

The fish were biting!



DOUGLAS BORG of Brampton clears the ice forming on the water of his fishing hole on Fairy Lake. He was one of five who were fishing on Saturday.



KEVIN RICE of Bramalea and Kevin Borg of Brampton look over the three pike they had caught by ice fishing on Fairy Lake on Saturday. The fish were kept in the water and were warmer than the fishermen.

Federation to try again

Gordon Hill, president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, will be invited to speak to the March meeting of the Halton Federation about the controversial proposal to place farm lands into permanent agricultural zoning, as a method of preserving them for agricultural use.

Directors of the Halton Federation met Thursday and agreed to invite the outspoken Hill to their meeting. The Halton group's Land Use Committee had recommended Halton follow the Ontario Federation's lead in asking for a freeze on agricultural land, but the idea was shot down at a public meeting in December. Many Federation members were

vehemently opposed to any freeze on their lands.

At Thursday's meeting, directors briefly discussed the outcome of the vote and what action they could take next. President Harold Middlebrook said he wasn't anxious to hold any more public meetings on the subject.

Director Craig Reid said a lot of people are upset over the word "freeze"—especially those who want to sell their farms for "the almighty dollar." He said he was concerned that the going price of farm land in Halton would be pegged at \$5,000 an acre, after the Ontario Government bought land in its Milton land bank at that price.

Land severances are planning controversy

Halton Regional Planning Committee upheld two appeals to separations recommended by planning staffers and a third case was deferred until further information became available, during a meeting Tuesday of last week.

In each of the three cases the Land Division Committee had voted in favor of granting severances and regional planners are opposing those stands.

In the two cases dealt with Tuesday the committee saw northern representatives Jim Watson of Milton and Pat McKenzie and Len Cox of Halton Hills defending the separations while the southern representatives defended the planning staff's decision to appeal the separation. The Morris of Halton Hills joined southern representatives in defending the appeals.

being opposed involve a parcel of land owned by Stephen Clarkson and a parcel owned by Nashville Contractors Ltd.

Solicitor Harry Funk represented Clarkson. He said the applicant was requesting 18 acres to be separated from a 30-acre parcel on the Fourth Line near Kelso.

He said the land was scrub land and had no agricultural potential. He said an earlier separation had been granted but not executed.

Funk said there was a stream on the property but it was dry in the summer and the development would have no effect on the stream.

Two homes

The request would have created three lots and a potential of two new homes being built.

Councillor Len Cox suggested the separation

should be granted and a house built. He noted the land wasn't good for anything else, but could provide a picturesque setting for a home. He claimed the town of Milton might as well benefit from assessment from the land.

After the decision to uphold the appeal had been made, Cox said that if that application couldn't be justified no application could and the rest of the applications might just as well be wiped off the slate. "This development would hurt no one," he said.

Watson was vociferous. He said that one house on 18 acres wouldn't pollute a creek. He criticized his colleagues, noting the region had frowned on communal well developments for village zones and seemed to be vetoing efforts to have homes built on septic systems as well

Can't use chamber

Watson became angry and told the committee the region wouldn't be allowed to use Milton Council Chambers for any regionally initiated appeals. Milton Council's Administration Committee supported that stand at a meeting later the same night.

Planning evidence was presented indicating the application contravened the

official plan. Planner Ken Kelly said the land should be used for forestry or conservation.

Appeals against decisions to sever a property on Appleby Line north of Two Sideroad was also upheld because of violations to the Burlington Official Plan.

Kelly told the committee the separation could create a

laneway onto Appleby Line and cause a dangerous situation.

A third case before the committee was deferred. It involved lands owned by Z. Ziemen and J. Vavrovic. It was noted that the holder of the land had not held it prior to 1967. Special provisions in the old Burlington by-law were made for long-time land owners.

Operate on Best

Doctors at McMaster Medical Centre in Hamilton performed a four-and-a-half hour brain operation on Brian Best of Milton Friday. The former mayor suffered a serious head injury in a two-car accident near Omagh last Sept. 9 and has been unconscious and semi-conscious ever since.

Mrs. Best reported Tuesday that his condition remains the same since the operation. If there is any change it would likely show up this week.

"He came through the operation all right," she said. Doctors performed a "shunt" operation to take pressure off

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Renaissance chairman replies to Priestner

In a letter to Mrs. Judy Alexander, congratulating her on her recent election to the chairmanship of the Halton Board of Education, Halton Renaissance Committee leader Ken Campbell has expressed the cautious hope that Mrs. Alexander's leadership will bring to the Halton educational system a new degree of responsiveness to the parents and taxpayers, an ingredient which Renaissance charges has been disturbingly lacking in recent years.

Noting Mrs. Alexander's "responsiveness to the reasonable and responsible appeal of the Normal parents" for the re-opening of their school, Campbell suggests that her vote with the minority of trustees who favored the re-opening of the school is a hopeful sign that she recognizes the role of the trustee to represent the people to the administration, instead of the reverse which Renaissance contends has been the characteristic trend in public education. In his letter Campbell expressed "regret that the stance of your predecessor, Mr. Priestner, tended to be reactionary to the will of the people, being primarily

responsive instead to the will of the civil servants in the system."

Campbell emphasized again that Renaissance viewed parental reaction to incidents relating to "moral pollution in the schools" as only symptomatic of the basic sickness in the system which we have identified most broadly as the unresponsiveness of the system to the parents who entrust their children to it and the taxpayer who pays for it. It has been on that broad base of popular dissatisfaction with the system—and not on the narrow base of such isolated incidents—that the Halton Renaissance Committee has been founded.

Comments an affront

Campbell also charged that comments by outgoing chairman, William Priestner, as reported in the press, concerning Renaissance as a "major disruptive force" was an affront "to all the parents and taxpayers of the region."

"If the Halton Board of Education is to have the support of the community, that sort of a 'put down' attitude

toward a responsible independent citizens' body, surely must be abandoned," Campbell added that "the public is sick and tired of having our elected representatives (trustees) defend the unacceptable behavior of civil servants. If trustees want to serve the civil servants' interests instead of the interest of the parents, let the civil servants elect their own trustees—and let them pay for their own system. We'll no longer quietly support such a politically unrepresentative, and educationally unproductive system!"

Press doing job

Finally, in reference to Mr. Priestner's comments about "the Renaissance campaign through the media," Campbell declared, "Education is everybody's business and a responsible press is simply serving the public as it ought, in keeping before the people the dialogue between a citizen group seeking the improvement of education, and the leadership of the public educational system. Such disparaging remarks... hint at a muzzling of information which is understandable and expected from a repressive establishment, but acceptable and even alarming in its implication, when it comes from leadership of the public educational system."

Accident on hwy.

Strong winds and inclement weather were blamed for a collision between cars driven by Al Zanatta, vice principal of M. Z. Bennett school and Barb Dunsmore of R. R. 4, Acton, early last evening.

The accident occurred on highway 25 just south of 17 Sideroad. Mrs. Dunsmore received a broken hand in the crash. Mr. Zanatta was uninjured.

Firehall elections

The Acton fire department held their election of officers a few weeks ago.

Bern Van Fleet was elected deputy chief with Al Doby as a captain. B. captain is Herb Dodds and Wayne Kelly is C. captain. Treasurer is Lloyd McIntyre.

Will enforce parking—OPP

Police will start enforcing the two hour parking limit on Mill St. between Main and John St. They have had complaints about overlong parking in front of the stores.

Cous. Bob Arbour says he is in touch with the town engineer to get his opinion about more and different signs for this area.

Province can make pitch

Halton Hills works committee decided Monday night to invite a representative of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to try and sell them on the idea of setting up a maintenance management study.

Councillor Ern Hyde wondered why a member of the town's staff couldn't do the study but engineer Peter Morris said it should be done by someone outside of the town because it should be objective.

Mayor Tom Hill cautioned the committee that it will likely cost more than the expected \$30,000 and the town's share will probably climb above \$15,000. The

mayor cited the problems with cost the old county council had when it attempted to set up such a program.

Councillor Len Cox said he would like to see someone come to Halton Hills to convince him it is even needed. He said he was worried because many times this type of program is designed for cities and not for communities where there is a mixture of urban and rural life.

Deputy engineer Bob Austin pointed out the costs for such studies has gone down considerably in the last few years and what most municipalities have done applies everywhere.

Asks region aid for scholarship

The Halton Local Committee which hosted the 1974 International Plowing Match in Halton Hills last September is attempting to get a donation from Halton Regional Council of more than \$9,000 in order to set up a scholarship fund.

Henry Stanley and Ross Segsworth appeared before the finance and administration committee Wednesday. Stanley reported the match had been a success.

He noted the committee had over \$15,000 left and of that, \$9,448 was owing to the region. He said the regional bill was the only one left to

pay.

He asked the committee to consider donating the \$9,448 that is still owing. The region had granted the loan with the understanding that it need not be repaid.

The scholarships would be available to boys and girls from Halton attending courses in agriculture, home economics or veterinary medicine.

The request was referred to the 1975 budget deliberations. Total expenses for the match amounted to \$103,575 and approximately 125,000 people attended the event.

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