

# Town re-ignites smoking issue...

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now is going to 'No Smoking' and Peel (Region) also, so I

think the precedent has been set and we'll have an opportunity to see how that imple-

mentation progresses; and some of the problems that we hope to be able to avoid," Andrews told councillors last week when asked for an update.

Georgetown Councillor Jane Fogal suggested a Region-wide policy, but Andrews said municipalities in the south of Halton "aren't there yet," but promised to raise the issue with his fellow CAOs.

Fogal said restrictive smoking bylaws are becoming "more fashionable," and the rest of Halton might "buy in when they have been led by example."

In an interview after the Council meeting, Halton's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Bob Nosal, said the key to the Halton Hills bylaw is its target date for both work place and public place smoking bans. Oakville is the only other Halton municipality to call for a work place ban, but it doesn't have a target date.

"Initial discussions with senior staff at area municipalities are indicating support, at least to have the discussion

and move towards it (a total ban)," Dr. Nosal said.

As of last month, the by-law bans workplace smoking, except in separately enclosed and ventilated areas. Smoking is allowed in 50 per cent of bars 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.

Proprietors must make sure they are in compliance and must post appropriate No Smoking signs

Dr. Nosal said Halton Council passed a non-binding resolution last year to implement 100 per cent smoke-free public places, no later than January 1, 2002.

"In less than a year, at least by the resolution of (Regional) Council, all Halton workplaces should be smoke-free by that date, and as a result of that resolution we're having discussions with top staff at each municipality about how we move towards 100 per cent smoke-free in public places," Nosal said.

## TOWN DIGEST

### Library award

Software developed by Halton Hills library staff, led by Acton's Walter Lewis, will be recognized with an award of merit at the Ontario Genealogy Society's annual banquet on May 26.

The award honours the library for its searchable Internet-accessible, historical and genealogical database and images and text documents - available for the world to see on its Halinet system.

In a memo to Council, chief librarian Betsy Cornwell said the library board is proud of the new honour which "reinforces the importance and value of the work done right here, by Halton Hills staff," and the software is now being used by other libraries.

### Parking problems persist

Town staff doesn't believe parking permits alone would alleviate the lack of adequate parking on Kingham Road, and will meet again this fall with members of the three condominium boards in the area to try to resolve the issue.

Kingham resident Stephen Grasby, who called the narrow road a "tragedy about to happen," said the condo boards shouldn't have to fix problems on a road the Town allowed to be built narrower than usual.

When Acton Councillor Dobbie Frizzell suggested the condo board, not the Town, should be responsible for a solution to the parking prob-

lem, Grasby told him, "You're putting my kids' life at risk - not yours," adding in winter, snow banks and on-street parking narrow the road dangerously.

"I have threatened the Town that I'm going to blockade the road," Grasby said, vowing to keep up the fight.

### Speed session


Traffic speed and road safety have become the number one issue of rural residents, according to Ward 2 (including rural Acton) Councillor Bryan Lewis, who asked for a meeting with police and Rural Road Watch officials to try to deal with the problem. That meeting is tentatively set for June 18.

Lewis wants the Town to implement community safety zones in the rural area - starting with school zones - where fines for traffic infractions are doubled.

### Council spat

While several councillors looked embarrassed and some amused by a public spat between Mayor Kathy Gastle and Georgetown Councillor John Day at last week's council meeting, Acton Councillor Dobbie Frizzell thought their sniping was unprofessional and childish.

Gastle was openly rude to Day, at times cutting off his microphone and chiding him about his purpose as he ploddingly asked questions about the Town's involvement with an environmental association.



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