

On prime agricultural land Study calls for curbing golf course growth

Planning a golf course can be a lot like the sport itself. For the best success, one just has to hit the sweet spot.

That's the determination of the recently concluded Halton Golf Course study.

To be considered for approval by regional council today (Wednesday), it aims to slow, or even stop, the spread of golf courses over prime agricultural lands.

Instead, new courses would be directed above the Niagara Escarpment brow, or on degraded lands, such as brown fields, former landfill sites and abandoned quarries.

Though current policies purport to place golf courses above the brow, easy-to-meet standards have allowed many links to spring up on quality farm land below it as well.

But the new study drives home the importance of protecting prime farm land, said Halton senior planner Helma Geerts at Halton Region's planning and public works committee meeting last week.

"The existing policy direction we feel is still appropriate," she said. "But the policies are not effective."

Currently, there are 28 golf courses and five driving ranges in Halton, split equally between the rural and urban areas.

Of those, five are located above the escarpment brow. Another eight courses are currently proposed, six of which are slated for prime agricultural land, said Geerts.

And a continuing demand could add between 7-18 new golf courses over the next five years, ballooning to up to 42 over the next two decades. That could eat up as much as 3,000 hectares— twice the size of Georgetown and four times the size of Acton.

The courses would feed the need of surrounding areas, said Halton's Planning Commissioner Pat Murphy.

"We looked at it from a GTA-wide basis," he said. "We were trying to look at the potential

demand and the pressures that would create."

Aside from strengthening policies to better protect quality land, the new guidelines would push for a higher level of environmental protection for both new and existing courses.

"It would add environmental criteria to ensure we're able to achieve no net loss or, preferably, a net gain," said Geerts.

The study gained the approval of the Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee (HAAC).

"We do, as a majority, agree," said HAAC representative John Glasgow.

The endorsement came despite concern that land slated for agricultural use wouldn't be as valuable as that available for development should farmers opt to sell, he added.

Burlington resident Joe Richardson appeared before committee to suggest that golf courses built on degraded lands be used as a buffer between agricultural areas and urban centres.

The skyrocketing demand for Halton links seemed to stagger some committee members, including Halton Chair Joyce Savoline.

"I'm dismayed at the number of golf courses predicted over the next 20 years," she said. "I don't see it as a requirement."

But the number isn't carved in stone, assured Murphy.

"We were appalled at the amount of land that could be taken," he said. "We will not likely be encouraging the upper limit."

Then that should be communicated to the public, responded Savoline.

"It would help me, and it would certainly help the public, if we could identify a more realistic number," she said. "Human nature being what it is, the number 42 jumps out. It's just human nature to grab on to that and say 'My God, they're crazy.' And I think we would be."

—By Irene Gentle, special

CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE

Christmas 2000

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PUBLIC WORKSHOP

A Public Invitation to discuss the
Future of the
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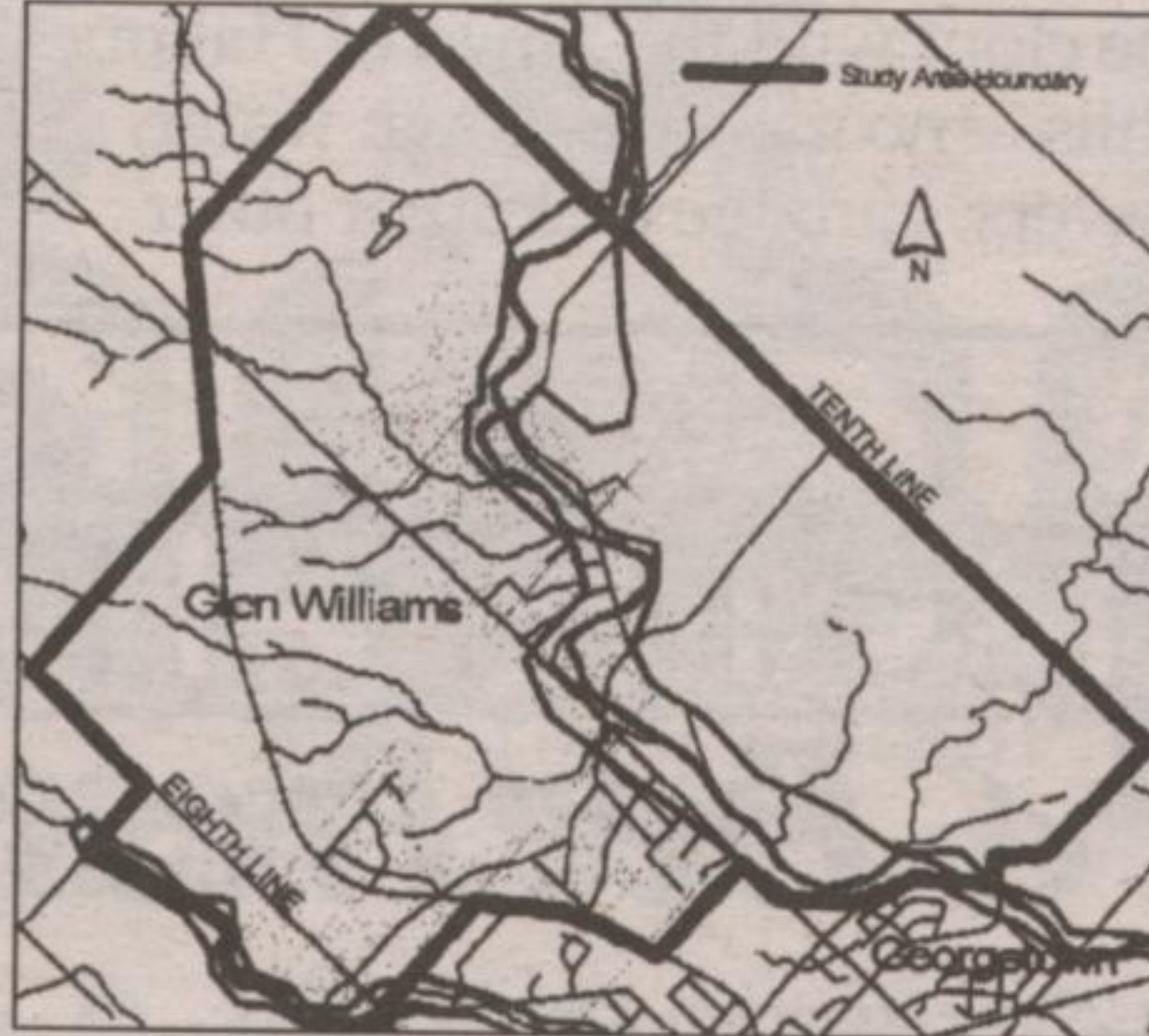
Glen Williams Integrated Planning
Project (Secondary Plan)
Workshop One - Foundations

The Town of Halton Hills has initiated a planning process in order to establish a long term, sustainable plan for the Hamlet of Glen Williams. To help initiate the planning process, the first of three public workshops has been planned to present preliminary information with respect to the area and obtain the views of the public with respect to issues such as environmental management, potential growth and the provision of public services.

The workshop is called "Foundations" because its purpose is to ensure that Town planning staff and the consultant project team has the right information at the beginning of the process. This includes understanding the issues from the community's perspective.

Your input will help define a vision for Glen Williams and ensure that this plan meets the needs of current and future residents and businesses.

We invite you to join us for our public workshop session, *Foundations*.



Date: Thursday, December 7, 2000
Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Location: Halton Hills Civic Centre
Council Chambers

If you have any questions regarding the Public Workshop, please contact:

Steve Burke, Planner
Town of Halton Hills
Phone: (905) 873-2601, ext. 2254
Fax: (905) 877-3524
E-mail: stevebu@town.halton-hills.on.ca

199

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

PAYROLL OFFICER THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

The Town of Halton Hills is a dynamic community located in Halton Region, in the northwestern portion of the Greater Toronto Area. The Town has a population of approximately 45,000 people and enjoys a beautiful natural environment. The Town of Halton Hills is seeking a Payroll Officer to manage and administer the payroll system.

Reporting to the Deputy Treasurer, the successful candidate will prepare payroll for over 400 employees on a bi-weekly basis using a computerized system, administer payroll in accordance with legislation and internal policies and verify accuracy of submitted payroll related documents including input and edit listings. In addition, the Payroll Officer prepares and submits all payroll related remittances, prepares all statutory and union documentation such as T4's, ROI, HRDC statistics, etc. and reconciles payroll accounts in the general ledger.

Qualifications include post secondary education, minimum of three years related experience and Canadian Payroll Association Certificate.

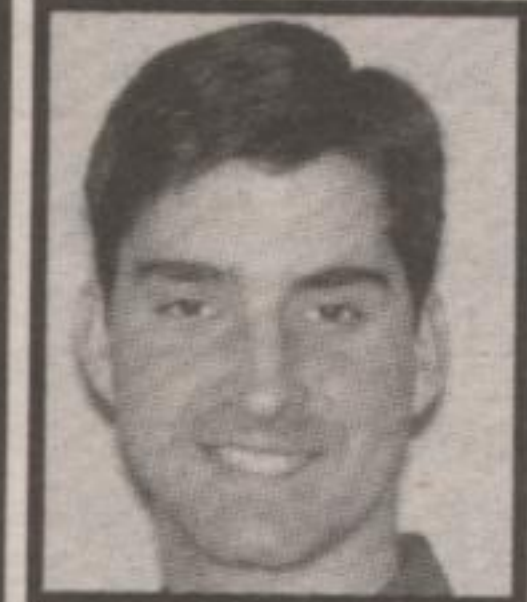
The salary range is \$37,792 - \$44,495 (currently under review).

Resumés must be delivered by mail or by courier to the undersigned no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, December 8, 2000.

Mrs. Kelly Withers
The Town of Halton Hills
1 Halton Hills Drive
P.O. Box 128
Halton Hills, Ontario
L7G 5G2

Personal information is collected under the authority of The Municipal Act R.S.O. 1990, Chapter M.45 and will be used to select a candidate. Questions about this collection should be directed to the Personnel Office.

We thank everyone who applies but only those individuals chosen for interviews will be contacted. If you have any questions, please call the Personnel Officer at 905-873-2601, ext. 2335. The Town of Halton Hills is an equal opportunity employer. 200



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By Cory Soal
R.H.A.D.

WHAT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE WHEN PURCHASING A HEARING AID?

The Ministry of Health's Assistive Devices Program (ADP) provides some assistance to both children and adults. For further information you may contact 1-800-268-6021 or ask your Hearing Instrument Practitioner for the Assistive Device Pamphlet.

Medical plans through employers, Workers Compensation, Veterans Affairs Canada, and private Insurance Companies cover many Ontario residents for hearing aids. Your Hearing Instrument Practitioner will be pleased to assist you in determining what coverage you might have.

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