

# Will appraise Legion land

Continued from page 1

"I challenge you to buy a lot and half unserved, for \$11,000," stated Councillor Dick Howitt, "If you can't buy it."

Gord McCutcheon, chairman of the Legion building committee, said he was not satisfied with the \$20,000 figure, but was satisfied with the \$950 lot levy. "If that's the standard for everybody else, O.K."

Mr. Goy pointed out some of the buyers, who will be living in the section formerly part of Esqueping, would be paying double water and sewer rates. "That shouldn't go on when people are living in the same subdivision," he added.

Councillor Roy Booth said the only alternative in fixing a cash payment was to have the lots appraised, then the five percent established.

Mr. McCutcheon said they had just found out the Legion has to pay 50 percent of the cost of rebuilding a 20-year-old sewer line. "We have to pay the Region and the line is a street away from us."

Councillor Joe Hurst pointed out that council has to obtain permission from the

Minister to accept cash in lieu of parkland.

Councillor Ernie Sykes criticized the method of establishing the figure, stating there should be a justifiable policy.

Both admitted the method was "Mickey Mouse", but pointed out the committee had been asked to expedite matters. He said the proper method was by appraisal, which was costly.

"It sure is Mickey Mouse," retorted Sykes, as he urged it be done the right way with council setting the figure.

Acting Mayor Ern Hyde said the \$20,000 figure could be supported.

Booth stated it would be a hardship on the Legion to take the five percent in land. "One and half lot parkland is ridiculous," commented Councillor Les Duby.

Sykes explained he was not opposed to the \$20,000 figure but only to the method. "There should be a set formula used," he remarked.

# White dampens hope of turnback

A campaign to have sewer and water services returned to the area municipalities was severely dampened Friday afternoon when Provincial Treasurer and Minister of Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs John White said the province would not consider any major revisions to Bill 151 this year or in the foreseeable future.

White said the province would not consider putting responsibility for water and sewers at the area level. He claimed the rationale for regional government made it mandatory that these services be provided from a regional level.

Regional councillors have spent considerable amounts of time recently debating where the authority should properly lie.

Want it returned  
Halton Hills Council spearheaded the campaign to have the responsibility turned back to the areas. That council won support from Milton and several regional representatives.

Regional Public Works Committee Chairman Jack Moffitt appeared at the meeting Friday with a three page explanation of why the service should be provided from a regional level.

Committee member Bill Mason charged advocates of the turnback were wanting to roll back time to the old county days. He claimed they were chasing the impossible dream and urged councillors to support the regional structure and try to make it work, rather than attacking it and halting progress at every opportunity.

Show chart  
During the last council meeting Rattis and Director of Public Works Bob Bailie presented an organization chart showing how many men the committee had hired, what the men were doing and explained the committee was still well below the complement approved earlier.

Find many overweight  
Almost half the people weighed at the Halton Regional Health Unit booth at the International Plowing Match were overweight.

During the five days of the match 618 people volunteered to be weighed and 310 were found to be of average weight, 228 were overweight and 20 were underweight.

Mr. McDonald lives in Georgetown where he is employed as personnel representative for Gage Stationery. He is well equipped to handle historical stories, having a background in communications from Ryerson Institute of Technology. He is presently enrolled in a program at York University.

He takes a keen interest in community affairs and the articles which come from his typewriter will cover many facets of Halton life and institutions.



JOHN McDONALD

# New series of historical articles

Beginning this week and continuing every other week this newspaper will carry an historical article on the history of Halton and particularly of this area, written by John R. McDonald.

Mr. McDonald has been compiling a history of the Halton area since 1970. He says his interest in history began in researching the Lamehouse and Dolly Varden areas where he spent his youth.

"I can always remember feeling a presence of the past when roaming around the old ruins (lime kilns and mills, etc.) as a boy. Subsequently I had an urge to discover what went on in this once industrious area and who the people were."

"I am collecting written information, old business cards and rephotograph old post cards and photos, and am presently engaged in compiling what I call a library of local history. I'm proud of the collection and grateful to the individuals who contributed."

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TREE TRIMMING program was aimed at lopping off low-hanging branches of old trees. A couple of times they have caused damage to trucks passing underneath, so sentence was passed by Halton Hills council. Here workmen and hydro crew with bucket proceed down Church St. cutting down the offending limbs.

# Acton advisory group ignored

Continued from page 1

to be duly signed, by participating groups utilizing ice time at the Community Centre is strongly objected to, particularly Item No. 9, pertaining to responsibility of damage and vandalism, etc.

11. The Water Safety Program submitted by the Recreation Department for the swimming area at Fairy Lake has met with disapproval from Acton residents—obvious again by the number of complaints received.

12. The Arena Manager, who was responsible for routine maintenance of the park and has done a capable job in the past, now has no jurisdiction over same, consequently there appears to be a general deterioration of park properties.

We, as a committee, feel that at this time we are serving no useful purpose and, unless we are allowed to become more involved in recreation in Acton, we can see no point in continuing, although we are ready and willing to do so.

Acton Citizens Advisory Committee, Diane C. Spielvogel, Chairman, Barry Innesco, Brendan Aberne, G. S. Malcolm, Louis Bonnette, E. Wood.

"I am very concerned this problem has reached this point without us knowing about it. This should be sent to the administration committee and I would like to hear Collison's side of the story," Councillor Roy Booth said.

Councillor Les Duby said that he was shocked there was so little contact between the committee and recreation department.

The advisory group said they had had no contact with Collison since last April and if things didn't change they would just fold up the committee.

"Hearing Collison and having him report to the administration committee implies there is another side to the story but I don't think there is another side. Facts are facts," said Councillor Pat McKenzie. He added that Collison wanted to hire a recreation co-ordinator while he had a perfect right hand man in Harold Townsley, the Acton arena manager, and wasn't using him.

Booth countered that there was another side to the story and he wanted to hear it. "We can't settle problems in the recreation department without hearing from Collison," he said.

"There has been a breakdown in communication. We dealt with the Acton arena roof and should have let you know," Councillor Dick Howitt stated.

Lou Bonnette, another committee member, told the meeting that possibly council thought there was no need to consult the committee and if that was the case the committee could disband right now and would be doing everyone a favor.

Acting Mayor Ern Hyde assured him the council was glad they had come to them with the problem and committee of the whole was just the place for this issue to come to light.

"I would also suggest that as a courtesy and in fairness the administration committee should meet you on your home ground and go to ward one to discuss the problem and work out a solution," Hyde added.

Councillor Len Cox said he hoped the committee wouldn't pack it in and instead would dig in their heels and prove their point.

"There is a real urgency to this problem and we have to straighten it out. Part of the problem is Bill 151 which frowns on ad hoc committees. Another thing might be causing the trouble is the recreation director is so busy establishing facilities he

doesn't have the time for other problems," Duby said. Bill 151 set up Regional government in Halton.

Booth also believed the problem should be placed right on the doorstep of Queens Park because Bill 151 abolishes recreation advisory groups.

Councillor Joe Hurst also agreed Bill 151 was to blame and amendments should be made.

"It isn't Bill 151 that is at fault. It is us. We are unformed and should have kept ourselves informed," Hyde remarked.

McKenzie stated he wanted both Collison and the committee at the administration committee meeting. "Let them meet face to face. There is no need for a prior report. Everything can come out in the open at one meeting. This is the only way to force a clearing of the deck and get things out in the open," he said.

"I think the problem lies in the recreation department and I want to know all about it before we have a meeting of the two sides. It is only fair that Collison has a chance to explain himself," Booth said. "I believe the idea is that if there is any dirty laundry and washing is needed it is done before everyone meets together. Let's not have any dirty linen around when it

comes time to iron the problem out," Hyde suggested.

The final decision was to have Collison answer to the charges at administration committee next Monday and set up another meeting for ironing out the problems with Acton citizen's group sometime in the future.

After the meeting Mrs. Spielvogel said that Collison was trying to make Acton look bad.

"He is going to raise our ice time rates from \$8.50 an hour to \$18 an hour over the next few years. This will break a lot of sports groups. He has his figures all wrong on the cost of operating the arena and just wants to make ward one look bad to the rest of the town," she said.

The committee is also upset with the fact Acton had not been informed they must apply for sports grants. Collison had previously said that Acton people weren't used to applying for grants, so none applied. The committee objects to not being told they could apply for grants like the rest of the town does.

White passed to finance expert Gerry Lawson. Lawson explained the workings of a complex formula designed to measure the impact of the change on the community.

Morrow wanted to know what was on the region's carefully prepared list that was disqualified by the province as suitable for a grant. White noted the grants were unconditional and not tied to certain areas, but a list of those items not considered legitimate could be provided.

White offered no advice, noting that Barrett was far

# Won't sweeten pot

# Start-up grants are fair J. White tells Halton

Halton politicians may have left a meeting with Provincial Treasurer John White on Friday wiser, but not necessarily any happier.

The meeting was called for the regional politicians to air their feelings about start-up grants and other issues involving the region.

During the meeting the politicians learned their plea for more provincial start-up dollars in 1974 had not been and will not be accepted.

They were also assured the province would not consider any move by the region to shift the responsibility for sewer and water services back to the area municipalities.

While White never said what the province's position would be if the region decided not to develop an official plan, he made it clear the move wouldn't be received well by the senior level of government.

White said the region would receive \$567,000 in 1975 and \$333,000 in 1976 in special assistance grants. Those grants are earmarked to help

# Time for review

Actonians, generally deeply concerned over the effects of regional government in this town, may take some hope from one section of Mr. White's address to Halton region council.

"This is not the time for anyone to tamper with the new structure," he said. "There will be a time in the future when it is appropriate to review the structure and workings of the region, as we are doing now in Ottawa-Carleton and Metro Toronto."

get the region established. The funds are in addition to the \$1,038,000 the region will receive from 1974 to 1978 for transitional grants.

After reading a 14-page prepared speech, White agreed to a question and answer period.

Finance and Administration Chairman Eric Morrow challenged the start-up grant structure, noting Hamilton-Wentworth received five times what Halton received and he wanted to know why.

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more knowledgeable about local problems than he. The treasurer explained the province was experiencing heavy financial pressures with its own budgets. "There is no point in me letting you think there is more money coming. You'll have to spread the cost over a period of years, cut elsewhere, or use your reserves, this is your responsibility," he summed up.

"Yea, that's right," M.P.P. George Kerr chimed in from behind the press table.

Burlington Mayor George Harrington was determined to convince the treasurer he was obliged to provide more money for the region to carry out the responsibilities and tasks the province had assigned in Bill 151.

White said he agreed with everything Harrington said, but noted the province had provided unconditional grants and the funds provided should be allocated as council—not the province—sees fit.

Not single-tier  
In answer to a question by Burlington Councillor Mary Munro, the minister said the province had no plans now or in the foreseeable future to install a single tier system of government in Halton. In other words, the area councils and administrations are here to stay for a while.

Asked to comment on whether a police commission has the legal right to sign a lease or enter a contract, White passed to his colleague, Attorney-General George Kerr.

Kerr suggested it might be wise if the region co-signed with the Police Commission on the lease. "Is that necessary?" Harrington asked.

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Kerr would only suggest what might be wise, rather than to say what is or is not necessary.

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