

Region outlines Official Plan proposals

Concerns about truck traffic and the need for improved roads were among the comments provided by some of the more than 50 area residents who attended a recent open house on Halton Region's Official Plan review.

Ho Wong, of Halton Region's planning and public works department, outlined the 15 directions region staff is proposing that could become amendments to the region's Official Plan.

The directions include:

- Make no adjustments to the current urban boundaries and move the planning horizon in the current plan from 2016 to 2021
- Introduce a Smart Growth Index System to measure development plans or planning applications
- Introduce new definitions for assisted housing and affordable housing, identify the need for those forms of housing on an annual basis, and set targets to meet those needs
- Introduce policies to aggressively market farming and improve the economic viability of farming in Halton
- Introduce on-farm businesses as a permitted use in the agricultural rural area
- Remove the provision of retirement severances, effective one year from the date of the approval of the change in the regional Official Plan
- Do not introduce a new Prime Agricultural Area and require golf courses, both below and above the Escarpment, to get an Official Plan amendment and be subject to stringent environmental criteria

- Add a new category "Significant Woodlots" to the Greenlands B designation in the plan and update boundaries of Environmentally Sensitive Areas

- Only Burlington Beach, Bronte Harbour and Burloak Park will be referred to as regional waterfront parks, which will be owned and managed by the area municipalities and/or Conservation Halton

- Subscribe to the principles of the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and set targets to reduce overall emissions generated from the region's corporate functions and activities. Also establish a Green Projects Advisory Committee

- Introduce Municipal Wellhead Protection Zones and introduce policy and programs to define and implement sustainable limits for water-taking in Halton

- Introduce a land securement program and include the concept of a regional trail system

- Set new targets on waste management of 14 per cent source reduction and 44 per cent resource recovery, with an overall diversion rate from landfill of 58 per cent. Also investigate the feasibility of a three-stream waste management system (recyclables, kitchen organics and general waste) and achieve a 50-year life span for Halton's Waste Management site

- Require the submission of Community Health Assessment for secondary plans, development proposals with 1,000 or more people or jobs and public projects valued at \$2 million or more.

- Adopt a transit vision that supports a high-service local transit system, continuous improvements on the GO transit system and a new GTA/Hamilton wide inter-regional rapid transit network and adopt a transit-first policy.

One area resident said the elimination of the retirement severance allowance for farmers "will be pretty hard on farmers."

"We feel the severances really are to the detriment of the long-term of sustainability of agriculture," said Jane Clohecy of Halton's planning and public works department.

Another resident raised concerns about the push for transit in the directives while another stressed the need for a corridor from Georgetown to Hwy. 401. Another man raised concerns about gravel trucks on area roads and how transit is not going to solve that problem.

Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER) president Barb Halsall said she was "very much in favour of public transit" and added there is a "real issue" in Halton Hills with truck traffic from all the quarries in the area.

Regional council is expected to make a decision on the proposed directions, amended as necessary in early 2003.

The proposed amendments to the plan will be released for consultation and statutory public meeting in March, and council is expected to adopt the proposed amendments in June with the province approving them in September.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

IT'S A BOY

Karen and Jamie Lowrie, along with big sister Mckenna, are pleased to announce the birth of Logan James Gordon Lowrie, on Sept. 5, 2002 at 6:43 am, weighing 7 lbs. 7 oz. Proud grandparents are Jim and Joan Lowrie and Gord and Lynn Crockford of Orangeville.

Get the education you need for the **career you want.**

Choose DeVry College of Technology for the skills and experience you need to go from a "day job" to the career — and the salary — you deserve.

We know you don't have a lot of time to spend in a classroom, so we're open days, nights and weekends, with sessions year-round. You can complete your diploma in business and technology in as little as one year. With hands-on learning and dedicated faculty who are committed to your success, you'll get the education you need for the future you want.

Begin your future at DeVry College of Technology. Call now. 905-501-8000 or visit us at www.devry.ca
Toronto (Mississauga Campus)

DeVry College of Technology
THINK AHEAD™

walk-a-thon

United Way of Halton Hills

Halton Hills
COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND INFORMATION

Sunday, October 20th, 2002
12:30 - 4 pm

Georgetown South Park (8th Line) Main Street

HHCSI Youth Centre
47 Mill Street, Acton

For more pledge sheets contact:
United Way (905) 877-3066
HHCSI (905) 873-6502
Pets on a leash welcome.

Join us afterwards for music, fun and recognition awards.

give where you live

children
serious & terminal illness
family & individual counselling
disabilities
direction & support
families
independent living
women in crisis
child abuse
alcohol & drug abuse
seniors
special needs assistance

St Clair
the paint and paper people

211 Guelph St.,
905-873-0288

Hours: Mon.-Wed. 9-8, Thurs. & Fri. 9-9, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 11-4

JOHN A. GIBSON
Chartered Accountant

- SMALL BUSINESS ACCOUNTING
- PERSONAL TAX RETURNS
- CORPORATE TAX RETURNS

10 MOUNTAINVIEW RD. S., SUITE 203 (Mountainview & Guelph)
905-873-0996

Halton COMMERCIAL Printers

53 Armstrong Ave.,
Georgetown
(905) 877-1278

OPTEC
Communications & Power Industries
communications & medical products division

45 RIVER DRIVE
GEORGETOWN, ONTARIO
905-877-0161

Robert Noble Limited
SEPTIC TANK PUMPING
High Pressure Drain Flushing
2 Trucks to Serve You - Radio Dispatched
P.O. Box 773, Rockwood, Ontario N0B 2K0
(519) 853-0500
Office
(905) 878-6869 (519) 856-9860
Answering Service Fax

Hope to see you at the
United Way Walkathon
Sunday, Oct. 20, 2002

The Independent & Free Press