



Proposed boundary changes
(see page 9 for full map)

TOWN DIGEST

Boundary change debate

All of the new voters in Acton East and other small pockets of development outside the town's urban boundary would be included in Ward 1, if Town Council opts to preserve communities of interest by adding new urban developments to urban wards.

A boundary review committee's recommendation to balance the population among the four municipal wards is the subject of a public meeting on Tuesday (Oct 15) at the Civic Centre. Council must approve any changes by the end of the year to be in effect for the municipal election in November 2003.

Ward I would include all lands bounded by 32 Side Road, the Town Line, Fourth Line and 22 Side Road. The number of voters would increase by 1,296 to 7,238.

Rural Ward 2 would lose almost 2,000 voters with shifts in Georgetown to accommodate growth.

Accessibility committees

In an attempt to accommodate people with disabilities by not adding new barriers and removing existing ones, both the Town and Region are setting up Accessibility Advisory Committees.

The new Ontario Disabilities Act says municipalities must consider accessibility when buying goods and services and in planning approval.

Municipal voting locations must be made more accessible and new social housing projects must include modified units for disabled persons. The Act also requires municipalities to increase the fines to people who illegally park in spots designated for disabled drivers and enforce new penalties for people misusing disabled person parking permits.

Both the Town and Region are looking for committees that include a majority of disabled persons. The Halton Hills committee must draft an accessibility plan next year, paid for by a proposed \$50,000 budget in 2003.

Recognizing that parking is a key part of travelling for many people with disabilities, the Town is cracking down on those who park in

spots designated for the disabled.

At the request of Acton Councillor Clark Somerville, the Town will ask Ontario's Chief Justice to approve increasing the minimum fine, upon conviction, to \$500. The Town's current minimum is \$100 and the new provincial Disabilities Act suggests \$300, but gives municipalities the option of asking for a higher amount.

There are 70 disabled parking spaces in Halton Hills that are located on private property. There are an additional 22 handicapped spaces that are operated, owned or leased by the Town.

Ten of the 22 private spaces are in Acton which also has disabled parking spaces on property owned, operated or leased by the Town.



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