

Hillsburgh subdivision gives council no joy

Erin Township Council showed a definite lack of enthusiasm when asked to give approval in principle to another subdivision on the north end of Hillsburgh.

Frank Strittmatter and Joseph Stepanuk, representing Charter Acres, proposed development of 30 acres on the west side of the Main St. Mr. Stepanuk outlined the plans for a 76 house subdivision "much the same as the existing one." He told council the development would have

its own pumping station which could benefit the residents on George St. The hilly feature would be preserved, drainage studies would be done, and the development would have two means of access with extensions off Church St. and George St.

Takes time
Approval was being sought at this time since processing would take two to three years, Mr. Stepanuk added. By the time the 80 remaining houses were finished in the present

subdivision, Charter Acres would be ready to begin.

Reeve Lloyd Lang pointed out that the Official Plan provides for estate sized (two acre) lots not half-acre, and that council was not inclined towards starting negotiations for a new subdivision before the first one was completed.

Deputy-reeve Don Matheson added "I doubt if people on George Street would appreciate the traffic anyhow." There is no access to George except through private property.

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SECOND SECTION

The Acton Free Press

Entertainment agency, new record for area musician Kent Tocher

Town phone system may be expanded

Faced with complaints of overloaded telephone lines and frequent busy signals on the municipal phones, the general administration committee of Halton Hills council recommended a new system costing approximately \$1200 a month, and installation charge of \$1615.

The present system costs \$909 a month, and is all served from one central number, and central switchboard in Georgetown.

Chairman Roy Booth termed the present system "hopeless".

Steve Gardner of Bell Canada said the present system was at the limit and had no room for growth. He claimed the proposed system was more efficient for the

switchboard attendant, as well as callers.

Ed Tyers another Bell Canada representative, pointed out a big complaint by councillors the lack of night phone service could be answered.

Councillor Les Doby said, "If my wife wants to call me when I'm over here in the Esqueving building, there's no way she can."

"That could be done right now with the service you have," replied Mr. Tyers.

In reply to a question from councillor Doby, Mr. Tyers assured him a night line could be in operation in Acton under the new system.

The administration committee did not favor a direct line to the Brampton, Rexdale, Malton areas

Council agreed that completion of the present subdivision would make a tremendous difference to Hillsburgh, after being a small town so long, and that there should be a respite in between to take stock of the impact.

Charter Acres could perhaps contribute different studies of park, school, and recreation needs in the area. Mr. Stepanuk offered and then suggested a bit of competition might hasten the building of the remaining houses in the first subdivision.

"Until the new owner comes in and tells us who he is," Reeve Lang stated "We're not going to provide building permits. I don't care WHEN he builds."

Council mentioned it has already said no to previous requests regarding estate-sized lots in town and suggested the men not go to any great expense with further studies.

By Jennifer Barr
"I hope to become the number one entertainment agency in Canada" says Kent Tocher, Hillsburgh, musician, recording artist, and budding big-time talent scout. Taking over the booking agency of Brent Williams Enterprises was a good move for Kent who will now be able to cut down on the travelling and concentrate on his own recording career.

His new 45 single, "For the Good Times", is becoming available at such local stores as the Variety in Hillsburgh and the IGA stores of Erin and Acton. The record was made last fall at the Mercey Brothers Recording and Sound Studio, Elmira. Kent is currently putting together a music package for an album to be recorded at the same studio.

Big Daddy
The agency is Kent's new baby, one he's cared for

barely a month although it has been in existence for two years. Presently housed in what was once the restaurant of the Old Hotel, Kent's office looks very homey with recycled kitchen furniture in lieu of desks, pantry shelves used as filing cupboards and gay flowery wallpaper. Kent plans to change all this but not the phone constantly jangling.

Handling approximately 40 acts keeps Kent's phone busy. As Kent says "It doesn't matter where my desk is, all the work is done by phone anyway".

Kent books such acts as Jack Bailey, Carlton Show Band, and the American group Stan Junior from Wheeling. Kent feels "Canadian talent has had no recognition, it's about time someone got on the bandwagon". This means providing recording facilities, promotion, and radio and television coverage for acts Kent thinks have promise. He would like to start promoting big coliseum shows featuring a few name acts for headlines and the new talent as backup—giving the kids a chance.

Kent also has to be a big daddy to his acts, advising them on dress and keeping them on course. However he likes talent to be as natural as possible without relying on gimmicks or big time showmanship. "The talented ones need to be recognized before they quit," states Kent.

How does he feel he's qualified for this?
Kent Tocher has been through it all himself. Born in Guelph of musical parents—father Johnny is a well-known musician—Kent has been singing and playing all his life. At 16 he played piano with the Rainbow Valley Ramblers while still in school. This group entertained from Toronto to Guelph, Orangeville to Brampton.

Kent is perhaps best known in Acton as the laughing piano player of "The Shaynes", a local group he played with for quite a while. Acton also provided Kent with a wife. In 1965, Cathy Higgins became Mrs. Tocher and they now have two children, Holly, seven, and Chris, four.

In 1970, Kent joined the orchestra of Grant Madill, adding an electric organ to his now formidable array of instruments. Further moves to the groups of Ron Hopkins and Dana Mundell provided Kent with valuable experience and took him all over Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

One man show
Natural progression led Kent to strike out on his own as a one man band and entertainer. Playing the organ, automatic drummer, and other instruments while accompanying himself with his deep musical voice, Kent hopped from club dates to one nighters all over Ontario. "I've been in from the bottom, I know all the ins and outs," he says.

The exciting part was meeting such stars as Stompin' Tom Connors, Harry Hibbs, Debbi Lori Kaye, and the Mercey Brothers. Kent loved his years on the circuit saying, "I wouldn't have done anything else, it's a great feeling when you turn them on (the audience)".

Now that Kent is running the agency he doesn't have to travel as much and can operate closer to home in Hillsburgh. He has high hopes of becoming a number one agent and recording star.



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At Renaissance rally

Panel critical of education

A panel of educators participated in Halton Renaissance Committee's public meeting in Milton Thursday. They included steering committee vice-chairman Mrs. Betty Hansford of Oakville, Dr. David Dooley, a literature professor at St. Michael's College, elementary school principal Ken Shoemith of Hamilton, and recently retired Hamilton secondary school principal Ronald Damude of Burlington.

Mrs. Hansford felt parents should help their children remain in school and help them obtain employment. She decried seeing sloppy, pale and unkempt teenagers "hanging around".

Prof. Dooley suggested there is considerable concern about education and it is a parent's right to express that concern. He felt most students are clever, well prepared, dedicated and studious.

Let young decide
The current doctrine appears to be "whatever a young person decides is right, is it." He said he was worried about the increase in venereal disease and felt the commandment "thou shalt not commit adultery" should be enforced.

Highlight of the panel was Mr. Damude who, in a humorous vein, criticized the entire educational system, point by point. These included:

The Department of Education: It has abdicated its responsibility for evaluation of student progress.

Boards of Education: Usually insulated from some of the problems in school by a well organized and highly paid group of administrators.

Need competition
Students: They should learn to fit into society and contribute to its improvement. They need competition, or they are not prepared to face reality. Life should include love, happiness, satisfaction and success, or it could be dull. But sacrifice, failure and tragedy should also be included.

Teachers: They should be able to "turn the student on" and their moral character should be of high calibre. The teachers' federation should discipline its own members, but it doesn't. Teachers should TEACH.

Taxpayers: They should call the shot. They should also be able to face their trustees without having administrators present.

Administrators: Most are excellent, there are a few exceptions. "I'm beginning to get the impression that there may be exceptions in Halton."

He also felt there should be more compulsory subjects; that it takes DRILL to learn; and that a thorough knowledge of the English language

is our most important tool. English, he said, includes listening.

Please pay taxes
Milton's Mayor Anne MacArthur brought greetings on behalf of the town and the Region of Halton. A former teacher, she wished the group well in its efforts and assured the teachers at Milton District High School are dedicated. Often teachers are disappointed in the lack of parental queries, she noted. She hoped the organization would be successful and hoped for "students emerging from the schools with healthy minds, healthy bodies and healthy attitudes."

"I hope you will pay your school taxes," she added. "I still have to pay the school board whether you pay me or not."

Douglas Wood, a Halton board of education trustee, was also a platform guest and said he was pleased to see the interest shown by the group. The board is always seeking public input and "we look forward to your positive input," he said.

"Alcoholic free-for-all"
Regional councillor Jim Watson of Milton, a former teacher, said the Renaissance movement was "certainly long overdue." He castigated the educational system for its "insulation" and suggested when Mr. Campbell tried to protest a moral issue he couldn't reach anyone and "the parents and teachers can't reach anybody either."

Watson called north educa-



A BEMUSED KEN CAMPBELL listens to a questioner during the public forum at the conclusion of the Renaissance committee rally. He spearheaded the group's attack on education.

tion area superintendent Don Gentlemen to the microphone and asked him if he was aware one school in his area had an "alcoholic free-for-all" involving some students recently. Gentlemen replied "I don't know what you are referring to" but offered to talk it over with him after the meeting. Gentlemen said the guest speaker Larry Henderson was really off base in indicating the primary task force is a subversive movement to handle students.

(After the meeting Watson and Gentlemen argued at length over the councillor's allegations.)

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Cancels trip to Michigan

Rock, note are thrown through window

Milton evangelist Kenneth Campbell, sparkplug behind the Halton Renaissance Committee's campaign to bring about changes in the education system, has cancelled a preaching mission to Kalamazoo, Mich. this week. Campbell said he preferred to be near his family after someone hurled a fist-sized rock through his daughter's bedroom window just after midnight Saturday.

The minister and his family were visibly upset by the incident. A bedroom window and a storm window were smashed by the rock and pieces of broken glass were spread across his 10-year-old daughter Kathy's bed shortly after midnight Friday. The rock missed the two occupants of the bedroom, Kathy and her sister Shelly, 6 and landed in the adjoining living room.

"If it had been the next pane, we might have had a hospital case," Campbell said. Later the family found an obscene note outside the bedroom window, which was

probably attached to the rock. It was signed "MMR Student".

Campbell spearheaded the renaissance committee campaign against "moral pollution" in the schools after a group of homosexuals and lesbians came to talk to a health class at M.M. Robinson High School in Burlington, five weeks ago. Jennie attend older daughters Annette and Jennie attend classes at MMH. His campaign has grown and over 600 attended a renaissance rally in Milton Thursday evening to join in protesting not only declining moral standards in the schools, but also a host of other alleged deficiencies in the school system.

Campbell attributed Saturday's early morning assault on his rural Milton home as "contemptible" but said it wasn't hard to understand a student acting in such a manner—he claims he has been intimidated and subjected to "bullying tactics" by administrators in the educational system in recent weeks.