

No support for one tier system

Halton County politicians aren't ready for single tier government, not just yet anyway. Oakville Reeve Al Masson, one of several who visited regions throughout the province, as a member of the Warden's select committee on regional government made a strong pitch for a one tier system.

Speaking at a meeting Thursday of Halton County mayors and county Councillors Masson suggested the county petition the province to implement a one tier system for regional government in Halton.

Masson said that in his visits people that have experience in regional government without exception recommended a one tier system for Halton County.

Compact unit
Masson said the county is a compact unit and county politicians have an excellent opportunity to become leaders in providing a model for regional government.

Masson's only support for that motion came from his second, Marjory Powys, Deputy Reeve of Milton.

His greatest opposition came from Burlington Mayor George Harrington. Harrington agreed Halton as a region is neat and compact but he suggested the

same could be said about Toyotas and Volkswagens but he wasn't prepared to drive a car of that size nor was he in favor of a one tier system.

A one tier system would provide a regional council with no local or area councils. "A one tier system is totally acceptable. It destroys the sense of community."

Curse on us all
"Let us progress together, but to suggest this serves no good purpose. Some things are more expensive but some times we are better off for it. A one tier system of government would be a curse on us all."

"People don't want to talk to a regional councillor or a staff person if they have a problem. They want someone concerned

Acton mayor says Province blew it

"The province blew it." That is the way Acton mayor Les Duby summed up his feelings about regional government to be implemented in Halton County Jan. 1, 1974.

Duby told colleagues at a

Mayor can't wait for regional government

A move by Oakville Council to delay regional government for Halton County met with little support from the Mayors of the five Halton towns and the members of county council when the county's senior politicians gathered for a seminar in Milton Thursday.

Oakville Deputy Reeve Terry Mannel suggested more and more new information was coming forth all the time. He argued a year would allow time for municipalities to properly prepare themselves for regional government and would allow the province time to prepare necessary legislation and the creation of the region.

Can't wait
Burlington Mayor George Harrington said he was 42 years

of age and couldn't wait another year for regional government. Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett said, "I'm four years his senior and I'm prepared to wait a year."

Oakville Reeve Al Masson, who is older than both mayors suggested, "These kids don't know what they're talking about."

Harrington responded "old age dulls the mind."

North Burlington Councillor Ella Foote an opponent of the regional plan, joined the jousting and commented "not this time," referring to Harrington's comment about old age.

When the vote was taken the proposal to delay the regional plan implementation by a year was soundly defeated.

locally."

"To do this would be to abandon community interest and we'd get so far away from reality. I urge you to defeat this soundly and suggest it isn't worth debate or discussion."

When Mrs. Powys asked if Harrington had been misquoted when he was reported as favoring a one tier system in the newspaper Harrington became angry.

"I demand an apology from this woman. I never said that and I'm surprised she would go by something she read, if she can read."

"I can assure you she can read," Warden, Mrs. A. MacArthur said.

Councillors voted soundly against the suggestion.

regional government seminar in Milton Thursday that he wanted to go on record as favoring a three borough system.

He said the plan for a three borough system with Milton in North Halton could have been a great thing and a model for others to follow.

Awkward position
"Milton saw fit to opt out. That is your right," Duby said as he looked at Milton Mayor Brian Best. Duby noted that once Milton opted out and the province supported the fourth borough, Nassagaweya was put in an awkward position.

He noted the township also opted to drop out of what has historically been known as north Halton. Duby expressed regret that the five northern municipalities couldn't come together and present a joint brief.

Seals out
First mailing of Easter seals was last Friday and returns are beginning to come in. It's the Rotary club's fund-raising project.

Oakville fights fourth borough

While not endorsing a four borough region for Halton County, Halton County politicians now generally accept the idea that there will be four boroughs within Halton under regional government and Milton would form the centre; a central Halton Borough.

County Council along with mayors from the five Halton towns met Thursday at the Halton County Administration buildings in Milton to discuss briefs drawn up by the seven municipalities.

With the exception of Oakville other municipalities indicated an acceptance of the four borough

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Second Section

Boundaries, representation still main region problems

Internal boundaries, representation and the number of boroughs in the region continue to be the most controversial areas of the regional government proposals for Halton County.

Mayors of each of the five Halton towns joined Halton County Council Thursday for a regional government seminar at

the county administration building in Milton. Representatives of each of the municipalities in the county presented briefs on behalf of their municipalities.

It marked the third such gathering in a year. Many delegates to the meeting expressed a feeling of frustration

and noted they felt most of the major decisions had been made.

Fear civil servant

The group did, however, pass a resolution that would, if adopted by the province limit the choice of a chairman to a person with political experience in Halton County.

Another resolution urged the

province to extend the deadline by which the start up fund allotted by the province must be spent. In other regions start up money was provided by the province and any funds not spent within a certain period of time were to be returned to the province. As a result regions found ways to spend the money

within the given period.

Warden Mrs. A. MacArthur told colleagues that she had met with Arthur Meen at Queen's Park earlier that afternoon and he had agreed to consider an extension.

Councillors felt the extension would remove hasty and perhaps wasteful spending.

Each brief presented a different set up of internal boundaries. Oakville and Burlington objected to large losses of land to Central Halton while Nassagaweya opted to have all of the township with the exception of the northernmost portion join the central borough. Land north of Lot 25, including the entire village of Eden Mills would join Wellington, Nassagaweya suggests.

While the mayors presenting their briefs took the opportunity to make points on boundaries internally and externally, no debate was held.

Province will decide
Warden Mrs. Anne MacArthur noted the Warden's select committee on regional government had not been able to come to a consensus on that issue and made no recommendation.

That matter will be a decision to be made by the province. Georgetown's brief made reference to the fact that their studies recommend North Halton taking in land fronting on Highway 401.

"It is understood the latest brief from Milton accepts this condition, a realism we applaud and urge upon the province. Inclusion of this land area also brings to the northern area a higher than average assessment density from Esquew and enhances the viability of the area as a whole," the Georgetown brief said.

The problem of representation became confusing when accurate population figures of the four proposed boroughs weren't available

Up or down?
According to the provincial proposals released in January, Burlington would have nine representatives or one representative for every 10,333; Oakville for every six or one for every 9,833; Central Halton would have three representatives or one for every 4,833 while North Halton would have four or one for every 7,875.

North Halton suggests bringing their representation up from four to five to come closer in line with Central Halton. Other suggestions included reducing Central Halton from three to two to accomplish the same goal.

Milton Reeve Bob McCuag said the figures in the blue book released by the government would have to be revised.

Oakville adamant
He noted North Halton would be reduced and Central Halton increased if a greater portion of Nassagaweya than earlier anticipated joined Central Halton.

Oakville took the only adamant stand on the number of boroughs being kept at three. Mayor Harry Barrett said Oakville wouldn't move off their position of insisting on a three borough region.

Barrett suggested that in either a three or four borough region Oakville should extend as far north as Highway 401 from the eastern extremity to a point in concession four. Barrett also suggested Oakville should encompass four concessions of land now in Burlington. The province has suggested that the land Barrett refers to would go to Central Halton. The province also suggested making the lower Baseline Rd. the northern limit of Oakville.

Bike safety talks given

Talks regarding bicycle safety were given to No. val and Limehouse Public Schools and Georgetown District Christian School last week.

Constable J. H. Redpath, Accident Prevention Officer of the Milton Detachment OPP gave the children some excellent tips involving bicycle safety. He also spoke on the hazards of operating go-carts or mini-bikes on the road.



MAYORS OF HALTON municipalities joined Halton County Council in regional government dialogue Thursday at a seminar in Milton. Les Duby of Acton, Harry Barrett of Oak-

ville, George Harrington of Burlington, Deputy Reeve Caswell of Waterdown and Milton Mayor Brian Best were among those present. (Photo by B. Burt)

Municipalities versus region

Politicians fearful civil servant chairman

If Halton County mayors and members of Halton County Council have any say about who is going to be chairman of the

first regional council in Halton Region, it won't be a civil servant.

A motion passed by a 9-7 vote Thursday at a regional seminar in Milton would limit candidates for the chairman's position to those who have served or are serving as an elected official in Halton County.

The motion, introduced at a county council meeting Wednesday and dealt with Thursday, was designed to exclude a civil servant from being appointed to the post. With the exception of Sudbury, all regional councils are chaired by people with political experience.

The original motion would have limited the choice to a member of county council. Milton Reeve Bob McCuag amended that motion, broadening the choice to someone with political experience.

Narrows choice
Some delegates to the meeting Thursday objected to the motion and felt it may serve to rule out a proven leader in industry or business and someone who may govern the region on business principals.

Jim Singleton, who now serves as Director of Education for the County Board of Education, has been rumored as one of four or five people the province is considering for the appointment.

Halton West MPP and Justice Secretary George Kerr told reporters the matter of the regional chairman had not been discussed at the cabinet level yet.

He said four or five people were being considered. "We do know those who have expressed interest in the appointment," he said.

Just a rumor
Questioned about the likelihood of having a civil servant rather than a politician elected to the position, Kerr would say only that he heard the same rumor the reporters had.

Without disqualifying the possibility of having a civil servant appointed, Kerr said the rumor was just a rumor at this point and no decision had been made.

More snow
Perhaps Tuesday would have been a better time for April Fool's Day. The snow was a nasty surprise to humans and robins alike.

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