

Attack simmering months

Planners' jobs saved for time

Halton Regional Planning Department narrowly escaped having its ranks reduced from 16 to 13 people during Wednesday's regional council meeting.

The issue has been simmering for months now and finally come to a head. Proponents of the cuts argued that the official plan was nearly complete and the

workload should be decreasing in the department.

Tom Sutherland, the mover of the motion, said regional planning should simply be filling a co-ordinating function and could easily get along without the three junior positions he designated.

Milton Mayor Don Gordon said the staff was booked

solid right through until the end of April already. He argued that the region would need the people it has to guide the official plan through the provincial approval route and the Ontario Municipal Board.

Oakville Councillor McLean Anderson said it has taken so long now to prepare the official plan "It is almost indecent."

"There are no doubts in my mind that cuts should be made," he said. Planning committee chairman Pat McLaughlin said the department wasn't carrying any extra bodies and it would need all of the people it has to get the plan approved. "Some of these people have been with us since the beginning and we need the information they

have." Burlington Mayor Mary Munro said the official plan is the most important charge for the region. "It forces municipalities to look at employment, industrial opportunities and population limits. Council has to act responsibly and supply the tools and human resources to do the job. Those who would decimate the ranks have no knowledge of and have shown little interest in planning," Mrs. Munro said.

The move to dismiss the staff was turned back on an 11-9 recorded vote. Voting in favor of the cut were Mac Anderson, Vern Connell, Harry Barrett, Jack Raffis, Ron Planché, Tom Sutherland, Roy Booth, Jim Watson and Russ Miller.

\$15,000 for conventions

Halton Regional Council will allow expenditure of up to a total of \$15,000 on conferences and conventions for councillors and staff members this year.

Chairman Ric Morrow said different committees had dealt with the issue in different ways. He noted some had said there should be no conventions or conferences for their departments while others did allot funds.

He said each committee should deal with the issue in a similar fashion. A motion by Burlington Councillor Ben Ciprietti setting a limit of

\$18,000 was defeated and one setting a new limit of \$15,000 passed.

The apportionment of the funds for different departments will be co-ordinated by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Department heads had requested \$18,100 for conventions and seminars and committees had approved only \$11,000.

At the same time council approved \$14,700 for courses and seminars for staffers. The region pays 75 per cent of any approved course that employees pass.



RICK VAN FLEET readies Lori Vermeulen for her part in the blind banana races held Monday as part of banana day at the high school.

Reed says resource recovery is possible

Halton-Burlington MPP Julien Reed has defended remarks he'd made earlier concerning resource recovery for Halton Region, after being criticized by Regional Chairman Ric Morrow.

In a letter to the editor published in this paper last week, Morrow indicated that Reed was off base and misinformed on the issue.

But Reed is sticking to his guns, and insists that resource recovery is a very real possibility for Halton region. Reed emphasizes that there are very many choices open to Halton. "There is a system appropriate to every community," Reed said.

He noted the choices ranged from separation at source to the highly technical pyrolysis systems. "What is really important is making up your mind to do it."

In his letter Morrow said the region was proceeding with a front end resource recovery plant that would produce a resource derived fuel. But Reed is skeptical. "Show me the contract that they've signed and tell me when construction will begin. Is it next year?" he asked. Reed recently returned from a fact finding mission to Washington to see what the Americans are doing con-

cerning resource recovery. He returned home impressed with the attitude in the States. "They've decided they'll make it a reality."

In his letter Morrow said the steam generating incineration type project some-

times promoted for Halton would cost \$40,000,000 to \$60,000,000.

But Reed criticized Morrow for zeroing in on a plant that would cost that kind of money. "To zero in on that is pure tunnelvision."

On welfare she would receive from \$353 to \$378 per month. Day care would cost between \$315 and \$425 per month.

Vivian noted that not only could the woman earn more by working, she would enjoy a higher self esteem, remain independent to a large degree, and her own morale would be enhanced.

Vivian said there were 14 people on the waiting list for subsidized day care that can't be helped unless the budget is increased.

The budget for private home care and services purchased from private centres would have to be increased from \$204,000 to \$252,000.

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Eriksen blasts Chairman

Tensions explode

Tensions between Regional Chairman Ric Morrow and some members of regional council surfaced Wednesday when Oakville Councillor Carl Eriksen charged the chairman was a dictator.

"You're nothing but a bloody dictator and you are a disgrace to the democratic process. You shouldn't be here," Eriksen shouted at Morrow after being told to sit down and continually ruled out of order.

"Sit down and be quiet. Everything that is done here is done with a majority and you know it," Morrow shouted back. "Ah, you're nothing but a dictator, you're just a child," Eriksen shouted again. "You're the dictator," Morrow shot back.

The dispute between the two men erupted when Morrow refused to deal with a letter Eriksen had put on the agenda.

Instead, Morrow referred it to committee for discussion. Morrow had prevented councillors from speaking several times during the meeting because another member introduced a motion of closure. In one instance there was no allowance for discussion at all.

Eriksen's letter deals with major revisions he'd like to see implemented, changing the structure of the region. Morrow has been criticized for running meetings with an iron fist and allowing discussions on issues he wanted aired and refusing it

on issues he didn't want discussed. To invoke closure, Morrow has to call a vote and have a majority of council vote in favor.

From time to time members prepare a speech on a particular issue and are forbidden to speak on the issue. Providing the majority of council support the closure motion it is within the rules of procedure and quite legal, nevertheless irritating for the person being cut off.

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