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No rural development until study completed

By KAREN SMITH

Development in rural Milton is being put on hold until the Town completes its official plan review of the area.

Town councillors, in a special rural review meeting Wednesday, approved recommendations from the Town's planning department to continue a freeze on rural residential subdivision construction, which has been in effect for approximately a year.

Rural severance requests, except those complying with Region of Halton criteria, will also be black-balled.

Bob Zsadanyi, director of planning for the Town, said the rural review — which will set rules for land use in Nassagaweya — should be wrapped up by the fall, when public hearings will be held.

Councillors also voted to request that the Region conduct a ground water study in the rural areas of Halton with immediate concentration in the Nassagaweya area.

"This should be done as soon as possible," said Mr. Zsadanyi, "and we should continue to monitor after the study is done."

Originally, the planning department estimated the ground water study would take five years. But opposition from councillors meant the timing was left open, in hopes of having it completed quickly.

Another approved recommendation stated that until the ground water study is complete, no new hamlets (ones like Brookville or Mofat) will be permitted.

Meanwhile, the public at the informal meeting received a chance to air their opinions.

Many residents expressed their frustration over the inability of rural landowners to receive approval from the Region for land severances.

The Region's criteria for severances in rural Milton are more strict than the Town's policies, said Mr. Zsadanyi, and the Region makes the final decisions.

One man said Nassagaweya wants a "set of rules we can live by as quickly as possible. As a landowner, I feel like I'm in a cage."

Robert Hardy of Fifth Line wants to put an end to rural subdivisions.

"Rural areas are no place for subdivisions," he said. "Nassagaweya is being spoiled."

Northern councillors lose bid to snub dump

By NORMAN NELSON

Milton regional councillor Bill Johnson's vehement opposition to a proposal by Duferin Aggregates to turn its 1,300-acre Milton quarry into a 30-million tonne landfill doesn't wash with at least one Oakville councillor.

During a presentation by company officials to Halton Region's planning and public works committee Wednesday, councillor Johnson interjected, "haven't you ruined the escarpment enough already?"

Councillor Fred Oliver, however, chided, "I'm most surprised. In the last three or four years on several occasions, through this committee and council, you have continually advocated use of quarries for waste disposal ... but not in Milton."

Councillor Oliver was alluding to a quarry in Burlington which at one time was being considered by the Region for use as a landfill, a use which councillor Johnson had not opposed.

Councillor Johnson conceded he had wanted to "study it further" but said the Burlington site was more appropriately located with better roads, fewer people and had been described as suitable by several consultants.

Support from Burlington and Oakville councillors has ensured the Milton quarry proposal will also be studied further — at least until next

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Photo by JON BLACKER

What's up, doc?

Brandon Jackman was dressed appropriately to take part in a hop-a-thon held at Halton Centennial Manor Wednesday to raise money for muscular dystrophy research. The event was a co-operative effort between the manor and Family Place.

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