



WHITE OUTS were common on rural roads Tuesday as winds swept roadside drifts over clean surfaces.

Golf course restrictions debated at the Region

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

The widely varying opinions of Esquering farmers were among those heard at a public meeting on future golf course development in Halton yesterday (Wednesday) at the Regional headquarters in Oakville.

Existing planning legislation hasn't stopped golf courses locating in prime agricultural land - generally

Want holiday on Nov. 11?

Halton Hills is expected to become one of a growing list of municipalities lobbying Federal and Provincial governments to make November 11, Remembrance Day, a statutory holiday.

At Council on Monday, politicians will debate a motion from Acton Councillor Clark Somerville calling for the statutory holiday to give Canadians a chance to pause, reflect and give thanks for the many sacrifices that Canadians gave during times of war.

Somerville said several Acton veterans told him they were pleased with the increase in interest and attendance at Remembrance Day services in Acton, Brookville and Rockwood this year and a statutory holiday would help educate youth about the supreme sacrifice made by those who gave their lives for our freedom.

"I know when I was growing up Remembrance Day used to be a school holiday and students understood how important it is to honour those who served in the Armed forces," Somerville said.

If approved, the resolution will be forwarded to Halton's MP and MPP for consideration and comment.

Class 1 and two soils south of Escarpment brow - as envisioned, and an advisory committee recommends recreational uses, including golf courses, should be directed to Halton's non-prime agricultural land and to sites with redevelopment potential.

Only five of Halton's 33 golf facilities - courses and driving ranges - are located above the Escarpment and almost 900 acres of prime agricultural land have been converted to golf courses in the last three years.

At the Town's general committee meeting on Monday, Ward 2 Councillor Bryan Lewis said some farmers don't want any restrictions placed on their land and others don't want any more agricultural land to be lost.

"And, all I would ask is that we as councillors, when we plan, I would ask that we have some compassion

for the farmers and the farming industry because they are genuinely concerned," Lewis said, adding one group of local farmers held a meeting to develop a plan to "battle" Halton's proposed changes.

A Halton demand analysis report says between 16 and 42 new golf courses will be needed in the next 20 years and that would mean between seven and 19 per cent of the Region's remaining prime agricultural land could be lost to golf course development.

Four approved, but not constructed, courses and three of four new golf course applications being processed by the Town and Region are also on prime agricultural land. They, and any other golf course application filed before November 29, 2000, including plans for a 27-hole course east of Acton, will be processed under the existing policy.

If the proposed policies are approved, all new courses would have to be outside prime agricultural areas. Staff would be directed to proactively identify and pursue redevelopment of degraded sites - contaminated or eroded sites, old landfills and mined-pout quarries - above and below the escarpment for potential golf course development.

TOWN DIGEST

Financial safety net

If the Town needs to temporarily borrow money - maybe for over-budget arena recreational facilities - it has the ability with expected approval on Monday of a borrowing bylaw.

The Town has never had to use the bylaw, renewed on an annual basis, but Cor Buikema, manager of accounting, said it's there for "added protection."

"...We might have to use it this year, or maybe next year, with the new (recreational) facility, if we're building it and we haven't got our debenture money, but I think we should be okay," Buikema said, adding they might have to borrow if there was trouble getting a tax bill out and the expected revenues didn't arrive on time.

The upset borrowing limit will also be raised to \$10 million from \$3 million.

Water costs up?

The average Acton water user faces a significant 6.7 per cent - or \$27.75 - rate increase for a total bill of \$443.13 this year. Halton politicians were briefed on the budget last week and are expected to approve some version on January 17.

Top Halton staff call the multi-year budget a responsible plan to deal with three critical issues: protecting Halton's safe drinking water supply, maintaining and improving Halton's \$2.7 billion water and wastewater system and improving customer service.

Less than half of the pro-

posed rate increase covers the cost of inflation (2.5 to 3 per cent) while the balance could come from improvements in the three focus areas.

The budget includes \$7.6 million to accelerate upgrades to the Acton wastewater

treatment plant and build a second well at Prospect Park, allowing Acton to grow to 10,000 people.

Moving day

The first residents of Bayfield Home's Acto Valley subdivision - between Division Street and Churchill Road, north of McDonald Boulevard - will move in, finally on Monday.

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Free Flu Shot Clinics

The Halton Region Health Department is holding flu shot clinics in January 2001 for anyone over 6 months of age who still needs a flu shot. Children under 9 years of age needing a second flu shot are also invited:

Monday, January 15, 4 - 8 p.m.
Halton Hills Cultural Center
9 Church Street, **Georgetown**

Wednesday, January 17, 4 - 8 p.m.
Milton District High School, Cafeteria
369 Williams Avenue, **Milton**

Monday, January 22, 4 - 8 p.m.
Acton High School, Cafeteria
21 Cedar Road, **Acton**

Wednesday, January 24, 4 - 8 p.m.
Halton Hills Cultural Center
9 Church Street, **Georgetown**

No appointments necessary

For more information call:
Halton Region Health Department's
Flu Info Line:

(905) 825-6158 TTY (905) 827-9833
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(1-866-442-5866)



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