

Four planners resign

Four resignations from Halton Region's Planning Department have raised some concern on the regional planning committee.

Richard Moskal, Manager of the Policy Division, was the fourth to resign. He accepted a similar position in Peel Region where he'll earn more money. Halton is reported as having the lowest paid planners in the existing regions.

Mr. Moskal cited personal reasons for his resignation. Ross Shepherd, a senior transportation planner, David Brantom, a senior draftsman and Ken Kelly, a senior planner had all resigned earlier.

Mr. Shepherd's resignation had never been officially accepted and according to two members of the committee, he has withdrawn that resignation and will stay on staff.

Reject study

Mr. Shepherd is reported to have resigned initially when the council rejected his recommendation that a transportation study be conducted. The study could have cost as much as \$265,000.

That was one of several recommendations from the committee that was rejected either by the committee or by council. Rejection of housing and transportation studies caused great turmoil among the staff and council.

Several members of council feel the regional planning staff is interfering with the local town and city planning staffs and eroding local authority.

Councillor Jim Watson of Milton and Councillor Pat McKenzie of Halton Hills both said they were concerned about Mr. Moskal's decision to leave the staff.

"When I heard Dick was quitting I was quite upset. I hope it wasn't in response to decisions from the committee. If it is for more money and a better position, that's fine. That happens all the time. I don't really know why he quit," Mr. Watson said.

Mr. McKenzie shared Mr. Watson's sentiments on that count. "He was one man I thought had a future in our

department. His resignation came as a surprise to me," he said.

Councillor Watson said he felt there was a morale problem within the department and attributed that as a lack of direction from the committee.

Watson is a strong opponent to the extensive use of consultants and of the proposals for extensive and expensive studies to be conducted in connection with the official plan. During an interview Councillor Watson claimed the staff had gone overboard in their plans for an official plan.

"Irrelevant"

"It would have meant spending thousands of dollars in duplicating irrelevant material that is not needed for responsible planning in the region," he suggested.

Councillor Watson claimed the staff was being disheartened when their recommendations were shot down.

"It's harder to sell me on some of the non-tangible con-

cepts. I appreciate the fact that if the old county had been involved in planning it would have been better. I feel they've gone overboard now. Bill 151 says we have to have an official plan in three years but it doesn't say how. I think we should do it at a minimal cost.

"I'm opposed to jumping the mill rate to pay for consultants when their reports are to be filed or buried."

Councillor Watson felt part of the problem so far with the planning committee was the wide range of demands for different types of lifestyles.

He claimed there was a failure on the part of the urban people in the south to fully understand the wants and needs of the people in the rural north.

The councillor said he felt there had not been enough communication between the staff and the committee. He felt that sometimes ideas coming to the committee were shot down but some of the staffers didn't understand why.

"I'm going to make a point of it to try to get to know them better and get to see them more often," he said.

Too elaborate

Both Councillors Watson and McKenzie felt the plan being proposed by staffers was too elaborate. "We can't afford it and don't need it," Mr. McKenzie said.

Unlike Councillor Watson, Councillor McKenzie did not read the four resignations as an indication of bad morale within the department.

He pointed out that one of the four men resigning was a draftsman who could be replaced, and the transportation planner had reconsidered and stayed—leaving only two senior people resigning posts.

Of those two, Councillor

McKenzie indicated Ken Kelly "did not really fit in with the other planners (area planners)."

Didn't understand

McKenzie felt Kelly was too harsh on severance applications and didn't really understand the needs of rural people.

"I'm not concerned when one or two people leave. It means new blood and new ideas. I was never concerned (as a school principal) when one or two teachers left. It brought new blood and new ideas and the staff gained by it."

"I don't feel there is any serious morale problem. Council is far from perfect but it has to make decisions and the staff has to work around those decisions. They have to live with it."

When Ed Cumming (Planning Director) hired his staff, council had not said what kind of plan it wanted. The staff wanted to produce something that was the ultimate in planning. We can't afford it and I don't think the people want it," he said.

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PETER TURKOSZ is this week's featured carrier. Peter is in grade seven at M. Z. Bennett and has been delivering papers since the carrier system was introduced to Acton in September. He enjoys playing goal in lacrosse.

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Senior region staff gets 13.2% pay hike

Senior regional staffers have won average pay increases of 13.2 per cent. That includes those in department head or supervisory positions. Those raises were ratified by Regional Council Wednesday.

Council had requested a staff committee to bring in a report setting out salary

ranges for senior staffers several months ago. That report was brought in and apparently altered substantially, prior to receiving committee or council approval.

As it stands the chief administrative officer will draw top pay and that ranges between \$33,000 and \$40,400. Other senior officials will

earn salaries in the following ranges: medical officer of health \$30,000 to \$36,700; public works director \$28,600 to \$34,900; solicitor and treasurer \$27,200 to \$33,300; planning director \$26,000 to \$31,700; personnel director, \$24,400 to \$29,900; Halton Centennial Manor administrator and Social and Family Services Administrator \$23,000 to \$28,100; and the regional clerk from \$21,800 to \$26,600.

Rezoning held up

An official plan amendment that would rezone one acre of land in Halton Hills from rural to commercial will be held up at the regional planning level, pending further information and support from Halton Hills Council.

The parcel of land is situated 331 feet north of Steeles Ave. fronting on Trafalgar Rd. The proposal emanated from Halton Hills and was approved with reser-

vations by Halton Health Unit and Halton's planning staff. However the report received no support at the committee level.

Halton Hills Councillor Rick Morrow supported the move to defer any action until more information is brought forward.

No specific project is believed to be planned for the land.

Bar pin received

On Thursday, May 29, five members of St. John Ambulance Brigade from Acton travelled to Mississauga to Cawthra Arena to take part in the annual inspection. They were Mr. and Mrs. George Hargrave, Miss Bella Maye Roszell, Miss Mary Ann De Haan and Blair Beemer.

During the inspection Miss Bella Maye Roszell, a charter member, was called forward to receive her 17-year bar to the service medal.

Mrs. Marie Hargrave, also a charter member, will receive her 17-year bar to the service medal at an investiture to be held at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Toronto, on Saturday, June 7, at 3 p.m. It will be presented by her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor McGibbon. A reception will follow in the Lieutenant-Governors suite, Queens Park. George Hargrave will attend as her guest.

No holidays for planners

Halton's Regional Planning Committee won't be taking any holidays this summer. The committee is hard pressed to get an official plan prepared, and already behind schedule.

"There's no way this committee can get by this summer without regular meetings," Councillor Ted Ralfe said when the matter came up for discussion.

Chooses 'good' spot

Three persons were charged with being drunk in a public place in town during the past week.

One of them was in an unusual public place for this kind of thing—Knox church. He was escorted from the church to jail by police Friday evening about 11:30 p.m.

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