

# Town to hold public meeting on adult entertainment policy

Halton Hills council can't stop adult entertainment businesses from setting up shop in town, but it can regulate where they can go.

That's the upshot of a new policy that could be amended to the town's Official Plan.

A public meeting on the policy will be held starting at 8 p.m. during the next council meeting, Monday, May 31 at the Civic Centre.

The policy governs adult entertainment parlours, body rub parlours, adult video stores and adult specialty stores.

It proposes adult entertainment and body rub parlours be limited to industrial areas only in Acton and Georgetown,

subject to requirements such as setbacks from main roads and residential development.

Adult video stores will be allowed in specified commercial areas and zones, but there will a separation distance imposed between similar stores to prevent a concentration.

Adult specialty stores will be allowed in most commercial areas and zones.

However, some councillors at a recent meeting asked whether they can keep these types of establishments out of this town altogether.

"I've had a lot of people approach me on this asking, 'Why we can't just rid of adult entertainment studios; we don't

want them in our community,'" said Ward 2 Councillor Joan Robson.

Manager of planning policy John Linhardt said it is not within his jurisdiction to restrict a business based on morality; however steps can be taken through land use policies and licensing bylaws.

"Yes, you need to accommodate the uses, but you can be restrictive in doing so," he said.

"We're basically trying to put something in (the Official Plan) that makes the rules clearer and respects the comments of the community at large. But it also recognizes that these uses are legal businesses. One has to be careful when

one tries to prohibit a legal business," Linhardt warned council.

Councillor Ron Chatten asked the planners consider a stipulation that these businesses cannot be near any organization catering to children. He pointed out that many industrial buildings in town are home to churches or children-oriented sports groups such as gymnastics or martial arts.

Council agreed to extend a one-year moratorium on any new adult entertainment businesses pending completion of this adult entertainment study.

The planning report can be viewed on the town's Web site [www.haltonhills.ca](http://www.haltonhills.ca)

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

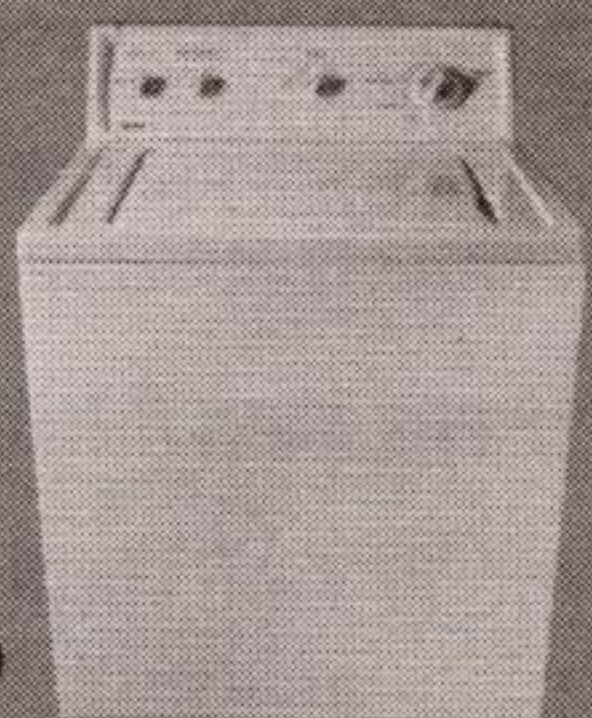
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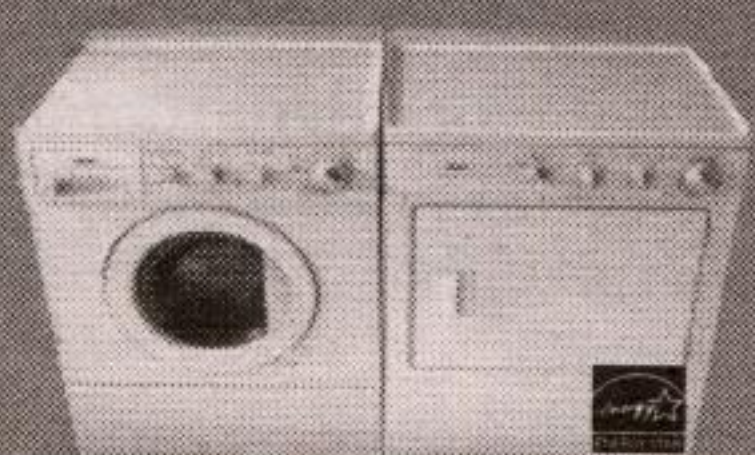
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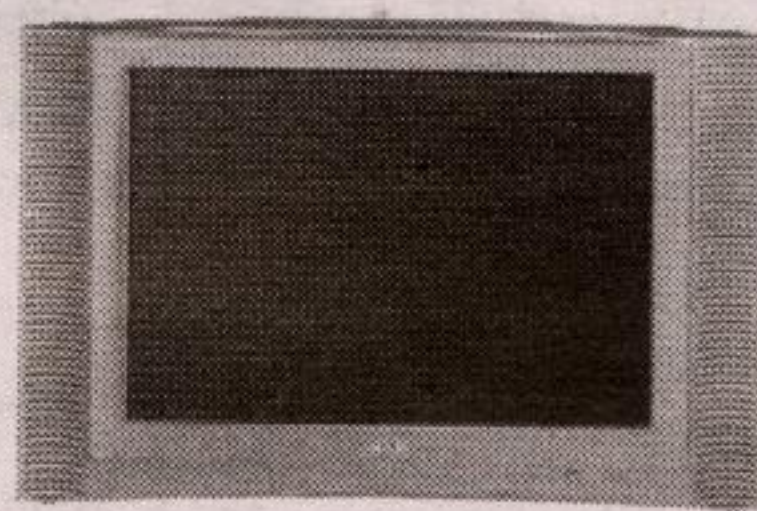
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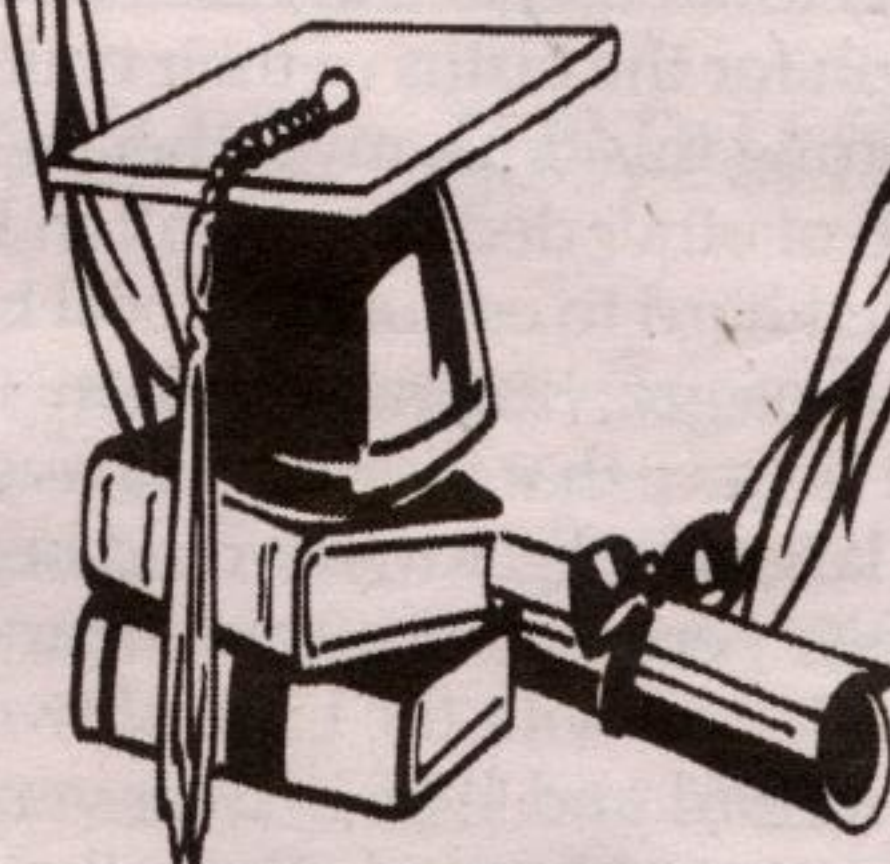
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