



CLEANING UP THE TOWN: Nancy Norton, Jenny Crawford, Wendy Norton and Angela Bridge comb the hill beside Robert Little public school as part of a cleanup campaign staged by

local brownie and guide groups. People who collected the most refuse won food at McDonald's.

Plan bd. backs bill changing N.E.C.

A battle is brewing over the Niagara Escarpment Preliminary proposals to plan the escarpment.

This week Halton Hills planning board passed a resolution, put forward by Councillor Pete Pomeroy, backing a Private Bill, by Bob McKesock, MPP for Grey, scheduled for debate May 11, at Queen's Park. The main part of the bill cuts the NEC planning area and abutting government owned land, to approximately what the preliminary proposals recommend.

It differs by stating all existing lots in the present control area be granted a development permit upon application, or bought by the government within a year, and the third part allows appeals on development control decisions to be heard by the Ontario Municipal Board, rather than by a hearing officer, or the Ministry.

Pomeroy's motion stated council feels the NEC has strayed from its initial objectives, and many complaints have been received from affected property owners. It stated the complaints relate to unreasonable planning principles, and the rights of property owners to a fair hearing on development control decisions.

"This council feels that it was never the intention of the original NEC legislation to encroach on the rights of private citizens to provide for themselves a place to live or a place to conduct a bonafide business. It stated the proposed Private Bill 69, represents a return to the NEC's original objectives.

Roy Booth, a member of the NEC, said the preliminary proposal already recommends a narrowing of the planning area. He claimed appeals would be lengthened to six months at least if the OMB conducts them, while at present the time limit is 30 days. He said according to the proposed bill, any existing lot can be built upon, whether or not it comes up to other standards.

Pomeroy said he felt council is not satisfied with the NEC and its controls, which seem unreasonable. He pointed out in the map of the preliminary proposals, Acton is completely within the control area.

"It looks like they decided to put everything in the control area, then if the citizens object they will back off a bit." He said "If this plan goes through it is dynamic. The NEC was originally set up to protect the escarpment area not to dictate to the citizens."

Booth said the planning area was designated by the province, and all three political parties agreed to it. "The NEC was directed to put a plan on the whole planning area and that's what we did."

Pomeroy asked who is the appeal officer now. Booth said it is a body separate from the NEC, and claimed 70 to 80 per cent of the development applications are approved, and maintained 15 or 20 per cent of those not approved by the NEC are overturned by the appeal officer.

Booth emphasized only the building covers 8,200 square feet, or 9.4 per cent of the lot, with the remainder green area and parking for 33 cars.

The original plan called for a driveway at both the north and south end of the lot, but the revised plan has one wide driveway.

The McClure-Jones funeral home plans to move from the present location on Edith Street, to the two acre parcel

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Refuse to back Bill . .

(Continued from Page 1) been held before any maps were drawn. He said he had no chance to voice objections except at the provincial government where it will be debated. He termed the NEC proposals a ridiculous looking document. "It looks to me as if the provincial government can't afford to buy the land so they are imposing zoning on it." He said he disagreed with Booth's statement they would have little voice in the NEC if they endorsed the Private Bill. "If they're not man enough to listen just because someone opposes them, they are not responsible."

Councillor Peter Marks said he'd like to know more about it. He said he was impressed with the number of avenues of appeal described at the March 30 meeting, held by the NEC for councillors from Halton Hills and Milton. He said the escarpment is a vital area to be protected and developed.

Councillor Russ Miller said he agreed with the recommendation backing the Private Bill. He said he was concerned about the control over farmers, and said the sooner the escarpment planning area is cut down to 2000 feet the better.

Booth retorted the reason for the preliminary proposals is to get public input. He said public meetings are being held all over the length of the escarpment. He emphasized the preliminary proposals are just that, and not even a draft plan yet. "Give us ideas, tell us how you want it changed, that's what the preliminary proposals are there for". He said farms are exempt from control.

Police Com. wants report before position

Halton Region Police Commission will wait for a staff report on the implications of the Milton Jail closing before the commission takes a position. "I think we should have a detailed report on costs and procedure. We need information so we can be guided", Burlington Commissioner David Coons said Thursday at Oakville.

Police Chief Ken Skerrett said he only had a ball park figure on last year's operation. The commission asked the chief to have a report ready by its next meeting. The commission was responding to a letter from Ontario Ministry of

Correctional Services regional director J. L. Main which advised the commission the century old Milton Jail is to be closed prior to July 1. No official date for the jail's closing has been chosen, according to Main's letter of April 12.

Main also informed the commission Halton prisoners will have to be taken to Guelph Jail, Metro Toronto West Detention Centre or to the new Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre. Once the Milton Jail closes, the region will have no jail for about four years when the new Maplehurst Detention Centre is slated to open.

Hold elections

The Baha'is of Halton Hills held their assembly election last week at the home of Isabel and Don Weaver. The election of officers took place: chairman, John Baldock; vice chairman, Don Weaver; recording secretary, Isabel Weaver; corresponding secretary, Lena Emmerson; treasurer, Yvette Bourassa; other members of the assembly, Davinia Barber, Mary Lamon, Norman Bourassa, Juliette Baldock.

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