

Municipal Board Resembles Ombudsman in Functions

By Owen Kinsey
Special to The Herald

(Second of Three Articles)

You've carried your beef against assessment, or the amount of money you've been offered for expropriated property, beyond local authority and now you're before the Ontario Municipal Board.

You know that a chairman, three vice-chairmen and eight members make up the Municipal Board, but you're surprised to find only two men hearing your case. The Board's 1963 annual report explains it:

"Two members are a quorum to hear and dispose of any application and the chairman may appoint one member to hear any application and report to the Board. In such cases the decision or order is made by two other members, one of whom must be the chairman or a vice-chairman."

In this way the Board can handle more than a thousand hearings a year.

It sits as a tribunal "subject to the rules of natural justice", which are: that the tribunal shall be free from bias and that all persons having an interest in the subject matter shall be heard.

"Our main concern is the little fellow; the less chance he has to protect himself, the more we think about him," says Mr. Kennedy.

It is in this area, too, that many of the Board's decisions infuriate local politicians. The Board doesn't get embroiled in argument with its critics.

"If we did," says Mr. Kennedy, "our usefulness would vanish." But he adds, somewhat wistfully, "If we weren't human, it wouldn't bother us."

One could wish that Mr. Kennedy would some time give human enough to look back at some fulminating local politician. He is a forthright and articulate person, whose clarity of thought and speech has not been muffled under the weight of his vast knowledge of municipal law.

WORKED AS REPORTER

After deciding to become a lawyer rather than a newspaperman - he worked as a reporter in Sudbury, among other places - he graduated from Os-

good's Hall in 1929 and started to practice in Ottawa. But Windsor offered a better chance for a lawyer who spoke fluent French, which he had learned while he grew up in Sudbury.

He practised in Windsor for 25 years, with about half his work for municipalities in the area. He appeared frequently before the Municipal Board, whose chairman was then Lorne Cumming. When Mr. Cumming became deputy minister of municipal affairs, he got Mr. Kennedy to accept the job of vice-chairman of the Board in 1954. Four years later he became the \$20,000 a year chairman.

That's a far cry from the days in Sudbury when, after graduating from Loyola College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1925, he took a job to finance his law studies. The only available job was a driver of a horse-drawn grocery wagon.

"I must have been the only man with a BA in all Canada doing that job," he muses.

Baptists Pledge Monthly Aid for Niger Mission

Eighty persons sat down to supper and to review the highlights of the past year at Maple Avenue Baptist Church Wednesday, January 20.

The church reflected a steady growth in all departments over the previous year with notable gains in the Young People's Society which averaged well over 25 each Monday meeting. Sunday School enrolment stayed at 275 but average attendance including the Summer lows was 186 with a record attendance of 265 last March.

Fourteen new members were admitted in the past year and giving climbed to a new high of \$17,863.35. A new milestone was set in the taking on of missionary support. Beginning this month, Rev. and Mrs. Fred Gould will be supported at \$50.00 per month. The Goulds have been living in Georgetown this past year and will return to the Niger Republic this July. Missionary commitments for 1965 now stand at \$1,942.00 in pledged support. Along with other missionary work, this figure will go past the \$2,500 mark for 1965.

Outstanding highlights this year were the record attendance at the Easter Vacation School and the inauguration of a summer camp. Both events are again in the planning stages.

Election of officers resulted in the following deacons: Mr. Gordon Garner, 18 Chipper Court, Mr. Ralph Tripp, 27 Park St., Mr. William Ganton, 83 John St. E., Mr. Ken Gould, 7 Gray Gate, Mr. Edmund Paris, 77 Maple Ave., and Mr. Henry Sienko, 14 George St.

Mr. Don Milla, 62 McIntyre Cres. was made Chairman of the ushers. Mrs. Val Stein was elected President of the WMS and Pat Higgs, President of the Young People's Society. Mr. W. Ganton and Mr. R. Tripp will serve another year as Sunday School Superintendent and Treasurer while Mr. E. Paris assumes the responsibility of Clerk.

Bureau drawers sticky? Remove them on a dry day and rub the bottom surfaces with a candle.

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OPEN IMMIGRATION OFFICE HERE

MAYOR JOE GIBBONS officially welcomed representatives from the Immigration Dept. last week as they opened a branch office in Georgetown to provide an extension service for this area. Seated front are field officer Jim Buchanan, left, and Mayor Gibbons; standing are Tom Reid, left, district settlement officer, and Jack Cardwell, officer in charge of the Halton, Wentworth and Brant counties area. The office in the Georgetown municipal building will be open Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon, and from 1 to 3.30.

Keeping Eye on Ottawa Tories Postpone Meeting

The Tory nomination convention for Halton County has been postponed until at least the House of Commons meets February 16.

John Dewey, president of the Halton County Progressive Conservative Association, said for the executive has decided not to hold the planned mid-February meeting but await further Ottawa developments.

A March date is now believed to be considered.

On Wednesday, Allan M. Masson, 40, Mayor of Oakville, agreed to enter the Conservative race for the federal riding. "If nominated, I will do the best for the country as a whole," he said.

Earlier, William Coulter, 33, Reeve of Nasasagaweya Township and a resident of Campbellville declared his intention to be a candidate at the Tory nomination convention.

Neither candidate has issued a statement on their platform in light of the existing situation at national headquarters. During a visit to neighbouring Peel County in 1964, Opposition Leader John Diefenbaker urged Halton Tories to "get a man in the field."

Lady, 74, Would Give Blood if Allowed

(Letter from Mrs. Julia Mouritzen, Georgetown to the Canadian Red Cross Society.)

"I have given 8 pints of blood. I started giving at 62 years of age and of course they said I couldn't give after 65 (from 1952 to 1955). I have Rh Negative blood. I felt good afterwards. I'd go have supper and go to a show and come home about 11 o'clock.

"I see so many strong, healthy people that could easily give blood, but when I ask them they say they are afraid. I help at the Georgetown clinic everytime. I open the coke and put it in the Dixie cups. We have apple juice, too. I really enjoy doing this and I've never missed a clinic since they started. Mrs. John Ferguson, clinic convener, and Mrs. Nieuwhof presented me with a Red Cross pin. I'll be 74 at Christmas, but hope God gives me health and strength to help for years yet."

Donating blood is not painful. Every phase of the programme is under professional supervision. Specially trained nurses will take your donation. So why not come to the Monday, February 15th blood donor clinic and give a fellow citizen a chance to LIVE.

RIGHTY OF APPEAL

Chairman J. A. Kennedy points out that "in questions of law and jurisdiction there is an appeal from the Board to the Court of Appeal, and on all other questions there is an appeal to the Executive Council of the province, the cabinet, with one exception, which is that appeals on highway expropriation values can be taken to the Court of Appeal."

Lewis Inspection Chief Fire Prevention Bureau

Georgetown Fire Chief Erwin Lewis and Acting Fire Chief Mick Holmes were named Inspection Chiefs of the Halton County Fire Prevention Bureau at the bureau's election.

L. Wes Miller of the Oakville Fire Department was re-elected chairman.

L. Miller was chairman for part of 1964 following the resignation of Acton's Deputy Bill Williams.

Harold Coulson of the Milton Fire Department was named vice-chairman, with Burlington Fire Department's Bob Gray as secretary, Harry Wilson of Oakville was returned as treasurer.

Committee Chairman

Committee chairman named for 1965 include Literature, Chief Douglas Wilson of Oakville, Public Relations, Chief

BOARD'S CONCERN

It is in this area that the Municipal Board comes very close to serving as a sort of ombudsman. Applications for zoning changes take up a great deal of the Board's time, and these in particular affect individuals.

Hesitates Brand Young Offenders with Record

Magistrate Kenneth Langdon said this week he has a great deal of difficulty ruling on trials concerning persons of a young age.

He stated he was concerned over having to brand young persons with a criminal record, which they will have to carry the rest of their lives.

The magistrate gave himself one week to decide the disposition of a break and entry charge against a Georgetown youth.

Magistrate Langdon told the youth that conviction when concerning a home could bring life imprisonment, and when concerning any other building imprisonment of up to fourteen years.

The local teen ager is charged with breaking and entering Norwood Motors, Norval, early Christmas day. Police said that the youth's fingerprints were found on a coke bottle in the garage.

Provincial Constable Thomas Doby of the Milton detachment told the court the youth was found hiding in a slush underneath a truck when a neighbor complained of noises at the garage.

He stated that several coke bottles were found on the garage floor along with filled and partly-filled bags of potato chips. Entry was gained by smashing a rear window of the building, he said.

Magistrate Langdon dismissed a breaking and entering charge against a second youth, who was found standing on the sidewalk in front of the garage when the police came.

AT PIERRE DRENTERS' SHOW



DOMTAR MAN'S 'DISCUS THROWER'

THIS FORGED IRON SCULPTURE done by local artist-sculptor Pierre Drenters, 57 McIntyre Cres., is one of several works he has on display at his own show at the Gallery Samou in Toronto this week. The show opened last week and continues until February 14th. Mr. Drenters, a Domtar-mill employee, is showing his works in iron and water colours in his exhibition, his second, in two years there. The Gallery Samou is on Markham St. in Toronto. The Discus Thrower is 18" high and is entirely forged. It was done six months ago for a show in Winnipeg. Mr. Drenters does his forge work at Georgetown Welding.

Displays Pioneer Items Tells Community History

At the regular monthly meeting of the Terra Cotta Women's Institute, Miss Florence Wright gave a paper on Sir John A. Macdonald. The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Howard Dolson on Thursday afternoon, January 14th.

Mrs. Leslie Young spoke on the early history of the community and had on display such pioneer items as a butter ladle and a tobacco chopper. There were pictures of some of the early settlers and some documents pertaining to early meetings of No. 2 School.

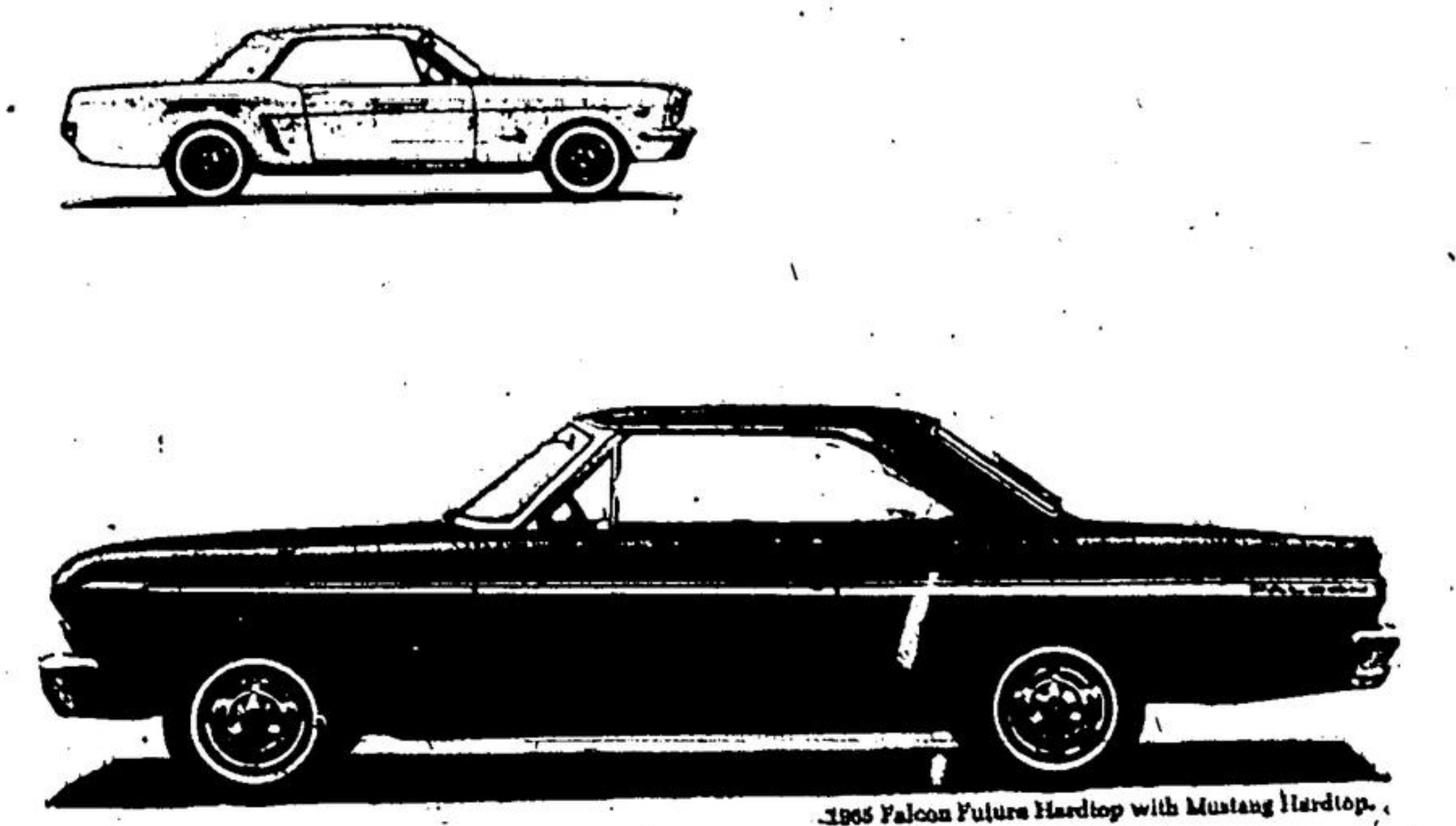
The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Jack McDonald on February 11th, when the group is looking forward to hearing Mrs. Markborson, a former member, who will be back to tell them about her home in Denmark. Visitors will be welcome.

Study Suggestion For County Ambulance Service

The door was not quite closed on further discussion on a possible Halton County Ambulance service, which the Town of Milton has suggested, at last week's County Council meeting. After being slated for no further action by one committee, the members delayed this to permit further discussion.

Reeve John Elliott of Georgetown pointed out that most municipalities are satisfied with their present arrangements, but since it was the wish of Council the Finance Committee would study it further.

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