Savoline, and Members of Halton Regional Council wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season. During this time of rejoicing, please be generous to those in our community who may need our support. There is no greater feeling than to give.



Joyce Savoline
Joyce Savoline
Regional Chairman

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SEASON'S GREETINGS



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Our custom-designed gift baskets will impress you with their beauty - and great price! Simply call and let us know how much you want to spend... we'll design a basket that's perfect for everyone on your shopping list!



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