



Halton Region Council HIGHLIGHTS

Site Approved

The Region is moving quickly with plans for the new long term care facility to be built in Oakville. Regional Council approved the acquisition of a 4.3 acre block of land in the south-west quadrant of the Trafalgar Road/Dundas Street intersection. Council chose this site, in part, because it is situated near a wide variety of amenities which will enhance the quality of life for residents and their families. The selected site will now be submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval.

New Van for Allendale

A new van to transport residents of Allendale and clients of the Adult Day programs as officially inaugurated in a ceremony on September 20. The purchase of the new van was made possible by donations from the Allendale Auxiliary, the Royal Canadian Legion, the Milton Branch Legion and the Rotary Club of Milton, as well as Halton Region. Residents, clients and staff of Allendale use the van for recreational outings and for transportation to medical appointments and community meetings.

Hire to combat flu

The Medical Officer of Health received approval from Regional Council to hire contract staff to implement the universal influenza immunization program recently announced by the province. The Health Department has been given responsibility for coordinating the delivery of the program and for immunizing Halton's school population, as well as maintaining the inventory and distributing vaccines to all clinics in the Region. Flu vaccination clinics for high risk people are planned for October, with clinics for the remainder of the community to be held in November and December.

Halton Vision Upheld

Council was advised of a decision by the joint Board (member from the Ontario Municipal Board and Environmental Assessment Board) on applications to designate lands in the Milton west Special Study Area for urban use. The subject properties were designated "Escarpment Protection" and "Escarpment Rural" and a change to "Urban" would have allowed development to occur thereon. Staff advised Council that the decision of the joint Board is in accord with the position taken on these applications by Regional Council in September, 1999, and reflects the Board's recognition of the integrity of the Halton Urban Structure Review and subsequent Plan of 1994. Staff indicated that this decision is particularly important because it demonstrates that municipalities can be successful in defending their planning vision before Boards and Tribunals by demonstrating that they received and weighed relevant

input from commenting agencies, landowners and the public in arriving at their planning positions.

Improved Planning

In 1999, Council approved a study aimed at improving the strategic planning of major maintenance projects to keep Halton's water and wastewater plants in good working order. Council was advised that the results of the study will now help ensure that Halton's available financial resources are deployed in the most efficient way to support the continued viability of its total infrastructure. Through a consultant's review of above-ground Regional plant equipment and structural conditions, a number of projects were identified which can now be planned for in advance within the forecast period of the budget. A pilot project for inspection of submerged structures has begun and results will be available for input into the 2001 Capital Budget and Forecast.

Aquifer Plan Adopted

Council approved the final Aquifer Management Plan which has as its goal the long-term security of the groundwater and surface water resource in Halton. During the past few months, the draft Aquifer plan was widely circulated for comment and revision. The final Plan approved by Council includes a new component involving discussions with rural landowners on such things as options for management of manure storage, for keeping livestock away from watercourses, and for planning vegetation along river banks to stop erosion. This new ru-

ral water quality program will provide funding to landowners to assist with implementing good management practices to minimize agricultural contamination threats to rural water resources. The Halton Aquifer Management Plan is believed to be the only one of its kind in Ontario.

New Action Plan

Council endorsed the Joint Municipal-Regional Waste management Committee's Source Reduction and Resource Recovery Action Plan. One component is a pilot project aimed at determining the best ways to engage residents in supporting waste reduction measures, such as use of backyard composters, collection of yard waste, blue box recycling and environmentally-conscious purchasing decisions. The pilot project will involve 500 homes in each area municipality and is designed to test the limits of waste reduction by residents. Council also approved an Environment Day to be held in Burlington, Oakville and Halton Hills on an annual rotating basis primarily for the purpose of receiving Household Hazardous Waste from residents who do not visit the Region's landfill site in Milton for this purpose.

Extend Export program

The mandate of the Halton Business Development Centre is to promote job creation and increase the industrial/commercial assessment base in Halton, partly by providing assistance to local companies interested in export development. In 1999, Human Resources Development Canada and Industry Canada partnered with Halton in a

project to provide training and export education to small and medium-sized businesses so that they are better positioned for international competition. Council was advised that the HRDC has agreed to extend funding for the Export Development Advisory position in Halton as the program has proven to be very successful.

Active Role

Regional Council approved Halton's participation in proposal developed by staff Niagara, Hamilton-Wentworth, and Halton Regions, as well as Erie County in Western New York State, for a Mid-Peninsula Bi-National Trade Corridor Economic Strategy and Roundtable. Regional Council took this step in recognition of the need for Halton to seek out strategic partnerships in order to fully benefit from its location in the Mid-Peninsula and GTA trade corridors and emerging economic clusters.

Redevelopment of Landfill

Regional Council authorized staff to begin investigation of potential uses for the Region's closed landfill site in Burlington, through a request for Expression of Interest. The evaluation of uses will include, but not be limited to, the development of a golf course on the site. Council directed staff to explore any interest in the site which the area municipalities may have, prior to initiating the process.

Acton Upgrade

Council received an update on a course of action to accelerate infrastructure upgrades in Acton, a necessary

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SPOOKY SMALLFRY: festivities at the Town's Preschool Play Shop Hallowe'en party on Monday at the Boathouse in prospect park. The costumed tots include, standing from left, Jordan, Lenz, Matthew Thoms, Lydia Geng and Matthew Ellis. Sitting: Katoe Allen, Meg Allen, Daniel Reynolds and Nicholas Pvothopapas. -Frances Niblock photo

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