

Morrow steams

Region action called blackmail

Allegations, charges and countercharges bounced around Halton Regional Council chambers like a tennis ball in a hot match Wednesday.

During the meeting councillors listened to volumes of conflicting stories concerning the controversial Pilutti townhouse development in Georgetown. Regional Public Works officials were set to rip out a six foot section of a watermain to the townhouses recently until Councillor Ric Morrow intervened and managed to call off the workers. Had the water been cut off, 25 families would have been without water service.

Before the meeting was over Mr. Pilutti was to be accused of illegally hooking up to municipal services, the region was accused of acting without full knowledge of the situation and a former Halton Hills engineer was accused for approving substandard services for the development.

The workers were ordered to rip up the main following a meeting of Halton Region's Public Works Committee Sept. 22.

During that meeting the committee was told that Mr. Pilutti had illegally hooked up to the municipal water supply. What the committee wasn't told was that there was already one family living in the development.

Morrow blasted senior works officials for issuing the order and then leaving for a convention in Las Vegas.

He traced the history of the development back to 1974. He said Halton Hills council considered the plan of development and was asked to handle the public works aspect of the agreement, as the region did not yet have sufficient engineering staff to handle it.

The agreement precluded any occupancy until the Ministry of the Environment approved of the plan. He claimed the ministry still hasn't given that approval.

Needed Moore said the six inch water supply was necessary to provide adequate protection.

Halton Hills Works Director at the time of the agreement was Peter Morris. Morris apparently sanctioned the development on the basis of a four inch main.

Since then there has been a change in staff at Halton Hills. No one has disputed the need for a six inch main and it appears that not requiring it was an oversight of the Halton Hills engineer's part.

The problem is complicated by the fact that Pilutti had already signed the development agreement and set his prices before the region made the demand for the six inch line. The cost runs just over \$10,000.

Pay it Some councillors suggested that either the developer would have to absorb the cost or Halton Hills would have to pay it.

Councillor Morrow said he didn't know who should pay the \$10,000 but argued that it was most unreasonable for the region to insist on additional monies after the agreement had been reached.

Decision on the matter was deferred, pending a staff report. Both Halton Hills and the regional staff will attempt to sort out the myriad of contradictions and allegations.

Meanwhile over 25 families are reported to be living in the homes.

He said Halton Hills Council set the price of the

homes at that time and claims because of that the homes sold for \$32,500 instead of the \$42,000 that might be expected under the current market.

Lots of time Morrow said the region had had lots of time to ask the developer for any services deemed necessary. But the region did not suggest the agreement worked out by Halton Hills Council and Mr. Pilutti wasn't sufficient, until the builder asked for a permit to hook up to the sewer and water lines.

At that point the builder was denied permission because the region deemed it necessary to replace a four inch line with a six inch line. By this time Mr. Pilutti had all of his costs calculated and his prices set. He refused to pay any of the cost to increase the size of the main.

Morrow supported Pilutti and accused the region of blackmailing the developer. "Faced with those conditions,

I would have done the same thing," he said.

Rip it up "We would have ripped your line up too," Public Works committee member Bill Mason said.

"I'm so sick and tired of Burlington people saying what has to be done in Georgetown, and never leaving their ivory towers. They ignored Councillor Sykes when he said they had their facts wrong."

"No one knew there were people living there," Mason said.

"Take it back to Halton Hills and straighten it out there," Regional Public Works Chairman Jack Rafits shouted.

Regional Works Director Bob Moore said Pilutti had illegally hooked up to both water and sewer services.

He said the occupancy of the houses was done in contravention to the agreement Pilutti did sign. He said



HEADS UP, HEELS DOWN. Over the practice jump go Lynn Carr of Acton and Harmittan before their classes at the Erin Fair horse show this weekend. Entries were heavy in the annual "three ring circus," featuring draft horses; roadsters and carriage horses; and jumping events all at once.

Polls open 11 a.m. Dec 6

Polls will open in each of Halton Hills 64 polling divisions at 11 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. on election day, Monday, December 6.

Core high school program pleases Halton educators

Toughening up of high school curriculum and there will be more uniform testing.

With respect to core curriculum Mrs. Alexander said, "In Halton it will just give a legal basis to what principals and parents have been doing by persuasion. Most students are already taking English, math, science and Canadian studies."

The fact all four subject areas will now be compulsory for grade nine and 10 pupils reflects a recognition on the part of educators that a child of 13 doesn't have as much ability to make wise course choices as one who is 17 or 18.

"I don't expect to see many sad faces about this move in Halton," Mrs. Alexander said.

On the subject of more uniform testing she admitted she doesn't know much about

Queen's Park's plans since they haven't been spooled out yet.

"I generally think it will be a good idea. Halton has been trying for some time to move in the direction of standardized tests for all students in the region," Mrs. Alexander explained.

She said she hopes the tests won't cover every possible aspect of a course and won't be used province wide since then Halton would have to be teaching pupils exactly the same things as they are taught in places like Thunder Bay, Ottawa and Windsor for proper comparisons of one area with another to be made.

Mrs. Alexander expressed the hope even with uniform testing there will still be some flexibility of content in courses allowed.

\$21,000 a month pay for 18 pool teachers

It is costing Halton Board of Education \$21,886.90 a month to pay 18 teachers, three of whom are only part-time teachers, not to teach regular classes.

Superintendent of Instruction, John Boich revealed the staggering figures in an interview this week.

Last month Halton Board of Education removed 25 regular teachers from schools throughout the region and placed them in a special pool to do supply teaching and work on special programs at different schools. The plan was to leave them in the pool until each could be placed in a full time teaching position once there had been enough resignations or maternity leaves or leaves of absence to create 25 openings.

Boich said as of the end of September the pool of 25 teachers had been trimmed back to 18 and expects that everyone in the pool will be placed in a full-time position by the end of December.

The creation of the special pool was caused by the hiring of too many teachers for the number of elementary pupils registered in classes in Halton. The board could not lay off the extra teachers.

"We are recouping as much of the money we are paying these people by having them supply teach. By having them supply teach we don't have to spend money we would

normally use for supply teachers," Boich noted.

He said he expects the board can recoup as much as "half or more" of the money it is paying out in full time wages to the extra teachers by using them as supply teachers.

Boich noted the board has been encouraging teachers to reduce the amount of absenteeism, so the use of supply teachers could be cut back, so there might not turn out to be as much absenteeism as has been expected.

Even with 25 teachers removed from the regular teaching staff, the board still found its pupil teacher ratio below policy.

There are supposed to be 24.5 pupils per teacher, but

the ratio is presently 24.2 pupils per teacher.

Boich noted if the board had brought the pupil teacher ratio down to 24.5, another 16 to 20 teachers would have had to be chopped from the regular teaching rolls.

If none of the 25 teachers had been returned to the classroom on a regular basis at all during 1976-77 school year, it would cost the board \$218,869 in wages. But with an extra 16 to 20 teachers not working regularly, then that figure would have soared over the \$300,000 a year mark.

Boich concluded, while the number of students in classes in mid-September were 1,028 pupils below projections, that figure was trimmed to 975 by the end of the month.

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'Fresh Ones' new 4-H club

By Heather Mount

The second meeting of the Nassagaweya "Fresh Ones" 4-H Homemaking Club was held at the home of Mrs. Judy Dillon. There were 15 present.

The meeting was opened by the president, Sheena Clegg. Cathy Cuthbert resigned as the club's press reporter and Heather Mount took over. Members were divided into groups and assigned a topic. Topics were fruit salad, baked apples and fresh plum-peach compote. Everyone Thanks was extended to Mrs. Dillon for her hospitality.

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