

Street, fence, walks decisions

Halton Hills works department took a fall tour of problem spots throughout the town on Thursday afternoon.

Councillors Ern Hyde, Mike Armstrong, Dick Howitt and Joe Hurst, mayor Tom Hill, engineer Robert Austin and works superintendent Frank Moretto spent four hours inspecting various work projects and problem areas in Halton Hills.

While touring Acton the committee decided to extend Division Street all the way over to McDonald Boulevard, and to extend the channel system in the Bovis subdivision to both sides of Division Street.

The completed reconstruction of Church Street was given the committee's seal of approval.

Some method will be found by the town to solve drainage problems at the bottom of Crescent Street and a stop sign in the Bovis subdivision will be changed from McDonald Boulevard, to Mason Boulevard.

Once again the committee looked at Wallace Street and decided to look into the possibility of extending the road through the industrial area.

The areas of Mill Street which will be reconstructed were examined during the tour and it was decided Acton Hydro will paint the steel poles in Acton and bill the town for the work.

Though no final solution was reached the town will try to find some remedy for

Acton Home Furnishings parking problem. The store is having problems with cars blocking its shipping and receiving entrance.

The committee decided a fence should be erected at the back of the Knox Presbyterian Church parking lot which the town uses for off street parking. The suggestion from the committee is that the church and town split the cost of the fence and it will eliminate problems with people cutting across the land to the tennis courts.

Left over funds in the sidewalk budget will be used to extend the sidewalk on Elizabeth Drive.

The committee was pleased to see the developer has been fixing up ditches on Cobblehill Road and will look into further improvements for the ditches.

The tour ended with the committee examining projects at the Legion subdivision.

Efforts are going to be made by Halton Hills works department to get the ponds at Georgetown's Remembrance Park fixed up in time for Remembrance Day next month.

Weeds examined
Weeds and long grass in front of the new Gordon Alcott Arena were examined during the tour and while the works department is willing to clean up the mess no final decision was made on the problem because the committee wants to consult with the

recreation department to see what their landscaping problems are.

Councillors decided an in-camera discussion will have to be held soon to come to grips with what kind of development will take place on Highway 7. It was hinted the road may be enlarged to five lanes in front of the arena and pizza. Mayor Hill suggested the committee should come to a decision soon so the town can still get subsidy money from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications for traffic lights.

Road reconstruction projects on Sargent Road and Raylawn Crescent were inspected during the tour and given the seal of approval by the councillors.

Councillor Harry Levy's request for a crosswalk at Comet Gate and Pennington Crescent will come up for discussion at a committee meeting in the future and during the tour there was general agreement a crosswalk in that location might be useful.

Large culvert projects on the Fourth and Fifth Lines, of the former township of Esquering were inspected by the committee during the tour.

Following inspection the committee decided to try and come up with some kind of agreement with Marion Clarke, Limehouse, on her request to purchase the old road allowances for Edward and Saxton Streets.



MRS. NELLIE BEATTY holds one of the few stuffed toys left at her booth, to her granddaughter Wendy Southey, and friend Carol Partridge, at Georgetown Arts and Crafts Society sale Saturday in Norval.

Fence between church and house

Halton Hills works committee decided last week they would like to help build a fence separating the Knox Presbyterian Church parking lot from the B. Henry property beside the parking lot.

The parking lot is used by the town for off street parking.

The committee suggested an agreement be drawn up calling for the Henry's to pay for 50 per cent of the cost of the fence and the town and church each paying 25 per cent of the cost.

Acton councillor explains his stand

Acton's representative on Halton region council, Pat McKenzie feels voting for the Atkins property for region headquarters was the only thing the representatives from the north could do at the time. "If we had turned that down, headquarters would have been in Burlington," he explains. "We feel we accomplished something by keeping it on Highway 25 and north of the Queen Elizabeth highway."

Opposed Councillor McKenzie op-

posed this week's decision to have council join OMEHS, the pension plan for municipal employees. He says he feels the majority of council members have other means of employment and could make other arrangements for their pensions.

Now it is mandatory for all to join the plan, and for some it is a hardship. He doubted councillors would be in OMEHS long enough to benefit.

He opposed this motion on a recorded vote.

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Region chooses site for office

Halton Regional Government's new headquarters will be situated on the Atkins property in Oakville, north of the Queen Elizabeth Highway. Immediately east of Highway 25. The new headquarters will be erected on land now owned by the provincial government, adjacent to land where the province intends to erect the provincial sportsplex.

The decision was made on a 15-9 vote. Oakville Councillor Archie Donaghey did some fancy footwork and set the stage for that decision to be made.

At the very beginning of the Wednesday meeting Donaghey presented a resolution that committed the region to negotiating for the purchase of a site north of the Queen Elizabeth Highway. Only two left.

That resolution won support from both Oakville and northern Halton representatives as it disqualified all sites being proposed by developers in the city of Burlington and a key site owned by and supported by the City of Burlington.

What's more important, it was the only way that Oakville could win support from the north. With that motion passed, there were really only two sites in the running.

The first site to be voted on was the Milton site at the south-west corner of Derry Rd. and Highway 25. That site received support from all eight councillors in the north as well as Councillors Terry Mammell and Mac Anderson from Oakville. No Burlington councillors supported the Milton site.

From Morrow Councillor Ric Morrow, who in July had opposed the

Milton site in favor of the site at the Atkins property, put the motion in favor of the Milton site and supported that site on the first vote.

He explained later that he still felt the Atkins site was the best choice but he knew that if a decision were to be made, the northern representatives would have to have their opportunity to speak for and try to sell the idea of having headquarters in Milton.

That resolution was lost on a 14-10 vote. With the Milton site lost once and for all, the road was clear for Oakville councillors to get their site approved.

Burlington councillors requested and received a 10 minute recess in order to caucus among themselves. The outcome of that caucus came in the form of an offer of the 6.7 acre Burlington site for \$1.

The site had been offered to the region for \$35,000 per acre up until that point. "We've made you an offer you can't refuse," Burlington Mayor George Harrington told council after the caucus. He was wrong - his offer was refused.

In spite of efforts by Burlington to stall the final vote, the vote was taken and the Oakville site was chosen.

Burlington councillors and especially Mayor George Harrington were angry and upset at the outcome of the meeting and the way the

decision was made. Donaghey's original motion to go north of the Queen Elizabeth Highway in fact ruled out the Burlington site and several other developer proposals in the city, without discussion.

Developers invited to attend the meeting filled the public gallery on one side of the chamber but their proposals were never considered by council.

Red Herring
Donaghey defended his action. He said the site and building committee that sat for more than a year had narrowed the choice to two sites but Burlington had thrown a red herring into the works.

After council supported the move to restrict discussion to sites north of the QEW, Harrington blew up. "You've just wasted hundreds of thousands of dollars. I'm embarrassed and ashamed."

At that point the meeting degenerated into a shouting match.

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Need for parking

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The traffic flow and suggested the parking authority come up with methods to keep parking spaces and still maintain traffic flow.

He noted in Georgetown the merchants fund off street parking and that should be done in Acton too.

Mr. Nielsen said a lot of merchants figure they have paid taxes for years, and should receive something in return from the town.

Mr. Hurst noted the merchants who have good parking facilities pay the same taxes.

Mr. Nielsen said the downtown area should be first designed for the people of Acton and then traffic flow. He noted business is being driven away by the noise and

congestion created by trucks using the downtown area. The committee decided they are prepared to listen to any proposals from the parking authority of Chamber of Commerce and will try to keep merchants informed on reconstruction design developments.

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Won't tell
An Acton woman called the Free Press to express her consternation at a phone call she received. The caller purported to be from her next door neighbor's insurance company in Guelph and asked her to tell when the neighbors were at home. She refused to give out this information, and wonders if she is being overly suspicious or not.

Police report no other reports of such calls.

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