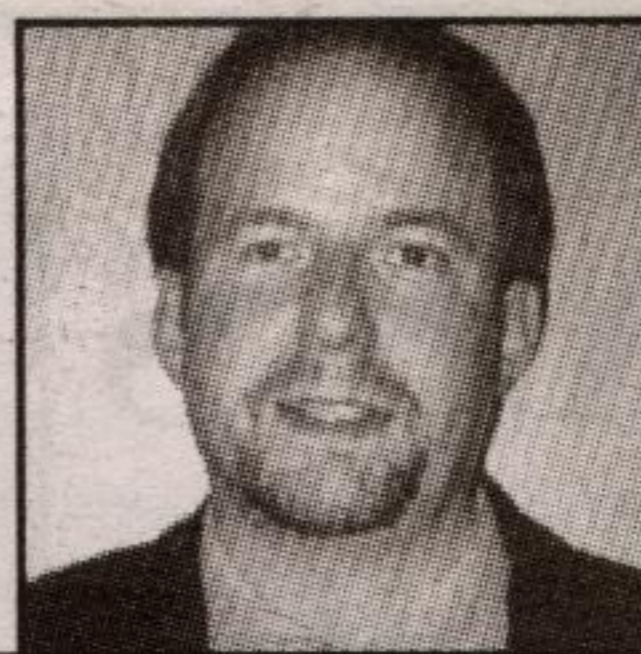


the mayor's column



While the ink hasn't even dried on the Regional Official Plan, the Province sees huge changes to the growth in Halton Hills. The Regional Official Plan and the Town Official Plan have stressed that there will be no immediate expansion of the urban boundaries of Acton and Georgetown. Now the Province of Ontario may have a different vision from ours. Let me explain. The Province divested itself from land use planning in the mid-1990's. Over the course of the last several months, the new Provincial Government has, through a number of initiatives, re-emerged as an active participant in big picture land use and infrastructure planning. These include Bill 26, the proposed Strong Communities (Planning) Amendment Act, Bill 27, the recently proclaimed Greenbelt Protection Act, the revised (draft) Provincial Policy Statement, Source Water Protection, the Greenbelt Task Force, and a long term Growth Management Plan. As you can see, this is a complicated issue.

• With respect to the Growth Management Plan, in July the Province released Places to Grow – A Discussion Paper, Summer 2004 – Better Choices, Brighter Future, which is an ambitious plan to direct growth to 2031 in the Greater Golden Horseshoe Area. The Golden Horseshoe Area is projected to

increase in population by almost 4 million, bringing the area population to over 11 million by 2031, while also increasing employment opportunities by 2 million persons.

• The Plan places a greater emphasis on accommodating population and employment growth within Priority Urban Centres through infill, brownfield redevelopment and intensification, more so than has occurred in the past. Additional urban lands are to be identified on the basis of comprehensive and strategic long term planning programs.

• Halton Region has been identified as one of the five target areas to be further examined for potential to accommodate additional growth beyond what is currently planned. The Province is currently seeking comments on Places to Grow by September 24, 2004 prior to finalizing the document. Given that the Plan has significant long-term implications for the Town and the Region, we are working with the Region of Halton, the Towns of Milton and Oakville, and the City of Burlington to develop a coordinated response on the document. Council has asked for a report in September from staff. A copy of Places to Grow can be found at www.places-togrow.pir.gov.on.ca.

• On behalf of Council, I welcome the following new businesses: Acton – A Taste of Italy, Georgetown – Wine Not,

and Last Call – Beer and Wine Inc.

• This year's Canada Day festivities in the Glen were second to none! Congratulations to Fioretta Morley, the Glen's 2004 Citizen of the Year, and to Susie Jarvie, the 2004 Youth of the Year.

• Last month, Town staff along with the police and our local newspapers commented on the potential pitfalls and risks of using taxicabs that are not properly licensed by the Town of Halton Hills. The greatest personal concerns are the liability issues to the passengers using taxicabs without the proper insurance coverage or licensing.

• It has recently come to my attention that limousine services are operating illegally within Halton Hills. Limousines have the same legal requirements and obligations as taxicabs, but do not include limousines conveying passengers to or from an airport.

We often use limousines to transport our family members and friends for weddings or special occasions without making the necessary licensing inquiries. Our Enforcement staff are currently investigating these operations to ensure they are licensed, fit, and insured for public liability (passengers), offering you peace of mind when using limousines in our community.

Protect your family and friends; inquire if the service is properly

licensed.

Limousine Services currently licensed in Halton Hills are:

Starr Limousine Service
Preferred Limousine

• On behalf of Council, I would like to thank all businesses for their cooperation in the implementation of a 100% smoke-free environment. The vast majority of establishments are in compliance and we want to encourage everyone to keep the trend strong. Most residents wanted a Smoke-Free By-law. The next time you feel like going out for a good meal and a beverage, support our local businesses. Smoke-Free By-laws make all communities a healthier place to live and work

• Now that the final tallies are in for the 4th Annual Mayor's Heritage Golf Tournament held on June 7, 2004 at the Blue Springs Golf Club in Acton, our committee is pleased to announce that this year's tournament was the best overall to date for monies raised, as well as for attendance. Proceeds from the tournament are donated to Heritage Halton Hills.

• Local Georgetown artist, William Band, is presently showcasing his art on the Mayor's Art Wall. Bill's love of artwork comes through in his beautiful watercolours that depict many local scenes in our community.

The Regional
Municipality of Halton

A Partnership That Works!

HALTON REGION



Interested in Halton's future?

Attend Halton's Forum on the
Provincial Growth Management Strategy

Thursday, September 9, 2004

6:00 p.m. Open House

7:00 p.m. Presentations

Halton Regional Centre Auditorium
1151 Bronte Road, Oakville

The Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Renewal recently released a paper entitled: "Places To Grow: A Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe". This document speaks to the Province's vision for how and where municipalities will grow and addresses infrastructure and environmental impacts.

Halton's Forum will provide an opportunity for residents to learn about the Province's plan and the potential implications to Halton's future. Public comments will assist Halton in developing our response to the Ministry's request for input. Halton's website has also been set up to receive input and provide a link to the Ministry's proposed plan. Click on 'Provincial Growth Plan' at www.region.halton.on.ca.

We have requested that the Province attend and at this time are awaiting confirmation as to their availability. Please continue to check our website for updated information.

Regional Council will consider staff's report on Halton's response to the Ministry at the September 15th Planning & Public Works Committee meeting and at Regional Council on September 22nd. Both meetings begin at 9:30 a.m. These timelines have been established to ensure we meet the Province's September 24th deadline for input.

For more information, please contact Jane Clohecy, Director, Planning & Transportation at 905-825-6000 ext. 7966, toll-free at 1-866-442-5866 or email clohecyj@region.halton.on.ca.

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