

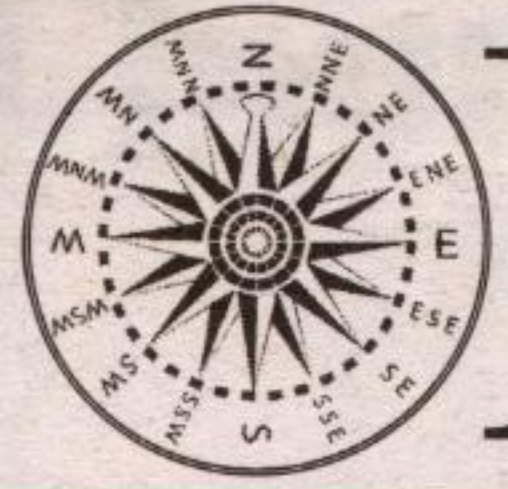
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THE HALTON COMPASS



REGIONAL NEWS, NOTES AND NEIGHBOURS

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HAAC can't support draft tree cutting by-law

By BERNADETTE WARD

It was a smaller and somewhat less dramatic group that gathered at Halton Region's second public meeting on the draft tree by-law on May 28, but the issues were still the same.

The Region is still working to enact a by-law to essentially protect woodland and woodlots from clear-cutting and the agricultural contingent is still saying the by-law is too restrictive and affects farmer's ability to operate their farms without interference or penalty.

"THIS BY-LAW ONLY APPLIES TO PRIVATE LANDOWNERS WHO ARE NOT DEVELOPING (THEIR LAND)"

"What bothers me tremendously, is that this by-law is like using a hammer to swat a fly," said Lieven Gevaert, director of the Halton Region Federation of Agriculture who made a presentation.

"This by-law looks like George Orwell's 1984," he said.

He expressed concern that there be a farm practices exemption that would allow for normal daily activities on farms. These changes, he said, would include a no clear cutting clause but would still allow farmers to remove nuisance trees, allow farmers to keep the pathways to fields clear for ease of heavy machinery and prevent trespassing on private lands.

Another aspect of the by-law that doesn't sit well with Gevaert is the harvesting restriction. He is concerned that the government will now be in a position to dictate how a person makes a living.

"I don't need a tree by-law to tell me that I can have a bit of profit," he said.

Jamie Fisher from the Halton

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PHOTO BY ANN KORNUA
 At 4am May 31 at Ridgebrook Farms, this Welsh colt pony was born from the Sawyer family's champion mare Poppy. Only a few hours old, this happy little Welsh is up and scampering around his pen with his mother.

Halton Healthcare to take over Georgetown Hospital Move "thrills" local councillors

By BERNADETTE WARD

The Ministry of Health and Long-term Care's move to transfer governance of Georgetown Hospital Campus from William Osler Health Centre to Halton Healthcare Services appears to have been well received with local councillors being described as "thrilled" with the move.

The move, designed to align healthcare planning to the Mississauga-Halton Health Integration Network (LHIN) from the Central West LHIN, will take place over the next few months and is not expected to impact patient care.

"Residents of Halton Hills will continue to choose where they receive health care services," said John Oliver, President and CEO of Halton Healthcare Services. "The same high quality patient service at that site will continue."

LHIN's are non-profit organizations that handle planning and funding of local health care services within a geographic area and include hospitals, community support services and home and long-term care.

"This is precisely the kind of better integration that LHINs were designed to provide," said George Smitherman, Minister of Health and

Long-Term Care. "By transferring the operation of Georgetown hospital to Halton Healthcare Services, the LHIN will be better able to plan for the future needs of Halton Hills residents."

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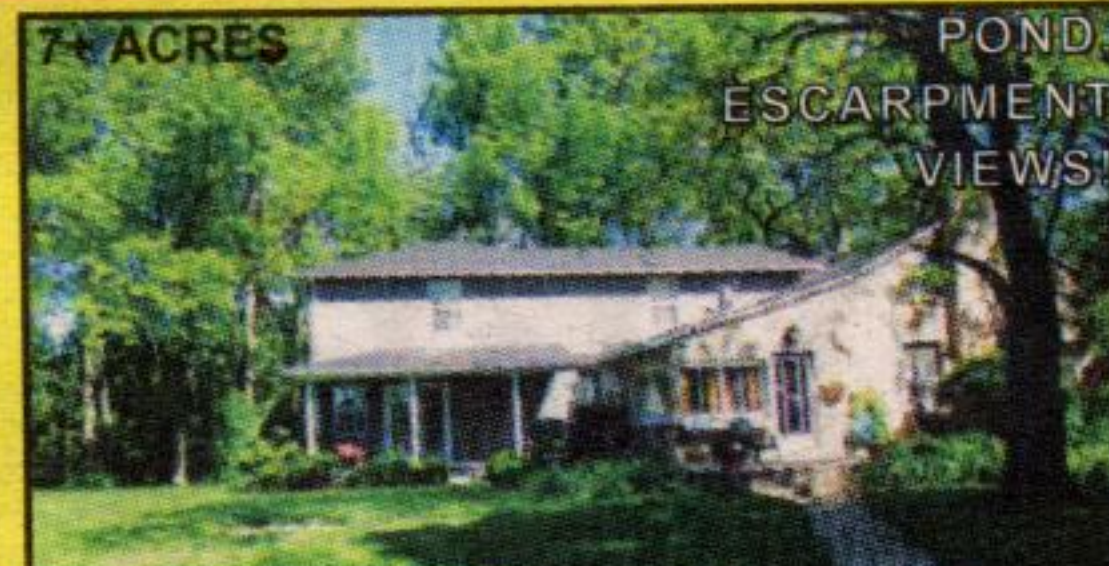


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