

Council could choose new home today

A comprehensive report investigating the pros and cons of 15 different proposals for a regional headquarter site is slated to go before Halton Regional Council today.

Several weeks ago Council rejected the site and building committee recommendation favoring a Milton home for regional headquarters. Council at the same meeting rejected a plea from Oakville to have the headquarters established on the Atkins site at Bronte Provincial Park in Oakville.

Most of the Burlington caucus which accounts for nine of the 24 person council voted against both sites and requested a more in depth look at lease back and rental opportunities be undertaken.

The most recent report compiled by a panel of staff members examines a wide variety of arrangements and a wide variety of sites. But several councillors have acknowledged the fact that the final decision will be a political one.

Of the multitude of proposals the staff panel considered, half a dozen are recommended for further serious consideration by the council.

The Milton site at Derry Rd. and Highway 35 (formerly the Willmott farm) still ranks high in the eyes of the staff panel.

"The consensus of the staff panel was that together with the Derry Rd. and Bronte Park area sites, both of which should still be seriously considered, the Lush, Remer-Centennial and Hamilton Group proposals are valid alternatives from which council should choose," the report says.

The report to be discussed today was commissioned by Chairman Allan Masson after the site and building committee disbanded in frustration. That committee met during most of 1974 and during 1975 until their recommendations were turned down.



HERB RITCHIE is retiring from the Acton Hydro Commission staff at the end of this month. He has been caretaker at the Alice St. office for eight and a half years.

Services charges granted increase

Increased costs to the Acton Hydro Commission have resulted in service charges being raised.

At the September 11 meeting of the commission, office manager Audrey Urquhart explained to the group that the cost of sending someone out after hours to reconnect hydro which has been shut off due to non-payments of bills was more than what the person had to pay.

She continued to say that a special man had to be on call to make such service visits, plus the regular man on call. She explained that hydro is cut off early in the day in the case of delinquent payers so that the person involved has all day to get the money and notify the office before five o'clock. Mrs. Urquhart explained that they do not cut off the juice if there is any evidence that no one is home.

Raise costs
At this past Thursday evening's meeting, the group passed a resolution to raise all service charge costs in order to alleviate overtime costs for themselves.

As of December 1, the cut-off of service, due to non-payment of bills during regular office hours will be \$10. Reconnecting of the service, after all arrears have been paid, during regular office hours has also been increased to \$10. Reconnecting of hydro service, after regular office hours, after all arrears have been paid, is up to \$15.

At least 48 hours notice must be given to the hydro office for turn-offs or turn-ons due to the consumers moving from one location to another. No power will be connected until a contract and deposit has been paid, where it is applicable.

A notice with the above costs and announcements will be enclosed in bills after the arrears notice has been given.

Hydro caretaker retires from post

The Acton Hydro Commission is looking for a new caretaker on the retirement of Herb Ritchie after eight and a half years of service.

Mr. Ritchie's resignation was officially revealed at the Commission's Thursday evening meeting. Audrey Urquhart, office manager, told the members present Mr. Ritchie's age and said that he felt he no longer could work outside during the winter.

Ted Tyler Sr., acting chairman if Wilf McEachern's absence, had nothing but praise for the retiring gentleman and said they were very lucky to have him working for them over the years. The rest of the group agreed Mr. Ritchie was a fine man and had a good attitude towards life.

A replacement for Mr. Ritchie was discussed. It was decided not to hire a janitorial service to work for a few hours during the evening, as the Commissioners felt a full time person was needed.

They agreed to place an newspaper advertisement for a full time caretaker who would also be an assistant for

hydro duties. His caretaking duties will include both indoor and outdoor work, keeping up the surrounding grounds.

Mr. Ritchie's retirement becomes effective October 31.

Firefighters are called to firehall three times

Acton Volunteer Firefighters went to three fires this week.

On Saturday, the men were summoned to a car on the townline. The owner, Bob O'Rourke of Acton, was cutting the old vehicle up with a torch when it started on fire.

The firefighters were called to the hall on Sunday but did not have to go to the barn fire at R. R. 1 Campbellville. The fire was in the Milton fire department's range and they had already been summoned. The barn was owned by M. Leiberthal.

A car accident on Monday afternoon sent the volunteers to the Sixth Line Nassagaweya, a quarter mile from highway No. 7. They were called in case of fire or the people trapped.

For more information see a complete report of the accident elsewhere in this newspaper.

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Parents protest "obscene" book

A shouting match erupted between parents and trustees during Thursday's Halton Board of Education meeting and forced Director of Education Emmerson Lavender to read a form of the "riot act" to calm the meeting down.

The disruption broke out during the board's question period when parents demanded Superintendent of Program John Bolch read along a question from Oakville resident Terry Hansford.

The letter, which included three excerpts from a book called "Go Ask Alice", were ruled offensive by board chairman Judy Alexander and she said Bolch wouldn't be allowed to read the letter aloud. The passages from the book, which is the diary of a teenage girl who becomes hooked on hard drugs and eventually dies, contained explicit descriptions of sexual activities. Copies of the letter had been given to all trustees, administrators and the press before the question period.

When Mrs. Alexander said the material was offensive and couldn't be read aloud by Bolch the crowd of angry parents demanded "why can't it be read aloud. Our children are reading it so why can't Bolch." Mrs. Alexander said that if it was really necessary for the passages to be read aloud then the questioner was free to do so. She noted all trustees knew what was contained in the passages.

Trustee Bill Priestner said he had read the paragraphs with some "chagrin" although the passages might have been taken out of context. He suggested department heads and principals should be requested to give reasons why the book is being used.

"If their rationale is not satisfactory then we should get rid of it," Priestner stated.

"Go Ask Alice" is one of a number of books on a supplementary list for use in English studies in Halton. The group of parents claim the book is being used in seven Halton schools right now, including Milton High School. One of the 20 angry parents warned during an interview outside the board meeting room after their presentation the book could be used by other schools as well later in the year.

Amid constant interruptions by the parents Bolch told the board that if any parent or student finds material offensive then alternative material can be substituted for the pupil. He said it was board policy and agreed with Priestner that department heads and principals should be asked why the book is on the supplementary list and being used.

One of the spectators charged that he had given Goodin a book used in Halton schools "which is even worse over two months ago and nothing was done about it." Goodin denied the charge.

Bolch reminded everyone that parents could ask for the rationale behind the use of a book and demand that their child not read the book.

Hansford's letter had stated that he thought it was a legitimate concern of a parent to be worried about such "disgusting material being foisted upon my children under the guise of English literature." He wondered what rights parents have over the materials used in schools.

His question noted that if Bolch didn't read the excerpts aloud then it meant he too found it offensive and wondered in this case "what this book is doing in my son's school."

In his written question to the board Hansford stated that if Bolch found the material offensive then it meant the "book constitutes a gross violation of Section 229, Bill 72, of the Education Act which states in part that: 'It is the duty of a teacher to inculcate by precept and example, respect for religion and the principles of Judeo-Christian morality and the highest regard for truth... and all other virtues.'"

As the parents continued to shout at trustees demanding why the book was in schools and challenging the board to evict them when they attacked board policy, Georgetown Trustee Ernie Bodnar suggested the room be cleared.

Lavender then read a portion of the Education Act dealing with causing a disturbance at a board meeting and warned the parents they were subject to a \$100 fine if convicted for this offence.

Mrs. Alexander said the parents had legitimate questions and that the questions would be answered by letter by the board. She said it was regrettable that so much of the 15 minute question period had been wasted in "useless discourse".

Outside the board meeting room the parents milled about complaining about the use of the book and arguing with various trustees who ventured into the corridor. The parents charged the book is "obscene".

One unhappy parent said that the book did have some redeeming qualities in that it showed how a normally decent person could ruin their life with drugs and sexual promiscuity but thought the book was more suited to university students than it was for high school pupils.

The parents vowed they would return to the next board meeting if they didn't get a satisfactory answer in the meantime.

Lavender said following the meeting it would probably take a week to 10 days to answer all the parents questions but noted the subject won't be shunted aside or treated lightly.

Mrs. Alexander is reported to have said after the meeting that the board might ask for an explanation of why the book is being used and why it was chosen but would under no circumstances interfere with the judgement of professionals in the education field and order the book removed from the schools.

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TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

SCHOOL SUPPORT LIST

The District Assessment Office for the Province of Ontario has now made available the last revised School Support List applicable to all ratepayers and residents within the Town of Halton Hills.

This list is available at the Municipal Administration Building on the Seventh Line (former Esquesing Municipal Offices) for personal review by any interested ratepayer or resident to check as to the correctness of the same.

Applications for corrections to this School Support List must be made on the required Form One and will be received by the undersigned up to and including Friday, November 14th, 1975; after which time no application for correction may be considered until approximately this time next year.

Therefore, all enquiries should be made by the above noted date.

G. D. Pritchard
Clerk Administrator
Town of Halton Hills

M. Sc. degree for Bill Sanford



Bill Sanford
William E. Sanford received his M.Sc. in Chemistry at the University of Guelph on Friday, Oct. 3.

His thesis was awarded the merit rating Distinction.

The morning convocation for conferring advanced degrees included the installation of Donald Forster as the new president of the University.

Bill attended Limehouse Public School, Acton District High School and Guelph Collegiate, and received his Bachelor degree at the University of Guelph. He is working as a research assistant in the Chemistry department at the university. Mr. and Mrs. Sanford live in Limehouse.

Attending convocation were his wife Kathy, his mother Mrs. E. Sanford, grandmother Mrs. W. Mitchell, Kathy's mother Mrs. P. Kenny, and Miss Pearl Scott.

Toyota Community Calendar

What's doing in the North Halton Area!

*** ARTS AND CRAFTS ***
Acton Arts and Crafts Exhibit and Sale, Saturday, Oct. 18, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., St. Albans Parish Hall.

*** RUMMAGE SALE ***
St. Joseph's Church Basement Friday and Saturday, October 24, 7.30 to 9.00 p.m. and October 25, 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

*** ANNIVERSARY SERVICE ***
Ebenezer United Church—Nassagaweya October 19th at 11.00 a.m. and Anniversary Supper on October 22nd.

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