

Morrow recommends sweeping council changes

A report released by Halton Regional Chairman Eric Morrow last week calls for a number of radical changes in local government.

Morrow says that recommendations in his report if carried out would tend to alleviate the problems of parochialism and streamline what is now an unwieldy operation.

In his report he recommends having the number of councillors reduced from 24 to about 12 and having them elected directly to the region.

When Morrow took office in January he promised to report to council after six months and convey his own impressions of the office and recommend some rules for the future.

Morrow's recommendations go beyond the internal workings of the office and touch on the election of councillors and the operation of the region.

In his report Morrow recommends:

- Reducing the number of

councillors on regional council from 24 to about 12.

—Electing the chairman from among those 12 and allowing him to retain his seat and sit as chairman as well.

—Introduce a system where regional councillors would be elected directly to regional council and would sit solely on the regional council. Currently they are elected to regional council and sit on both regional and area councils.

—Having all regional meetings in the evenings, instead of during the day. He says this will allow more people to run and if regional councillors didn't have to sit locally they could attend evening meetings at the region.

—Restricting the tenure of any chairman to two terms to prevent any one person from monopolizing the office for long periods of time and to prevent any one person from building a power base.

His report also recom-

mends amending Bill 151 to permit the election of the chairman by secret ballot. This wasn't allowed during the time of his election and it created chaos during the election.

Morrow claims members should have the right to a secret ballot just as citizens do when they elect leaders and when political parties do when they elect leaders.

While Morrow said he does not want an increase from the \$25,000 salary he now earns as chairman, figures he presented for comparison indicate his salary is tied for the second lowest of the 12 regional chairmen in Ontario. His salary is almost \$10,000 under the average and \$24,000 under Metro Toronto's chairman. Morrow is the only chairman in the province to run on a part time basis.

While Morrow wouldn't say that he felt regional councillors were overpaid at \$8,995 he provided reporters with figures indicating that Halton Regional Councillors receive

the fourth highest of all salaries paid for regional councillors in Ontario and \$1,360 more than the average regional councillor in the province.

Morrow said councillors sitting on area councils attend far more meetings than regional councillors do and receive less pay for it. "The pay just doesn't give."

For the past five months Morrow has been in the office for 92 of the 106 days the office was open and worked an average of six hours a day. Morrow said that excludes time at home reading reports and agendas, speaking engagements and telephone calls.

Morrow ran for chairman indicating it would be a part time job. He retained his job as pilot with Air Canada but now says the job takes more time than he had anticipated and suggests it will probably have to be a full time job in the future.

Morrow released his report to councillors following the regular meeting of council Wednesday and held a press conference to discuss the report immediately after the meeting.

Students get scholarships

Acton High school's two top students, Lynn Carr and Josee Charlebois, have been awarded Chancellor's scholarships from McMaster University. The award is worth one year's tuition to each of the girls.

Cheque frauds hit IGA

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Five cheques from a Main Street North resident were returned marked "unauthorized signature." They totalled \$850.

Another cheque for \$77.95 was returned marked as not having enough money in the account to cover the amount. The cheque was presented by a different person.

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Flower garden ruined by vandals

Every flower in Limehouse public school was pulled up by the roots sometime on the weekend, causing the front garden to look as if a tornado went through the place.

Caretaker Tony Hurley said he arrived at work Monday morning to see the garden torn up. He surmised it must have taken one or two people several hours to do the damage, and it will take several more hours to clean up the mess. Although Mr. Hurley did not know the immediate fate of the flower garden, he thinks it is too late in the season to replant. He said most of the plants had been pulled out by the roots, and what few plants were still left in the ground were trampled.

The caretaker estimated between 200 to 250 plants had been ruined.

Mr. Hurley said he called the police upon his arrival at

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LIMEHOUSE SCHOOL caretaker Tony Hurley picks up some of the flowers which were uprooted by vandals on the weekend. Of the almost 250 plants and flowers in the well-cared-for bed, very few remain in the ground. The school has been a target of vandalism over the past few years, and especially this summer, Mr. Hurley said.

Wood thief in Nass. twp.

Eighteen sheets of plywood valued at more than \$200 were taken from a home under construction in Nassageweya township.

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