



SPRING SPRUCE-UP: Dedicated members of the Acton Horticultural Society are hard at work refurbishing, replanting and enlarging the Laura Dietrich Gardens in front of the Acton library. Members Cliff Creasey (left) Jean Somerville, Max McSween and Bruce Shoemaker took time from their own gardening to pose for this photo on Tuesday. The Society is also preparing for its annual plant sale May 9 at the Olde Hide House parking lot. - Frances Niblock photo

## No complaints expected about development fees

Despite planning and development fee increases as high as 254 per cent, local developers are not expected to complain loudly about the new rates, expected to be approved by Town council next month, because the new fees are fair.

"The problem is our fees haven't been increased in two years and they are among the lowest in Halton Region and the GTA," explained deputy planning director Karen Pianosi in an interview on Friday.

"Our fees also don't re-

flect the cost of the time and work that's involved. The fees were increased by 30 per cent two years ago but, historically a fee was set and never increased."

At last week's general committee meeting councillors asked for more information about the proposed rates and how they stack up against other municipalities. Pianosi supplied that information to Council on Monday but the issue was deferred until May 4 to give councillors more time to digest the information.

Pianosi said as Councils all across Ontario took on more paying for more services, and now when budgets have gotten smaller and smaller and smaller and smaller and smaller and more to a user-pay system.

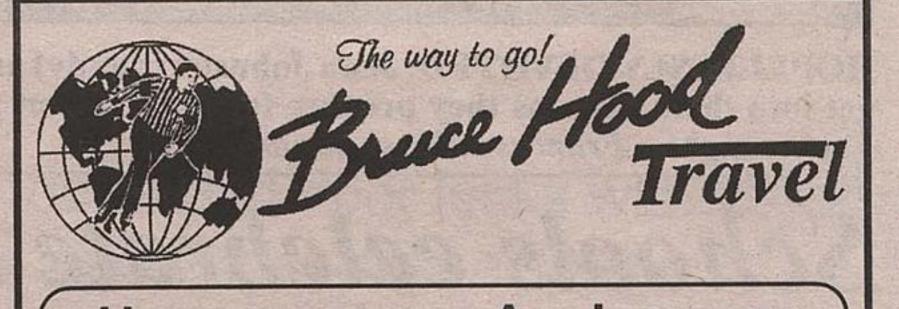
"The services we provide directly benefit the development industry and they should pay for the benefits that they receives in terms of development approvals. The increased fees enable us to recover our costs and limit the burden on the general taxpayer," Pianosi said, adding that Halton Hills is a very attractive place to develop and the Town has more development applications than it can handle.

Pianosi said that the planning costs of a development application fees are less than one per cent of the total cost of a development and that the costs for roads and sewers and services make up most of the costs. The interim recovery policy approved by Town council is effective next month and will be followed this fall by a more comprehensive evaluation of fees based on a rate review and service review being done by Halton Region.

## Award of excellence

Achilles Pelitis has been awarded the Federation of Automobile Dealer Associations of Canada award of excellence (two years).

The FADA Award of Excellence is presented to the outstanding two-year Canadian Automotive Marketing graduate, in recognition of academic excellence, campus leadership and participation in student activities.



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