

# Region could take rural roads

Halton Region's Public Works Committee is considering a proposal that could eventually see regional council responsible for all roads outside of the five urban service areas in the region. That would, of course, also exclude provincial highways in the region.

That is one of four alternatives set out for study by a team of consultants. As it is now, the area municipalities are responsible for some rural and some urban roads and the region is also responsible for some urban and rural roads as well.

If the region opted to go that way it would mean everything south of Highway Five in Burlington and the urban areas of Milton, Georgetown and Acton would be under local jurisdiction and everything else would be regional.

The Public Works Committee was divided concerning where the boundary for jurisdictional purposes should fall. Oakville Councillors argued the line should be

upper Middle Rd. but Committee Chairman Jack Rafitis and some Burlington councillors insisted the line should be Highway Five.

Milton Councillor Jim Kerr suggested the Upper Middle Rd. was the limit of the urban service area for Oakville and that is what the limit should be south of Highway 5 but north of Upper Middle Rd. will require huge expenditures in the future. Rafitis and some councillors feel that cost should be covered by Oakville.

It was argued that by adhering to the urban service area as boundaries for local and regional roads that there would be no doubt about where one stopped and the other started.

Under that proposal if the urban service area increased so would the area of roads controlled by the local council.

After the meeting Councillor Kerr suggested the proposal had merit. He said he preferred having water and sewers at the local level

as well and that would give the area councillors control over the roads and sewers and water. He said that would avoid having to co-ordinate road, water and sewer work with the region.

The consultants are expected to report back on the four alternatives early this fall. It was earlier thought that the region was eligible for provincial transitional grants but some doubt has been cast upon that prospect now.

Minister of Transportation and Communications Jim Snow apparently told regional officials during a meeting that the region wouldn't be eligible for grants if they opted for the new system. Some regional officials still feel some funds will be available.

One alternative would be the same as the one above, with the exception of the northern boundary for Oakville's local road network.

Another would see the road system continued as it is with some minor additions and deletions in the system.

# Vet attributes recoveries to caring area residents

An injured goose is alive, well and safe in a new home thanks to the combined efforts of five Acton residents and a local veterinarian.

Two weeks ago, Esther Taylor, Jack and Joyce Carpenter and two young boys caught the bird at Fairy Lake by the arena, its wing almost torn off. They took it across the road to the Halton Hills Veterinary Clinic where Dr. Mary Rathlou spent hours pinning and wiring the wing back into place. Apparently, the break was in the main bone of the appendage, says Dr. Ron Trenton, and the bone was sticking right out of the skin. Antibiotics and constant care were needed before the bird regained some of its strength.

In the meantime, while the bird was healing, well-known bird lover Esther visited it daily and fed it. Vet bills and food were paid for by the two women.



Dr. Mary Rathlou, D.V.M. After one week of tender loving care at the clinic, the goose was given a new home—in a pond in Elora at the farm of Dr. Rathlou's parents.

Yesterday, (Tuesday), almost two weeks after it was found, it flapped its wing for the first time.

Dr. Trenton explained that it will not be ready to fly for some time, but was pleased to hear of the movement. He had feared the wing would be useless after the terrible break it had sustained.

He pointed out the bird was found "almost too late", and was in great danger of losing the entire wing, if not its life.

Dr. Trenton doubts whether the bird will fly south for the winter. He noted the bird "has it made" with its own pond, is fed regularly with watchful owners.

Dr. Trenton finds it "terrific" how local residents can find an injured wild bird and pay to have it mended, without any hesitation as to who would pay for it. He has found, in his year and a half of practice here, that the local

townsfolk do not care how much something is going to cost as long as the animal or bird is fixed up. The unselfishness of the people is beyond words, he says.

Another example of unselfishness he says, is Berkhart Nowak, who found an injured owl. Dr. Trenton explained that the break of the owl's wing was exactly the same as the goose.

The owl was found in April, near death, an apparent victim of misjudgement when diving for food. After several days of constant care by the vet, the owl was released to the care of Mr. Nowak, who had built a special flight cage. This had to be big enough that the bird could learn how to fly again. It is still in the cage learning the basics. However, Dr. Trenton said, it will soon be able to fly on a tether, which is a form of leash allowing the bird to fly from 100 to 150 high, allowing it to gradually get back its strength. When the bird can reach 500 feet, it will be considered healed.

Dr. Trenton said the owl presents a different situation from the goose, explaining that the owl is a predator and must learn how to hunt again. He feels it was its inability to hunt that caused it to be injured in the first place. It cannot be set free until it can hunt, but must eventually be set free, the vet said.

# Some relief for Halton's farmers

Last week's rain fall helped relieve severe drought conditions in Halton, but a lot more rain is needed before the situation will be brought back to normal.

Mark Leahy, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Associate Agricultural representative for Halton, told this newspaper some areas received more rain than others, thus helping some farms more than others.

He admitted he did not know exactly how much rain fell but did say he had been talking to farmers in various areas of Halton. In Milton one man said one inch was

received, while in areas to the north, only about one tenth of an inch fell. In Acton, however, half an inch fell. Mr. Leahy said another two or three inches is needed.

Even with an inch of rain, the dry ground did not soften too much. The rain provided only temporary relief. The cooler weather is also helping the crops, he notes. What rain that does fall is not immediately evaporated under the hot burning sun.

Farmers are hopeful and some are out in fields now bringing in wheat. Mr. Leahy said the ones currently in their fields are hoping any rain will hold off a few days until they are finished their present jobs.

Second haying will be bad as well as some corn, especially silage corn. Grain corn will be poor, he said.

Mr. Leahy did not know which area of Halton is hardest hit by the drought, but explained that all areas experienced relief last week.

# Councillors can attend just one convention

In the wake of a recent Halton Hills council controversy over three members going to a convention in Calgary, finance-administration committee has proposed a new policy.

At a meeting last month the committee recommended that in the future councillors be allowed to attend just one convention annually and no more than two councillors can go to a single convention.

The idea of changing the convention policy was first proposed by Councillor Pat McKenzie last month and the Acton member was accused at the committee meeting of starting a political hassle in an

election year by Councillor Peter Morris.

The suggestion of one convention per year for each councillor came from Councillor Roy Booth who also thought no more than two councillors should go to any single convention.

Booth also suggested the new policy should have the provision of being changed in individual cases at council's discretion.

He said the new rules would give council control over councillors attending conventions.

Councillor Walter Biehn thought convention expenses for a year should be budgeted and those going to conventions far away could make up the difference themselves.

Clerk-administrator Ken

Richardson told committee councillors get a set amount each year. This policy covers not just conventions but any kind of trip. The amount is \$700 or \$750.

With that system councillors make sure they go away enough to use up their share. Booth said, viewing the share as part of their salary.

Richardson said a similar policy is used in Caledon except councillors pick where they will go with their share of the convention budget from a council-approved list of conventions and conferences.

Morris thought four going to one convention in Western Canada was an abuse, noting at one time four councillors were going to Calgary. In the end only Miller, Booth and Councillor Peter Pomeroy went to Calgary.

Councillor Peter Marks wondered if committee was dealing with the real issue which is economics and the cost of sending councillors to conventions.

# Weather, inexperience factors in air crash

The federal transport ministry has ruled bad weather and insufficient planning were major factors causing the crash of the 1946 Howard float plane, owned by Thomas Walker, 42, of Chesley.

The crash which took place Nov. 8 in the bushes in Speyside north of Milton, has left Mr. Walker with a severe back injury and pain in one foot, according to his wife.

Heavy fog hampered police efforts to discover the crash site for two days, after Mr. Walker crawled through two and a half miles of swamp and forest on a cold, foggy November day.

The transport ministry stated in its report that poor weather and lack of experience were factors responsible for the crash.

A pilot of nine years, Mr. Walker was flying V.F.R., and later said he had flown in worse weather than that experienced in the crash.

Mr. Walker left Toronto Harbor Airport Tuesday morning, Nov. 8, after waiting two days for fog to lift, to head back home. His wife had caught a bus the evening before.

Mr. Walker is now flying again and is considering buying another plane.

The five storey senior citizens apartment building, near Maple and Guelph in Georgetown, has had all the final touches and is ready for occupants, who are expected August 15.

By the beginning of September, the 88 one-bedroom units, each with its own balcony, should be filled. One two-bedroom unit will be used by the building supervisor.

The building constructed by Zupet Construction, Mississauga, is financed by Ontario Housing Corporation.

The original plan called for a six storey building, but it was cut to five after nearby residents objected.

# Tot missing during night

A two-year-old boy, Donald Susan, Churchill Road, gave his parents a bad scare Thursday when they discovered him missing at 3 a.m.

The parents searched around for 40 minutes before calling police. Sgt. Eadie, in charge of the search, called for assistance from Georgetown and Milton. He also called in a search dog from the Canine Force in Peel. A dog named Flynn and its leader Cons. Chuck McCannell also searched.

The search ended at 5:17 a.m. when Constables Hotte and MacCarron found the little boy under a chair outside at the rear of the house.

Including the Peel dog and handler, there were nine constables involved in the hour and a half search. Family and friends were also out looking for the lad.

Morrow told the Public Works Committee that if they chose to stick it to the people in Acton those people would come to believe the region is not for them but for the urban communities in the south who used voting power "to stick it to Acton."

Stalemate . . . (Continued from Page 2) billing and operation of the system was centralized costs would skyrocket. "When government moves towards centralization it becomes remote and unaccountable." "Not true," Morrow protested.

He argued the current system promoted spending because the regional council was willing to approve anything the areas wanted as long as the areas were paying for it.

Bug light is stolen

Thieves made off with a bug light valued at \$120 from 120 Mill St. Sunday.

# Seniors' apts. await tenants

The attractive brick building, with a large front lobby in the one storey entranceway, has two elevators. The two-acre site is landscaped and will provide an area for gardens.

Entrance to the apartment building is off Ostrander Boulevard, while the land itself was previously part of the Ostrander farm.

The original plan called for a six storey building, but it was cut to five after nearby residents objected.

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