

Hikes to long-term care must be limited, says Halton Region

By RICHARD VIVIAN
The Champion

Long-term-care fee increases should be limited to increases to the Canada Pension Plan (CPP), says Halton Region.

Regional council endorsed a call October 30 from the Elderly Services Advisory Committee (ESAC) to have Regional Chair Joyce Savoline write the Minister of Health to raise concerns about the impacts of fee increases on seniors.

The letter would indicate the Region's preference that fee increases be limited to levels equivalent to increases in CPP pay outs.

It would further recommend the ministry better educate the public on where increased fees would be utilized.

Seniors have found it difficult to cope with a seven per cent fee hike instituted by the Province in September, council heard from ESAC representative Allan Klarer.

"We're concerned about the quality of

care and increased costs. Increases, any increase, can cause difficulties for some seniors," he told council.

September's increase is part of a three-year phase in of increases, which are expected to ultimately total a 15 per cent hike.

The Province originally proposed the increase as a lump sum, but moved to the phase in after public outcry.

Last month, the Halton health and social services (HSS) committee endorsed a motion which would have asked the Province to limit fee increases to the actual cost of services.

That recommendation varied from the one presented to the committee by ESAC, which requested the Province be asked to limit increases to 2 per cent.

In response to the amendment, Mr. Klarer told council he would prefer 2 per cent increases be specified, but the tie to CPP increases was acceptable.

Arena builder selected

Construction of Milton's new two-pad arena is set to get underway now that a builder has been selected.

At a special council meeting Wednesday, councillors accepted the tender offer from Dineen Construction Corp. to build the arena at a cost of \$12.2 million.

The two-pad arena — set to open in about a year — will house a concession stand, gymnastics centre, storage rooms and meeting rooms.

An additional two pads are expected to be added to the facility in 2009.



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What is Connecting Halton?

Connecting Halton is an initiative to create and implement a vision of the future that involves the use of information and communication technologies in new and innovative ways.

The Connecting Halton project aims to build a vision for better healthcare delivery, education, community services, government and business opportunities.

Public Meetings

Tuesday, November 26, 2002
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Burlington City Hall - Room 247
426 Brant Street

Wednesday, November 27, 2002
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Oakville Town Hall - Trafalgar Room
1225 Trafalgar Road

For more information on the public meeting, or on Connecting Halton, visit our web site at www.connectinghalton.ca or www.region.halton.on.ca/connectinghalton or call us at (905) 825-6000 ext.7230, toll free 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866).

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