

Regional Official Plan deals with growth until 2021

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to upgrade to party status depending on the progress of the hearing.

OMB hearing officers Norman Jackson and John Aker presided over last week's pre-hearing.

Registered as a participant is Oakvillegreen Conservation Association Inc., Joshua Creek Ratepayers Inc. has been granted party status, while Clear the Air Coalition was given conditional party status pending provision of proof of its validity to be recognized as a party.

Halton Region is being represented by Toronto lawyers Mr. Waqué and Robert Doumani, as

well as Regional lawyer Stan Floras.

Halton Region asked the board last week to proceed with a hearing that could be broken into phases such as — the planning horizon; population targets and distribution; urban structure and urban expansion. A fifth phase could deal with site-specific appeals — dependent on the outcome of the first four phases.

ROPA 25 deals with growth until 2021. It was approved by Halton Regional council in June 2004. It's hoped that the Region's Web site will be updated to contain a site to post progress of the hearing.

The eventual OMB hearing will decide if the Regional plan will stand or be adjusted based on the appeals launched by numerous major developers — including north Oakville landowners — representatives of the aggregate industry, Upper Canada College and the Woodbine Entertainment Group.

Halton Region's adoption of ROPA 25 ended a four-year review process to ensure the revised plan addresses growth, affordable housing, environmental protection, agriculture and transportation. It's a new planning vision that sets a firm urban boundary for growth to 2021, deals with

affordable housing, supports Halton's farming community, enhances the greenlands system, commits to air and water quality improvements, and promotes alternate transportation, like public transit, cycling, and walking.

It involved an extensive public consultation program consisting of six open houses, workshops and focus group meetings, a mailing list of more than 900 people and nearly a dozen technical reports.

Key among those reports were a Ninth Line Corridor Land Use Study, Livestock Operation Guidelines and a new tree bylaw.

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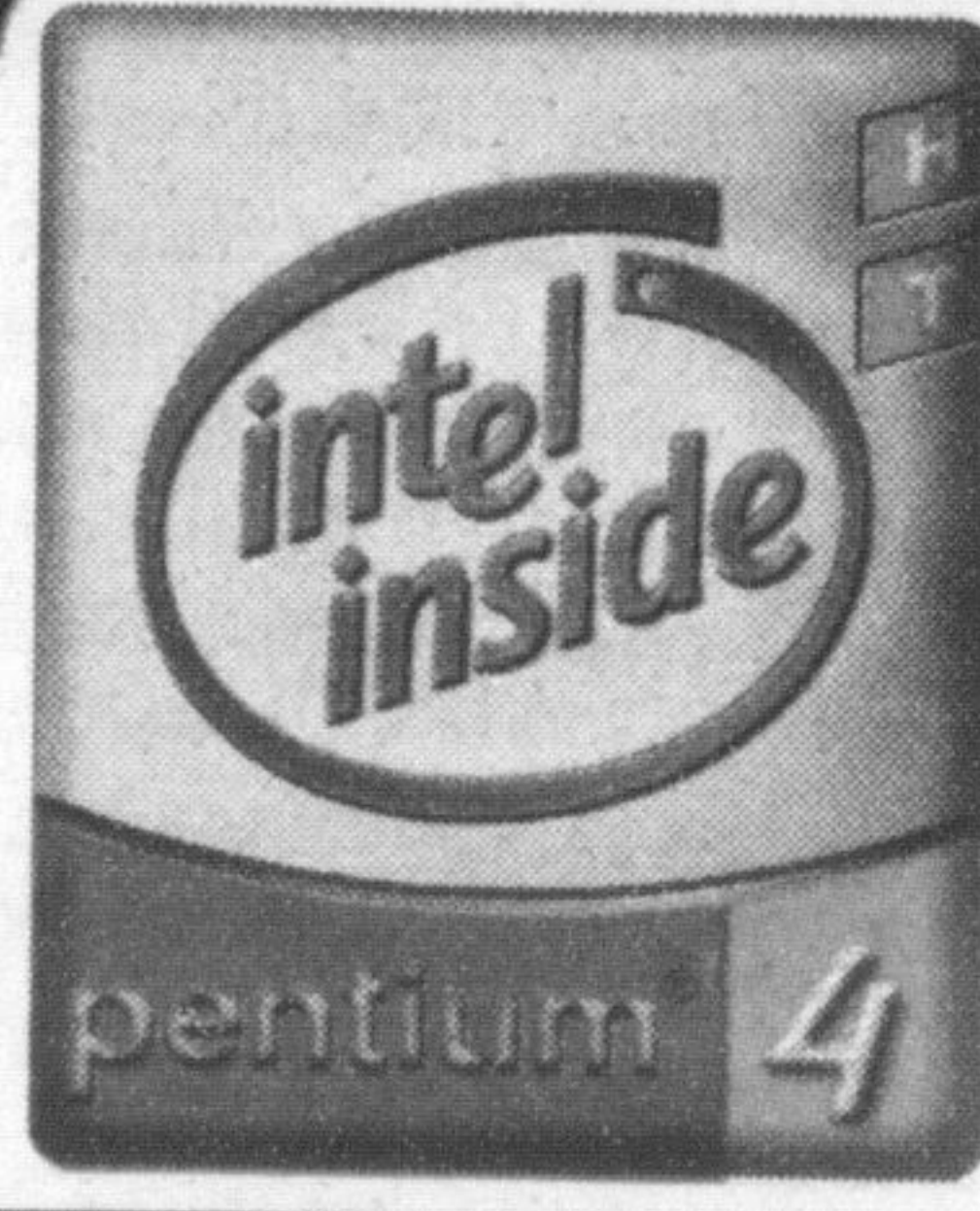
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