

Accessibility committees to be formed

oth the town and region plan to set up Municipal Accessibility Advisory committees.

The Ontario Disabilities Act 2001 (ODA) requires the formation of the nine-member committees, with the majority of members having a disability, at the various government levels.

The governments are also required to prepare an annual Accessibility Plan. It's anticipated that Halton Hills' first plan will be completed in 2003 with the possibility of immediate capital works estimated at \$20,000 as well as \$30,000 for dedicated staff to the project. Municipalities are not required to identify or remove all barriers all at once, but will identify priorities and proceed from there annually.

Under the ODA, the town and region are

also required to:

 Make accessibility a consideration when purchasing goods and services and in planning approvals

 Improve access to municipal elections by giving greater consideration to accessible voting locations

• Ensure that new social frousing units include some modified for disabled persons

 Enforce new penalties for misuse of disabled person parking permits

 Increase the penalty for misuse of designated parking under municipal bylaws to \$300

On Tuesday, October 1, Halton Region will be hosting an open house to provide information about the role of the region's Accessibility

Advisory Committee, and to provide applications for anyone interested in applying for a position on the committee. The open house will be held 2-8 p.m. in the Halton Room at the Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Rd. in Oakville.

Application forms are also available for pick up from the Halton Region Clerk's Division at 1151 Bronte Road, or you can request that an application be faxed by calling at 905-825-6225, toll free 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866) ext. 6225, TTY (905) 827-9833.

The application is also available on the region's Web site at www.region.halton.on.ca. Application forms are available in large print. The deadline to submit applications is no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 11.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

OP meetings planned

Two public meetings will be held next month in Halton Hills for residents to have their say in the review of Halton Region's Official Plan (OP).

The meetings will be held Wednesday, Oct. 2 at Halton Hills council chambers and Thursday, Oct. 17 at St. Joseph's School in Acton.

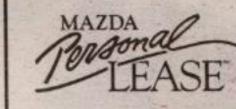
Both meetings, which begin at 7 p.m. will be preceded by open houses at 6 p.m.

Issues to be covered include achieving affordable housing, supporting the agricultural sector, enhancing greenlands and improving environmental quality.



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