





387 Queen St. East, Acton 286 Alma Street, Rockwood



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MORE THE MERRIER: Canadian Blood Service officials are urging groups and organizations to come together to give blood at the next donor clinic in Acton on December 16. Blood Services clinic/recruitment coordinator Sandra Viola (left) told Town Councillor Jon Hurst, clinic chair Julia Roehrig and Councillor Mike O'Leary that the clinic theme is "the more the merrier." - Frances Niblock photo

Town tells Queen's Park

Listen to Halton Hills farmers

By FRANCES NIBLOCK The New Tanner

Town Council has softened its position on asking the province to include more local land in a protected greenbelt area, and it wants Queen's Park to consult with the affected rural Halton Hills community, before finalizing its legislation to control urban sprawl and preserve agricultural land for the future.

Affected landowners some emotional, some angry and two happy to have more land protected - jammed the council chambers on Monday night. Ten of 12 speakers urged Council to reconsider a November 22 decision to ask the province to incorporate 4,000 additional acres of agricultural land in Halton Hills in a protected countryside designation in the greenbelt. One parcel is between the Middle Sixteen Mile

Creek tributary, on the west

side of the Sixth Line and a green land area. The Niagara Escarpment, Milton and a Middle Sixteen Mile Creek

No raise for mayor, council

Town councillors accepted staff's recommendation not to give themselves a raise this term.

The Town's remuneration policy calls for a review of councillors' salaries during the first year of their three-year term of office.

The policy says compensation for the mayor and councillors should be based on a best fit analysis from salary/population data obtained from municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area of up to 100,000 people.

The 2004 mayors' salary data shows Halton Hills pays its mayor \$46,600, more than the average salary of \$42,200. Halton Hills councillors earn \$18,800, less than the average of \$20,046.

greenland area bound the second piece of land.

Many of the delegates complained they were not consulted about changes that would affect the value of their land, and their livelihood.

John Opsteen, president of the Halton Federation of Agriculture said protecting agricultural land is a good thing, but the cost must be shared, not paid by farmers whose farm equity will decrease because their land is included in a protected area, for the greater good.

"If the provincial government wants to keep an area as a greenbelt, there's a very simple way, and that is to buy it," Opsteen said, adding some form of compensation would be fair to those whose

Local committee set up to search for Acton MDs

A handpicked team of politicians, community and business leaders and a physician will attempt a medical miracle - attracting a new family doctor to Acton

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette announced formation of the Halton Hills Physician Recruitment Committee during his "stateof- the- union" address to local business leaders at last Thursday's Mayor's Christmas lunch, hosted by the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce in Georgetown.

Bonnette said the committee will work with an existing Halton recruitment committee that has succeeded in attracting new doctors to Georgetown, but not Acton, which has the most acute need for family physicians in all of Halton.

"We're going to work together, to make sure as the community grows, that we're going to work to find ways to

attract doctors, to encourage doctors, that this is a place to come here and raise a family," Bonnette said.

On Friday, Bonnette expanded on his initiative, adding Halton Hills, which has been redesignated as an under-serviced community for physicians, has different needs than the rest of Halton.

Bonnette said he is not disappointed with the recruitment work done to date, but some things "fell through the cracks," he said, pointing to one incident where he and his wife, Josey Bonnette, the Acton BIA co-ordinator, had to scramble around at the last minute to arrange a tour of Acton and Georgetown for a

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ELVES IN TRAINING: Decked out in their Kris Kringle best, two year-old Rachel Ironside and her brother Trevor, 6 months, were among the many who enjoyed breakfast with the man in red on Saturday at Limehouse School. Santa couldn't be happier that the Ironsides donned Santa's favourite colours. - Angela Tyler photo

continued on page 3 Holds the tree...and the presents too!!!



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