

# Town wants public's opinion on 100 per cent smoking ban

The Town of Halton Hills will be seeking the public's opinion on a draft smoking bylaw which calls for 100 per cent smoking ban in all public and work places—including bars and restaurants—by 2001.

A date for a public meeting has not been set yet.

The move to a smoke-free community has been gaining momentum in neighboring municipalities with many proposing smoke-free environments by 2000.

Halton Hills is proposing a gradual implementation from 75 per cent smoke-free starting July 1, 1999, 85 per cent smoke-free by July 1, 2000 and 100 per cent smoke-free by July 1, 2001.

Councillor Moya Johnson motioned to



**BOB INGLIS**

move the 100 per cent smoke-free date forward to 2000, but was voted down. Councillor Bob Inglis, who said he received many calls from smokers about the proposed bylaw, wanted to hear the "other side" before moving too quickly on the reduction.

Councillor Rick Bonnette, a former bar owner who has experienced summer economic slumps, said smoking areas are critical for bars and proposed a 50-50-100 per cent reduction formula for bars and restaurants. He was voted down and some councillors suggested non-smokers who wouldn't normally do so, would start going to bars that were smoke-free.

Enforcement of the bylaw in workplaces will be done by Halton Health Department inspectors on a complaint-received basis.

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