

# Town expects compliance with tough smoking bylaw

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

The Town isn't expecting opposition to its tough new smoking bylaw because it had "buy-in" from the affected groups, says Town administrator Steve Andrews.

That buy-in, a compromise that health care officials said ignored the risks of second-hand smoke, is important because the Town doesn't have a lot of money to enforce the legislation that took effect April 3.

"Initially, the enforcement will only be on a complaint basis - we don't have the staff, nor does the Region, to go out proactively and investigate sites like they do in the restaurant business," An-

draws said, anticipating cooperation from the bars and restaurant owners.

"We involved them. They were part of the solution and recommendations and part of that group came up with the model that we've implemented, so we don't expect there will be any problems," Andrews said.

The bylaw bans workplace smoking, except in separately enclosed and ventilated areas. Smoking is allowed in 50 per cent of bars - which had no restrictions in the old bylaw - until after 10 p.m., when there are no restrictions. Restaurants must offer 75 per cent of their space for non-smokers before 10 p.m. and 50 per cent after. A conviction under the bylaw

carries a maximum \$5,000 fine.

Proprietors must make sure they are in compliance and must post appropriate No Smoking signs. With the new bylaw, Council also made the commitment to go 100 per cent smoke-free by June 30, 2003.

Andrews said there were few, if any complaints about the previous bylaw drafted in 1986, because it had little effect on regulating smoking.

"Bars were excluded, so there were no rules around bars, other than do whatever you want," Andrews said, adding his office hasn't had any complaints about the stricter bylaw.

"People are happy that we're moving setting up a committee next year to move towards no smoking by 2003," Andrews said, adding the Halton Hills bylaw is the strictest in all of the Region, and one the Health Department wants the other three municipalities to copy.

Red Dog Café owner Barb Ferris said the new bylaw won't impact their customers - the current no smoking area upstairs meets the requirements, but that wasn't the

case last Monday night in Georgetown.

"I was in Vanessa's and I noticed their whole smoking area of three tables was full and the rest of the restaurant

wasn't.

Ferris said that she'll "probably fight" the Town's plan to go totally smoke-free in 2003, unless that's what her customers want.

## Old school chum

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mental and because the cost is so incredible, the U.S. government is picking up the tab. However, there is the cost to her family. The emotional toll is inconceivable. Then there are the things that no one is paying for except the family, such as \$800 airfares to be with her. What about the time that her father just returned from Washington to visit and give Susan's mom a much needed break to find out her had to return immediately be-


cause she had a set back. That is just one of the things. I can't even think of what it must be like for this family, financially and emotionally.

There are people in life who take the easy way out, who will do nothing to get anything and take advantage. Then there are the people that work hard, raise their family and are good people. This is Susan and her family and right now they are going through a really tough time and need our help.

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