

# Seniors' study 13 complete

By CHRISTINE STANTON

With the \$35,000 phase one of the region's elderly study now complete, Burlington Mayor Roly Bird is wondering if the situation with Halton's elderly is not as significant as first thought.

He urged the health and social services committee recently to consider concentrating on the situation at the Halton Centennial Manor in phase two of the study, rather than the proposed detailed analysis which will cost \$20,000.

"We should centre on the Manor and wrap things up," he said. "I rest my concern about completing an exercise that should have looked at the Manor at the start."

But Oakville councillor Carol Gooding, chairman of the elderly study steering committee, said the analysis of the Manor can not be done in isolation, because what the

region does with the Manor depends on what is being done in other areas of service to seniors.

Phase one of the study included public meetings in each area municipality in Halton, which Mr. Bird called a bureaucratic exercise. He said the providers of service were pointing out situations more than the participating members of the public.

Gooding said it isn't known what the region's role is in the home for the aged, nor if the region should continue with the facility as it is.

"The issues are not just the Manor," she stressed. "What leadership is the region going to take in transportation, housing and co-ordination? No one is co-ordinating in the region as the service needs increase."

She said the public meetings were benef-

icial because seniors got a chance to articulate their feelings.

The majority of the committee members agreed that the region should proceed with the study, having already completed Phase one.

Phase one amounted to an identification of the problems and concerns of Halton's elderly population, while phase two is to define the region's role in providing services to the elderly.

Participants in the public meetings cited housing shortages, transportation difficulties and loss of independence as the prime concerns.

Phase one also identified a need for some kind of co-ordination of services for the elderly, and an information service to dispense the information.

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