

Councillors evade recorded votes, mayor says



AL KIRKNESS, left, and Frank Thompson chat at the Y's Men's auction sale Friday evening. Max Storey was the auctioneer for the evening.

Burlington Mayor Mary Munro claims some councillors have left Regional Council meetings early to avoid having their names recorded when recorded votes are called.

Mrs. Munro made the accusation during a meeting of Halton Region's Administration Committee meeting last week.

The committee had been discussing proposed changes to the official plan. Mrs. Munro said she couldn't think of anything that causes more difficulty and consternation than recorded votes.

She recalled many times when a vote was called in committee of the whole and went one way, only to have the decision reversed a couple of hours later in council.

Until now, recorded votes have only been allowed in council. The format of council meetings always sees the councillors sit as committee of the whole and later resolve

into council to ratify actions taken in committee.

The recorded vote is called when a councillor wants to have all of the votes recorded in the minutes. Usually only the result is recorded but there is no record of who voted which way.

By allowing recorded votes immediately after the

discussion, the committee hopes to avoid the problem of people leaving before the meeting is over and decisions frequently being reversed.

The committee also agreed to change the procedure in calling recorded votes. Traditionally the roll was called starting from one point in the room and each coun-

cilior declared his vote. Under the new procedure the councillors will stand together when votes in favor or against are called and have their names recorded.

In the past some councillors were influenced in voting after they saw how the majority voted. Once enough people had voted to decide

any given issue, the remaining councillors could vote on the popular side—instead of with their conscience.

The committee will also recommend that the 24 councillors all sit on one committee each, with six councillors to each committee.

Under the current system there are eight people on each of the four committees. Eight members sit on a second committee.

Chairman Ric Morrow said the current system was unfair because it required eight councillors to take on an extra workload.

He advocated a system that would have required each Member to sit on two committees with 12 councillors on each of the four committees. He claimed that would have strengthened the committees and given councillors a broader knowledge of the region.

Morrow noted that after July 1, the Board of Health will report directly to council.

Under current legislation the Board of Health must have two appointed people on the board and the board does not have to be accountable to council. There have been instances where the board and council have been on collision courses but over the years the board has functioned for the better part as a committee of council.

Some people see the change as formalizing what is currently being done in practice now.

In his arguments for the 12-member committees, Morrow suggested that for the \$10,000 per year the councillors receive, they should be prepared for greater involvement.

Planning committee rejects compensation for farmers

I.G.A. reopens

Acton I.G.A. reopened on Thursday, with new counters, shelving and lighting installed. The store has also been redecorated.

Several new people have also been added to the staff says owner Dave Manes.

Regional planning committee took a dim view of putting a statement supporting compensation for freezing of foodlands in the regional official plan.

Last week the committee reviewed a revised and reorganized version of the section on agriculture prepared in response to public input about the first draft. Reaction to the plan from area municipalities will be considered by the committee at a later date.

The committee rejected inclusion in the plan of a statement calling on the province to initiate a system for compensation to farmers in cases where farmlands have been designated foodlands. However, the committee made no comment on another statement calling on the region to join the province in

investigating alternative planning techniques which would include the option of a foodlands land use designation and some form of compensation to rural land owners.

In the proposed revision of agriculture policies the term "farm land" is used throughout.

Halton Hills Councillor Roy Booth was one who opposed the statement concerning compensation. "I don't think everyone has the inherent right to develop his land," he said. "Some lands are bought on speculation. Do we compensate speculators as well as farmers?"

But Milton Mayor Don Gordon supported compensation. "If environmentalists and bleeding hearts want to freeze land, let them reimburse the farmers. Farmers

want the same rights as everyone else."

The compensation issue has divided Halton farmers. The Halton Federation of Agriculture supports the concept of compensation; other farmers oppose any controls put on their lands.

Policies dealing with the protection of Halton's farm lands state the region's policy is to recognize and protect those farm lands located within the region's rural area (as mapped) as a long term land use, and will protect, as a matter of first priority, those existing viable farm operations located on the region's identified farm lands.

The policies also state farming will be recognized as an industry second in priority only to that of Halton's

mineral resource extractive industry within the region's rural area.

Farm operations will be protected in order of priority. The revised policies rank commercial food farms first, followed by noncommercial food farms and amenity and hobby farms.

The revised version calls for the establishment of an Agricultural Advisory Committee. If and when it is deemed necessary, to ensure implementation of agricultural policies of the plan.

To date, the committee has received a total of 51 submissions concerning the agriculture section of the plan. These contained 152 comments on agriculture and 15 comments having an indirect bearing on agriculture.

Acton Hydro Electric OFFICE HOURS CHANGED

The office of the Acton Hydro Electric has changed the hours the office will be open to the public. The new hours are:

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

These hours conform with the office of the Town of Halton Hills and will facilitate the co-operation between the two bodies.

THE ACTON HYDRO ELECTRIC COMMISSION

For Meals

Summer help still needed

More volunteers are still needed to make sure that Meals on Wheels can be delivered through the summer holidays.

Community Services Centre co-ordinator Terry Grubbe says there are now just enough people to fill the roster...without anyone having holidays.

And holidays are inevitable.

Ten people attended special meetings called last week to discuss the coming changes. Several others phoned and volunteered to drive and deliver.

One person is needed to drive the car, and another to take the meal in to its recipient, each week day.

Some days there are as many as 15 meals, but the deliveries don't take too long. They can be done any time during the noon hour, as the

meals keep hot in special containers.

During the summer, Reliable Taxi can no longer pick up the meals at Halton Manor. The taxi drivers had included this, at no charge, when they were taking children from Acton to Tinkerbell Nursery. But the school closes for the summer vacation and the taxi won't be going to Milton and back at noon.

For two months the drive to Milton and back must be included in the duties of the group of volunteers.

Mrs. Grubbe is very anxious to hear from others who will help. They do not need to be able to drive.

They may work any number of days. She may be reached at the Community Services Centre in the Y, 853-3310.



ACTON FIREFIGHTERS worked for almost two hours fighting a fire at 13 Wilbur St. Monday. The house was gutted, resulting in an estimated damage of \$20,000.

LDC ok's severance

Regional Land Division Committee (LDC) approved a severance bid on land at the corner of Churchhill Road North and Cedar Road Tuesday in the 7th Line town office.

The application originated from Del Nin Holdings Ltd. and was for an agreement of sale and conveyance. LDC member Bill Coats, of Acton, moved approval of the bid on condition that the lot levy be investigated and that minor variances are obtained on the

rear and sideyards, with particular note to a porch which did not appear in the drawings.

Mr. Coats first asked if the neighbors were notified, and he was informed that the usual letters were mailed.

The application called for the severing of 6,652 square feet, with a frontage and width of 50 feet and a depth of about 134 feet.

An old stone house is centered on the property.

YMCA involved in 1978 Caravan program

The Y.M.C.A. will be participating this year in Caravan, a multicultural festival in Toronto.

The Y.M.C.A. International Development Committee has many projects, one of them being Project Paraguay. The International Development Committee is establishing Y facilities and programs in Paraguay. Therefore to increase interest and awareness of the Paraguayan Project, the Y's pavilion will focus on Paraguayan dances, craft costumes, food etc. The Acton Y.M.C.A. in-

ternational development committee is supporting this project by selling Caravan Passports. These may be obtained at \$5 until June 16. From June 17 passports will cost \$8.

There are a limited amount of passports, hence, persons

interested in getting passports at the reduced price should purchase them as soon as possible.

Passports may be obtained from the Y.M.C.A. or by phoning one of the following numbers: 853-1070, 853-0133, 853-1724, 853-0144 or 877-9476.

Police cut funds for identification program

Halton Regional Police Commission sliced the value of services to this year's Operation Identification Program in half, it was decided at a meeting Thursday in Oakville.

The commission will pay out no more than \$200 for printing and other services. The transaction will be handled on request with invoice and receipt, according to administrator Raymond Munro.

Last year the commission contributed \$420.02 to the operation which promotes the idea of residents marking their belongings so they can be identified in case of theft.

The federal government is sponsoring the project to the tune of \$15,500 in salaries, according to Munro.

Burlington police commissioner David Coons never got a name to his questions concerning who is getting the money; but Munro attempted to answer with this: they are "A whole bunch of executives who don't want to get their hands dirty with work." Later he said they are university students or pseudo-university students.

"They're misguided", continued the administrator. "I've recommended a couple of people for this pro-

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