

Stunning upset

Ric Morrow new region chairman

Halton Regional Council elected a dark horse candidate as regional chairman at the inaugural meeting in Burlington Wednesday. Ric Morrow, a 36-year-old pilot from Halton Hills and an eight-year veteran of municipal politics, won the five-man election but only after councillors had cast six ballots.

Mr. Morrow was visibly moved by his victory. The decision came as a complete surprise to him and to the 24 councillors who elected him. No one was giving Mr. Morrow even a slim chance of victory prior to the meeting.

Council spent the first half hour of the meeting debating whether or not secret ballots should be cast prior to the councillors being sworn in. Council finally voted 13-11 to cast secret ballots prior to being sworn in as a legally constituted body.

Finally ballots were circulated and votes cast in a tension-filled room. The results of the first ballot came in: Jim Swanborough 4, Ric Morrow 6, Allan Masson 6, Terry Mannell 3 and Jack Rafitis 4. Councillor Mac Anderson protested the secret ballot and refused to vote on the first and second ballot.

Terry Mannell's name was dropped off the list for the second ballot. His three votes went to Masson and Rafitis. The results of ballot two were Swanborough 4, Morrow 6, Masson 7 and Rafitis 6.

Swanborough dropped out after the second ballot. (In the third ballot Masson gained three of Swan-



TO MORROW A BETTER DAY

borough's votes to jump to the lead with 10 votes, within just four votes of retaining his job.

But this time Mr. Anderson decided to vote and caused a two-way tie for second place with Mr. Morrow and Mr. Rafitis each getting seven votes.

Same count That vote was taken again and the count held the same. At the suggestion of Milton Councillor Jim Kerr, coun-

cillors voted on Morrow and Rafitis only with Morrow surviving the test on a 14-10 margin. Council chose Mr. Morrow over Mr. Masson on a 13-10 sixth ballot with Mr. Anderson again abstaining from the vote.

Many of the councillors had hoped that the four unsuccessful candidates would concede, freeing them of the mandatory stand-up open (Continued on Page 19)

Next Hydro hearings "ill advised" — lawyer

Ontario Hydro's attempt to resume a hearing of necessity in Acton on January 24 is "precipitous and ill advised" says Leon Paroian, lawyer for Georgetown landowner Walter Scott.

The hearing of necessity, called to consider objections by landowners to Hydro's controversial 500,000 volt transmission line from Bruce Nuclear Generating Station to Milton is being resumed despite Hydro's agreement

late in November to adjourn the proceedings until April 4, maintains the Interested Citizens' Group (ICG).

The three and a half day long November hearings ended after lawyers for both sides agreed to the nearly five month long adjournment. They also agreed that the hearings could be recalled on 15 days' notice from any party.

"I heard of their (Hydro's) decision to resume the hearings with surprise and dismay," said Paroian. He said Hydro can expect a vigorous battle if it hopes the resumed hearing will continue.

Made headlines The hardbitting Windsor lawyer made headlines late in November when he challenged the refusal of the Acton hearing's chairman, Donald F. Meyrick, to consider alternate routes for the corridor.

In an unprecedented move Meyrick adjourned the hearing until April to give landowners time to take the whole matter to court.

Several local landowners, who may be affected by the line, were represented at the November hearings by the ICG.

It is understood, ICG maintains, that Hydro is refusing to wait until April 4 because Hydro claims landowners delayed their application to the court.

"This is simply not true", Paroian said. "We required certain information from Hydro to make the application to court, and we filed our application as soon as we received the information."

He said that he expects the case to come before divisional court early in February. He indicated that sparks will fly on January 24 if Hydro believes it can use this alleged "delay" as an excuse to avoid its commitment to adjourn the hearings until April.

Paroian advises the landowners to resist their "natural" inclinations to boycott the resumed hearing. The hearing is scheduled for the Legion at 9.30 a.m.

"The people should be there," Paroian said. "They're going to see justice in action."

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No tax reduction for merchants

Acton downtown merchants who petitioned Halton Hills council to consider some kind of tax cut or rebate as a result of lost business due to reconstruction at Christmas time, got bad news Monday night at the finance administration committee.

The committee recommended to council there is no way they can accede to wishes for a rebate on taxes or other form of compensation because they had no

authority to do so. However, they did promise to see that merchants would be consulted before the remainder of the job is completed.

Ward One (Acton) Councillor Peter Marks said the timing of the reconstruction on Acton's main business section was disastrous with the minimum loss of business estimated at \$500,000. Marks felt the faux pas could have been averted at the planning stage and hoped there was no

repeat of the poor timing when the asphalt coating was finished and new sidewalks are installed in the spring.

"We all realize there was hardship," said committee chairman Russ Miller, "but what time of year would have been better?"

"Acton closes down during July and August," Marks said, "and that would be a much more suitable time." He asked the committee to make sure that when the job

was being finished the town engineer and council consult with the merchants to find a time suitable for all.

Ward Four Councillor Peter Morris noted the timing of reconstruction was not likely all the fault of council or public works because the Province was involved. Money from the Province is available at certain times of the year. "If you don't use it then, you don't get it," he stated.

Marks replied that council better make its problems known to the Province, too, so there would be no repetition of the financial hardship for the merchants.

"But we're not in a position to grant a reduction in taxes," Morris said. Members of the committee agreed. "It would set a bad precedent if taxes were reduced," Treasurer Ray King observed.

The committee agreed to

recommend the second phase of the reconstruction be implemented at a time suitable for merchants and contractors so there would be no repetition of the situation which existed prior to Christmas where Acton's main business section was torn up for reconstruction.

Twenty Acton merchants signed the petition received from John Coniglio requesting the tax cut or rebate.

Figure skater Kevin Parker wins divisional championship

In a close two-way competition Kevin Parker edged out Roy Priestnitz of the Hamilton-Stoney Creek skating club to win the junior men's division of the Central Divisional Figure Skating Championships in Guelph Jan. 12-16.

In his first year of junior men's competition, after winning the Canadian Novice Championship last year, 16-year-old Parker totalled 92.94 points and six ordinals while last year's Central Junior Champion, Priestnitz totalled 91.92 points and nine ordinals.

Paul Mills from Cambridge, finished third with 86.62 points and 15 ordinals.

On to Nationals Parker now moves on to compete in the junior men's division of the Canadian National Figure Skating Championships in Calgary, Alberta on Jan. 31 to Feb. 6.

Last year's works committee left the decision to put stop signs on Churchill Road and Cobblehill Road over to this year's council.

Both stop signs were suggested to council by worried citizens who aren't happy with speeding on their streets.

After totalling the two days' results Priestnitz was first with six ordinals and 40.52 points, Parker second with nine ordinals and 40.24 points, and Mills was third at 18 ordinals and 36.12 points.

Parker won the championship on the last day with a strong showing in the four minute free skating competition

According to his father Ernie, Kevin performed a series of double and triple jumps along with spins and combinations while exhibiting grace and poise as he sped over his program. As the young Parker finished with a combination of six spins flowing into a scratch spin at centre ice, the audience responded with an ovation

Judges awarded him first place ordinals for his program and gave him points in the 5.2-5.4 range. This moved him to first place in the overall standings to win the championship.

On Sunday all four of the winners in the skating competition were paraded around the Guelph Memorial Gardens



IT'S ON TO the Canadian championships for Kevin Parker, A.H.S. student who won the junior men's championship at Guelph Sunday. The Parker family lives in the Ebenezer district.

Post mortem snow removal

The engineering department is going to get right to work this week after receiving complaints from Councillors George Maltby and Pat McKenzie about holes in the Mill Street sidewalk.

Both said they had received complaints from residents regarding the holes and while they realized the sidewalks and problems were only temporary until all Mill Street reconstruction is completed something should be done about the holes.

Engineer Robert Austin said he believed one of the holes was for a gas valve and that was being worked on this

week. He said all the problems would be looked after by the works department right away.

Maltby suggested better snow removal was needed for the Mill Street sidewalk.

McKenzie praised the fine work of the works staff in clearing away snow after recent storms but complained about people receiving tickets and having their cars towed away for parking overnight.

Other committee members and staff all noted the snow would not have been cleared away as well if the three hour parking limit weren't in effect between midnight and 7 a.m.



MASSON... He's out!

Power off coldest night

About 25 homes south of Acton were without power for two and a half to three hours Monday night, on the coldest night of the year.

It was the extreme cold that was blamed for the power failure, according to the Guelph division of Ontario Hydro. When the failure was reported, two crews - four men - set out to search for the break and found the cold had pulled a splice apart. After the break was located the men had to do switching before it could be repaired.

The night was at its coldest during the time they spent outside, between 4 and 6.30 a.m. Temperatures were 15 below zero Fahrenheit or worse.

Some of the people affected left their homes until power was restored.

Chimney fire in Lakeview

Acton volunteer fire-fighters were called to the home of Nelson Johnson, 236 Elmore Drive, Saturday morning to put out a chimney fire.

Fire chief Mick Holmes says there was no damage in the 11.30 call.



THREE GIRLS from Robert Little Public School are well prepared for the cold weather on Tuesday. Temperatures went down to 15 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. From left to right the girls are Nada Hrkac, Kathy Hrkac, and Aneli Nekek.

No injury

\$200 damage was caused when cars driven by Nikola Kekic and Marilyn Hutchison collided in front of the Station Hotel on Mill St. Nobody was injured in the accident.

No stop signs — yet Churchill, Cobblehill

Halton Hills works committee accepted the engineer and police departments' advice Monday night and turned down requests for stop signs on Churchill Road South and Cobblehill Road.

Last year's works committee left the decision to put stop signs on Churchill Road and Cobblehill Road over to this year's council.

Both stop signs were suggested to council by worried citizens who aren't happy with speeding on their streets.

The stop sign on Churchill Road South was slated to be put up where the road meets Orville Rd. and the one on Cobblehill Road was to go at Victoria Ave.

Reports from both the engineer and police advised against stop signs going in at

the two locations since it was felt by the two authorities speeding would not be reduced by the signs.

Spreading Councillor Pat McKenzie blasted the police report which said Churchill Road did not lend itself to speeding noting that everyone knows people go down the road at 50 and 60 miles an hour.

Engineer Robert Austin countered the police had radar for seven hours on Churchill Road one day and didn't catch one speeder. He added he and police officers have been up to survey traffic and speeding on the street twice and haven't found any problems.

Committee chairman Mike Armstrong suggested winter was not the time to study speeding on Churchill Road

since with snow drivers slow down. He suggested the situation be examined again in the spring. He predicted police and town officials would be more likely to find people "racing up and down the road" then.

Austin said people race up and down all streets regardless of stop signs and speed limits.

Councillor George Maltby said he was forced to agree with the report.

He said if Churchill Road South needs speed deterrents then the north side of the road needs it even more since there is much more speeding on Churchill Road North.

Councillor Les Doby said the experts have looked at the proposal and haven't found (Continued on page Two)



JAQUELINE ROACH, 8, of Robert Little Public School, peeks out from behind her many layers of clothing to say "hi" to the photographer on Tuesday. Tuesday was the coldest day so far this winter.

To council next

BIA objection deadline past

No objections to the establishment of Acton's Business Improvement Area were received by Halton Hills clerk-administrator Tuesday morning, and it appeared likely there will be no impediment to the implementation of the scheme.

Clark-administrator Doug Pritchard pointed out there was a remote possibility a letter of objection, post-marked before midnight Monday, could still arrive. Monday was the deadline for objections.

Mr. Pritchard will report to council next Monday, and submit a draft bylaw. He expects the matter will then be referred to planning board, which will discuss details with the Chamber of Commerce.

On Churchill Rd.

Parking worse

Councillor George Maltby would like to see parking banned on Churchill Roads North and South.

He asked engineer Robert Austin to prepare a report dealing with the feasibility of his proposal at Halton Hills works committee Monday. Maltby said he thought

Chamber of Commerce secretary Betty Eastwood says the group expects to name the board of management at the annual general meeting slated for Monday, Feb. 7 at the Legion Hall.

The board must have three or more members, at least one must be a councillor.

The board must then determine the financial limits, which will be included in the bylaw. This will state the highest amount of money which could be spent in any one year.

The bylaw must then be approved by the Ontario Municipal Board.

The cost of improvements in the designated area will be paid for through a business assessment in the area affected.

parking should be banned on both sides of the street but especially on the north in the vicinity of the old high school and the new high school. He said parking is bad when sports are on at the high school and predicts things will get worse when the new high school opens next fall.