

Councillors want COL bonus review

Halton Regional Councillors felt they were doing a good deed when they voted a four per cent cost of living bonus for regional employees recently but the action has caused some employees to be confused and others to be upset.

Council exempted department heads and assistant heads and all employees covered by collective bargaining units. Some Halton Centennial Manor employees were upset when they learned they had been excluded from the four per cent increase.

Contacted by a reporter, Halton's Assistant Personnel Director John Watson said

the Manor employees weren't entitled to the increase because they had an association and because they had received a raise only a few months earlier.

Interpretation Watson suggested the council resolution was poorly worded and when he and Director Dennis Camm discussed the problem, they interpreted council's resolution as wanting the Manor excluded.

Four regional councillors contacted about the matter were all of the opinion the Manor staff was to be included. Burlington Councillor Dave Coons, the mover of the motion, suggested the Manor

employees up to the level of assistant department head were definitely to be included.

Milton Mayor Anne MacArthur said she would be shocked if the Manor employees were excluded. Halton Hills Councillor Len Cox and Oakville Councillor Terry Mannel agreed the Manor employees were entitled to the increase.

During a communications meeting recently, employees of the public works department questioned Public Works Director Bob Bailie about why they had been excluded. One man suggested if costs increased for non-union employees, they increased by the same extent for union employees.



Neilson expansion a future possibility

William Neilson Ltd. in Georgetown could be expanding to triple the present size of 168,000 square feet. This would result in Georgetown becoming the candy capital of Canada, parallel with Hershey in the United States.

Another advantage of this addition would be the 800 to 1,000 jobs created. There are 40 employed by the firm at this time. In this way the company would help the town avoid becoming the bedroom of Toronto.

Officials of the company have talked with Halton Hills council about the problems they would face if the company expanded on their

present 40 acres, which also includes a railway siding. Sewers and water expansion was discussed at a meeting of council recently.

Buy now realtors urge

The prospect for buying houses won't get any better than what it is right now, according to the Oakville Real Estate Board.

Monday the board representatives suggested potential buyers waiting for prices to fall lower than they are now or for interest rates to drop are wasting their time.

A NEW SEATING ARRANGEMENT at regional council came in for jeers and snide remarks during the last meeting. Council has acquired a sound system for the chambers to alleviate the need for some councillors to shout in order to be heard. Members are now investigating the best way to seat councillors. Many objected to the two-tiered system. Another arrangement will be tried during the meeting next month.

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