

Reply to board

Renaissance gets specific

Lack of promotions for high school teachers in the north, favoritism for Burlington and Lord Elgin high school philosophy of education, poor results in math tests, problems related to the principal at Acton high school—details and names have now been stated in a press release prepared this past week by members of the Halton Renaissance committee.

The committee had made a submission to Halton Board of Education June 24 which they thought "would have been sufficient to convince the board that all is not well with Halton education. Apparently we failed," the brief says. "Accordingly, even though I find it personally distasteful to be even more specific in a public forum, we nevertheless have no other option."

Previously, the school board has replied to the Renaissance presentation saying the board depends to a certain extent on the trustee and stating trustee Tom Watson was convinced Acton was supportive of its high school and principal.

In its latest press release, Renaissance questions Mr. Watson's awareness of problems. "It appears he too is kept in the dark."

"We have reason to believe, according to anonymous letters, that the teachers feel Mr. Watson does not know what goes on in Acton high."

"In 1973, seven teachers left after apparently expressing dissatisfaction. There were only 29 teachers on staff. That's approximately a 28 per cent turnover in one year."

In the history department only one teacher remains and in the English department two teachers remain from last year's staff, the Renaissance committee writes.

They also refer to the high promotion rate from Burlington into Acton high school. "Why are other high schools being patterned after Lord Elgin (in Burlington)? You want to use Lord Elgin students as guinea pigs." The committee cites six recent promotions from Lord Elgin, including that of Dean Flink to

Acton. The release continues "Incidentally there have only been to our knowledge two promotions of northern people from all northern schools (secondary) recently. Does the north have incapable people? We know that's not true."

The Renaissance committee maintains that traditional methods and traditional teachers are bypassed under the educational philosophy of the present administration.

Of 14 senior staff positions, 11 came from a Burlington clique. The committee feels promotion is not necessarily by merit.

"Assuming that the most qualified people are randomly distributed throughout Halton, the probability of selecting 11 or more people from Burlington is only 6.9 per cent. "In short for the Board to deny these allegations on promotion, permissiveness and education policies in the face of the demonstrated patterns is ridiculous."

The brief also stated that the administrative council is also dominated by Burlington people. "Did we not have able people from Oakville, Georgetown, Acton and Milton boards?"

The press release relates various instances of dissatisfaction with Lord Elgin high school, and the "fact that Lord Elgin students are not doing well at university. Some students who came out with 80s and 90s can't make a good 50 at university."

"Why are other schools being patterned after Lord Elgin?"

Specific problems at Acton high school, according to the report, included promotion method, teacher support and staff turnover.

The six and a half page brief also states decision making should be in the hands of trustees and all major positions in Halton should be advertised nationally.

Gordon Reade is chairman of the Milton-based Halton Renaissance committee.

A public meeting was held in Acton when the group first organized.



ACTON ROTARIANS commenced a new year recently and ushered in a new executive. Director Gary Dawkins starts the line up at the left followed by Wayne Moss vice president, Mac Sprowl director, Grant Schultz president, Don McDonald treasurer, Ted Hansen secretary, Don Robb director and Ron McKnight director.

Headquarters debate today

Halton Regional Council will vote on a recommendation from the council's site and building committee this afternoon.

The committee has been meeting for about 18 months and according to committee chairman Mayor Tom Hill, the committee has decided on where the permanent headquarters should be.

Chairman Hill would neither confirm nor deny published reports that the Milton site at Highway 25 and Derry Rd. is the favorite of the committee.

One in Oakville The report, published in a daily newspaper, claims that

the committee was split between that site and a second site on Highway 25 midway between upper Middle Rd. and the Queen Elizabeth Highway in Oakville.

Both sites are in the green belt and both sites are estimated to cost about \$225,000. An option on the Milton site is due to expire tomorrow (Thursday) unless council votes to buy the property.

Mr. Hill refused to discuss the meeting—held in camera—and chastized a colleague or colleagues for releasing the information to the press.

"We may as well have had reporters at the meeting," he said.

Refused Mayor Hill did say that the committee refused a hearing for P. G. Lush and Associates.

That firm is the current landlord for the region and had hoped to make a proposal to have the region continue on in rented quarters in Burlington. He said the firm came in after the deadline.

The firm is building office space almost adjacent to the current building. The current quarters are operating at

capacity or close to it now.

For months now the committee has been reportedly on the verge of making a recommendation. Regional Chairman Al Mason in looking ahead to the debate, has predicted "it will be a hell of a fight."

Milton and Halton Hills members are expected to support the Milton site while Oakville members can be expected to try to attract the headquarters to their town and no doubt Burlington councillors will be working to swing the building into their city.

Over the past several months some councillors have expressed reluctance about buying into a large expensive proposition to house the regional staff. That is yet another factor that is sure to be drawn into the discussion today.

Milton council

Mill rate deferred

Milton Council deferred the setting of the 1975 mill rate and finalizing the 1975 budget for yet another week, when final information on provincial grants was not available Monday.

Mayor Anne MacArthur told council she and some councillors had met with a number of cabinet ministers seeking additional grants from the province.

and plans now call for the mill rate to be set next Monday night at a special meeting.

Ward One Councillors Rick Day and Don Gordon will both be out of town. Both have agreed to cast their ballots on the final mill rate and budget by phone. Mr. Day intends to be in Timmins while Mr. Gordon plans to be touring Quebec.

Nassagaweya area Councillor Russ Powaduk warned the two Oakville councillors that further discussion on mill rate adjustments could take place in their absence. Last year in the town's first year of operation under regional government, the total transitional grant was used to ease

the council is reported to be seeking an additional \$400,000 over and above the funding that would normally be available.

Meet two MPPs The mayor and her delegation have been meeting with Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Transportation and Communications Ministers as well as MPPs Jim Snow and George Kerr.

Much of the plea for more funds has centred around the great increase in the number of roads under the town's jurisdiction.

The council has also complained about having to maintain all of the Ninth Line, even though all of the assessment of that road goes to Mississauga.

Mayor MacArthur said she felt certain there would be some additional moneys coming to the town, but no definite answer had been forthcoming prior to the meeting Monday night.

Wait a week Clerk Jack McGeechie had been in touch with Halton West MPP George Kerr who urged the council to wait one more week.

Council agreed to do that

You're not saviour—Mason

"You're not the saviour of the people," an angry Bill Mason shouted at Milton Mayor Anne MacArthur. Mason became upset with the mayor's persistent criticism of the operation of the regional water system.

A verbal report explained there had been a typographical error and the difference was \$30, not \$130. The mayor was satisfied on that count but renewed her criticism with vigor only a few minutes later.

She accused the region of practicing usury in setting the fees. She complained bitterly about the formula that was used in calculating the rates. Percentages over and above the actual cost of the material is charged to recoup the costs the region faces for installation and administration. These charges are excessive, the mayor said.

The mayor questioned figures on a report that indicated a difference for two homeowners of over \$130. She demanded a report explaining the difference in costs.

The mayor's second attack was centred on a report setting out what it would cost residents to connect onto municipal water supplies and to have water meters installed.

Costs up She argued that regionalization had increased the costs of providing water service for the people and warned colleagues that she would introduce further examples of increased costs due to regionalization.

She argued the costs were greater than they ever had been. Acting Public Works Director Jack Corbett said the charges were arranged to meet costs and that was all.

Councillor Mason tangled with the mayor periodically throughout the meeting. "You're forever wasting our time calling for a report on this and a report on that. My God, you're not the saviour of the people," he shouted.

Burlington Councillor Vern Connell said Burlington had used the same formula for years and no one complained.

Hire experts for advice on wells

Milton Council will hire International Water Supply to provide data and document a case in defence of the use of communal wells in rural subdivisions.

The town has been continually at loggerheads with Halton Regional staff on that count. The region has stayed away from communal wells because of provincial legislation which makes the region responsible for the supply of water if anything should go wrong with a communal well. Anything that serves more than four homes off one well is considered a communal well.

International Water Supply is regarded by council as one of the foremost authorities in water systems. Council hopes to present a convincing case to the region with the assistance of the research from the firm. The project was authorized, at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.

The Campbellville area will be the subject of the study. Several developments in Nassagaweya area had suggested using communal wells.

Brookville Estates is among those. However that firm has changed its mind and revised its plans to show the provision of individual wells.

Planner Bob Zasadnyi noted the only opposition to the Brookville plan came from the Regional Public Works Department and the



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Let's talk about horses

by Jennifer Barr



Acton Fall Fair may seem far away, Sept. 20, but it's never too early to start planning. Last year saw some drastic changes in the horse show, bringing the classes more up to date and making a two-day event. The enthusiastic response to the new set-up encouraged promoters to inaugurate more innovations this year.

Saturday will be pony day with youngsters up to 15 years and ponies up to 14.2 h.h. able to compete in a variety of classes. Several good English pony hunter classes (seven in all) offer children of varied ability an opportunity to show.

Special pony classes in the afternoon are open to both western and English riders and include a walk and trot class, a lead line class for teens under nine, and games divided into two age groups. Up until this year classes were divided by pony heights and were not very fair—older boys could ride a twelve hand pony and clean up all the ribbons.

So far no western pony classes other than the games have been planned. If you have any ideas for classes, wish to help, or can suggest a judge, please call Paul Thompson, 853-2883.

I'd like to see a western pleasure class, trail, western equitation, perhaps a showmanship class, run on Saturday morning at the same time as the English pony show. However, give Paul a call if you are interested in some formal western pony classes.

Horses on Sunday Sunday afternoon brings two shows run in conjunction with each other. Eight hunter classes for seniors and horses include flat classes and those over fences. Ribbons go to sixth place, money prizes also go to sixth and many classes offer trophies.

Three Open Jumper classes complete a very broad list. The western show features five halter classes, ladies' pleasure, western riding, pole bending, open pleasure, pick-up race, trail, keyhole race, barrels, and flag race. Quite a

lineup for good spectator value.

Any one wishing programs, information, or offering suggestions are invited to call Steve Lister 877-3598 for English or Paul Thompson, 853-2883 for western.

Acton Fall fair certainly looks as if it's going to be even better this year—at least judging by the horse shows. My congratulations to the people setting up this year's effort. I've always loved the Acton Fair—it's the best I've ever seen (no, I'm not a bit prejudiced!). Now it also has a superb horse show.

New walk

New sidewalk is being laid along Mill W. extending out past the new Legion lots.

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