Morrow recommends sweeping council changes

A report released by Halton Regional Chalrman Ric Morrow last week calls for a number of radical changes in local from among those 12 and government.

Morrow 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

—Introduce a system where regional councillors would be elected directly to regional council and would site 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 and if regional coun cillors 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-

permit the election of the chairman by secret ballot. This wasn't allowed during the time of his election and it allowing him to retain his created chaos during the seat and sit as chairman as

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 pay just doesn't jive." 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 tled for the second lowest of the 12 regional chairman 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 the future. figures indicating that Halton Regional Councillors receive

mends amending Bill 151 to the fourth highest of all salaries paid for regional councillors in Ontario and \$1,360 more than the average regional councillor in the pro-

Morrow said councillors sitting on area councils attend far more meetings than regional councillors do and receive less pay for it. "The

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

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

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.

The chairman said he would support a reduction of the number of members on the council because it would not be as unwieldy.

He said councillor should sit only on one level of government. "People have, totalled \$850. full time representatives at Queen's Park and in Ottawa and now local government is having enough money in the moving that way. People account to cover the amount. don't like it and they say that The cheque was presented by they are unable to run for a different person.

government because they aren't in a position where they can continue an interest in a business or take a leave of absence. It is no

career to get into when you can be out of it in two years. "I'm concerned about people being able to have access to local government.

According to Morrow evening meetings of regional council should be held but as long as councillors sit evenings on local council it is impossible to hold evening regional meetings. He said it regional councillors didn't

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

Acton IGA on Main Street was the target of cheque frauds amounting to more than \$900, last week.

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

Another cheque for \$77.95 was returned marked as not

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 arrivel at

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Mr. Hurley believed this school is one of the worst schools for vandalism in the

He also said the people of the small village think they know who the guilty parties could be, but because of lack of evidence, will not divulge

the school. However, the caretaker said, someone had called them the day before, leaving him to believe the damage was done Saturday

"It is discouraging," Mr. Hurley said.

He explained that almost every Monday this summer he has had to report some form of vandalism to the police. He pointed out every outside light has been smashed, doors kicked in and windows broken. One window looks as if it has been broken by a bullet, but nothing was ever found to substantiate this suspicion.

Lack . . .

(Continued from Page 1) nouncing the plan to separate were not posted so that neighbors would be aware of the meeting.

The acreage forms what Mr. Markovic termed "one of the rare cases" where two corridors meet on one property. Hydro's Nanticoke to Pickering Line is under construction. A north-south line down the centre of Halton Hills from the Bruce nuclear generating station is being

contested by several citizens. Georgetown lawyer Richard Howitt, who represents farmers opposed to the planned north-south line, said the separation would be premature.

Mr. Howitt strongly suggested the committee deny the application because it had done so on a similar bid on lots 1 and 2 on the same line in Halton Hills. That's the Frank Nagle land.

Expropriation hearings for this area's section of the proposed 500 kV line resume Monday in Acton's Legion, Mr. Howitt said.

He also informed the committee that residents around the Erin section of the line started a Division Court action to upset the minister of energy's approval for expro-

Ontario Hydro denied that the application for separation was premature because the utility has a provincial orderin-council approving the north-south corridor. .

Mr. Markovic said the land would not be taken out of agricultural use.

have to sit on local councils as well evening meetings could and should be held.

Morrow said that countinuing urban growth. The cillors elected as regional management of that growth councillors and sitting only on and the provision of the the regional council would be necessary infrastructure of able to think regionally. Mor- services to support it, will be row quoted from the Mayo seriously impaired by parreport on Ottawa-Carleton to ochial tendencies and loyalsupport his contention.

"Firstly there is a strong "Secondly, the workload is tendency for councillors much too heavy for those perserving at the regional level, sons, especially heads of representing local councils, councils, who serve also on to take a parochial "what'sregional councils. The neglect in-it-for-my-municipality" of one or the other set of viewpoint with a concomitant duties is almost inevitable. failure to view issues region-And it is the regional duties ally. The indirect method of which tend to get neglected," election produces a United Mayo wrote in his report for Nations-type atmosphere at Ottawa Carleton. According regional councils with memto Morrow the same situation bers acting like ambassadors exits in Halton.

of nation-states defending Morrow points out that national sovereignty at the most of the debate during expense of global action. The election campaigns evolve 'indirect' councillor's power around local issues such as base is at the lower tier, arenas, parks and locally hence their loyalties lie there controlled development. He said regional councillors are "A region wide approach is being elected on positions they take on local issues not on their performance or posi-

> tions on regional issues. Morrow said he felt the region could have moved towards regional capital levies, and equalized assessment if members of council had not had to serve on regional and

raised by the prospect of con-

local council. "In the six months that I've been here (chairman's office) I've come to realize we are the community of Halton and

also vital for dealing with the the future of local governdifficult and pressing issues ment is at the region. Somehow we have to recognize that

we are all one," he said. and evening meetings more cording to Morrow.

"I want them to have the opportunity to partake. If it is truly local government the great bulk should have the committees of council for opportunity to partake.

"My views on regional government have been enforced over the last six months. I believe in my heart this is the right thing and it will enable us to do the right things and provide for the kind of growth we want and

will have in the future."

Morrow said he felt some egional chairman would feel the changes were radical. He By having direct election said he didn't expect the report to find him friends on people could take part in the regional council but he regional government ac- emphasized time and time again that he had tried to

remain objective. His recommendations will be referred to the various consideration.

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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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