

Principle OK, but

Group home rejected

By Rod Lamb
Milton Council has vetoed the application of Douglas Lovatt to have his property rezoned for the purpose of using his residence as a group home for children. The decision was 7-4 in a recorded vote, Monday.

Yet immediately afterwards, council voted in favor of the principle of group home care in the community. That vote was 9-2.

Council's two decisions followed in the wake of presentations made by Lovatt, a representative of the ratepayers opposing the spot rezoning and lengthy councillors' debate.

During the discussion, both Lovatt and T. Romanson who represented the ratepayers said they would seek an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) if they lost.

Lovatt's residence is on First Line in the northern part of Milton. It is situated on a heavily-wooded five-acre lot.

Lovatt proposed he and his wife, his son and his wife would be looking after six children who would be wards of the Children's Aid Society. The quartet would be backed up by professionals in social service. The children would attend school via local school buses.

Lovatt said his family searched all of Halton before deciding to locate the home at Lot 22, Con. 1, Milton.

He said his family considered the fact the children in the home would be brought up in a home-like atmosphere in a location which he thought would be far away enough from neighbors to preclude complaints.

The Lovatts' project excited the attention of 22 area families—some close neighbors, others a mile or two away.

Speaking on behalf of 18 of them, Romanson said, "This group home is in the wrong area."

He said the families he represents are "not prepared to accept zoning change."

The location is primarily composed of rural land with residential development.

On Oct. 5 the two parties had met at the Lovatt residence.

Lovatt submitted a report of that meeting to council. Listing the neighbors' complaints, he said "The neighbors felt that it was undesirable to have disadvantaged children in the locality because 'Inverness' is too far removed from recreation centres. Also it was said that the land is low and might be unhealthy for the children. One neighbor stated that he was frightened of these children."

He said, "It was explained that the children would be manageable children, that they would be very happy in the Inverness environment and location which would be one of the Children's Aid's choosing and one of their approval."

Lovatt said some of the neighbors feared the property might be extended in the future to the point that it might be "an undesirable circumstance for the community."

He said "It was explained however, that the bylaw was written in carefully worded phraseology designed to prevent any expansion of the exterior buildings."

Although Lovatt noted there was "good discussion of all points of review... little

had been resolved."

Romanson commented on Lovatt's report, saying the ratepayers' delegation to the meeting hadn't expected to encounter representatives from the Children's Aid Society at the house which is projected to undergo renovations to accommodate the Lovatts and the children, some of whom have been there since July.

Most councillors commented on the question but the one who addressed himself to all the points was Councillor Rick Day, near the conclusion of debate.

He outlined several issues which the Lovatt rezoning application raised. First one was the OMB.

He said the OMB is a "Court of appeal". To go before it costs money and the outcome is influenced by town and regional councils and their lawyers as well as other groups.

If the by-laws had been breached intentionally, then there is cause for serious consideration. And if they had been broken advertently, then the matter doesn't have the same proportions, he said.

Day said land use was a question. The matter here involves a small parcel of land in an area which is largely rural.

He said spot rezoning is not new. Council has done it before. It is "done all the

time."

The last issue which he dwelt on for some time was the qualifications of the Lovatts to handle six children.

Day said it is not so much a "numbers game" of four adults looking after six children but the fact there would be that many youngsters in the house.

He said he felt six was too many and would either have liked the Lovatts to have more professional people on the site or have the number of children reduced.

Council held two recorded votes on the matter of rejecting the application, yet endorsing the principle of group care in the community.

Councillor Rose Harrison supported Lovatt. She said she sympathized with the fact that regardless where he tried to locate the home, he would always elicit oppositions.

She praised his good intention and urged him to renew the application if he was defeated.

Lovatt's application also drew a response from Councillor Jim Kerr.

He said it was unfortunate the application contained the word "institution" which attracted people's concern.

He said the quality and quantity of care and attention the Lovatts lavish on the children is superior to many parents.

Paying tribute to Lovatt, Kerr told council, "I think to go ahead and turn this down would be to say we don't care about children in Halton... and I think that's terrible."

Councillor Jim Watson said the "motherhood" issue of children shouldn't be confused with the real issue of a sport rezoning request.

Watson asked planner Bob Zsadni whether the Lovatts were contravening the town's by-law. Although he wasn't given a straight yes or no answer, the response was, the Lovatts do have children in the house.

Councillor Anne MacArthur opposed the rezoning, fearing it would set a precedent.

"I have to protect all the area I represent," MacArthur said. "Once a precedent has been set, then other things will happen."

By Mrs. Ron McLean
Ebenezer was full for the observation of 155 years of continuous worship on the site. Rev. W. Leeman, who was pastor from 1963 to 1967, and who now resides in Arthur, was the guest speaker.

He brought an inspiring message, on the topic, "The Headstone of the Corner." It was during Mr. Leeman's term here that Ebenezer celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the present building, and he was particularly interested in the four cornerstones. His text was, "The stone, which the builders refused, has become the headstone of the corner."

King David and King Solomon drew up the plans for the temple in Jerusalem. Solomon sent to Lebanon, where skilled hewers of stone and builders of cedar wood lived. The temple was built to the glory of God and was famous for many years.

One particular stone was to be set in a conspicuous place.

The stone was put on a barge at Tyre, unloaded at Joppa, pulled by oxen on a land barge, up the slope to where the altar was planned. There was a celebration when the temple was virtually completed. When the masons took the tackle to hoist this stone into place, something about it didn't suit them. They threw it on the rubbish heap. But Solomon told them to go and find the stone and mortar it in place. They did so, and it stood in place for many years.

God, in His great wisdom, has been building a spiritual house. He has placed many living stones godly people. Jesus is the corner stone, binding all colours and sects of people together. He was hewn for a special purpose.

"He had no form nor comeliness, that man should desire Him." People cried, "Crucify Him!" and they cast Him into the garbage heap of humanity. But God sought this Man, raised Him from the dead, and He is present

here today. "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." He uses our voices and our talents. In every generation, God has raised many living stones, some conspicuous, some known only to Himself.

Are you a living stone in that spiritual house? "God has no grandchildren." You may not have much education, your role may not be conspicuous, but your life is not complete until Jesus Christ is the corner stone. He crowns your life with beauty, dignity and purpose. When a building is under construction, you cannot see just what it will be like, until the scaffolding is removed. Our lives are like that.

Next Sunday, Arkell celebrates its anniversary, when Ebenezer and Ede. Mills join them to hear the Rev. Dr. E. E. Kent. There will be no Sunday-school nor church that Sunday.

Mrs. Wayne Taylor's many friends hope she will soon be feeling better.

Mrs. Hannah Ferguson, the aged mother of Ian Ferguson, who was so tragically killed in the spring, was called to her reward early Sunday morning, after a lingering illness. The funeral was held in Galt, on Tuesday.

Mrs. Thenia Lamb, Guelph, who was 90 in February attended the anniversary service. She and Mrs. Rudd, who is at St. Joseph's continuing care, are the two who have gone to Ebenezer the longest. Percy Kitching is older, but when he was younger, he attended the church at Corwin. All the churches on the pastoral charge came to Ebenezer at that time for what the former Methodists referred to as "Quarterly meeting."

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One of these days our barn is going to fall down. It's going to creak and rattle and go plop in a heap. The cause of it all will be rats and rabbits!

Underneath the sand-clay floor and cement foundation, the barn is a catacomb of tunnels—mostly due to the rat, the uninvited rat.

That rat is as indestructible as Rasputin, the mad monk of Russia. He loves rat poison and has devoured about six dollars' worth of various types. He's carefully removed fine sliced ham from two efficient rat traps (ones I must remember to return to our neighbor). Rocks and hot water tossed down his tunnels have had not a bit of negative effect. I'd better find him a good home.

Really, Mother!

My mother made a scene in the Co-op some weeks ago when I was trying to buy yet another rat poison.

"You're never going to poison that poor little rat, are you? You cruel, cruel thing. What has that rat ever done to you?"

"Mother, that poor little rat ate half a setting of Leghorn eggs. Killed one of the chicks, is eating me out of house and home with grain and is caving in our barn with his tunnels."

"So what, you mean thing. You couldn't POISON him?"

"Oh, couldn't I!"

By now, several Co-op assistants are gathered around intent on our exchange, unaware that Mother baits me like this to pull my leg—they're waiting for the fisticuffs.

Boyer of the barn

The rat tunnels are only half the story. There's also the rabbits.

These animals are invited, they're our own. Five charming French Lops live with us now, delightful creatures, the Charles Boyers of the rabbit world.

Any rabbit I've ever known has been the most unsatisfactory pet, entirely self centred and introverted. French Lops are like pups.

We get such a kick out of ours we let them out of their substantial pens every day for fun and games. The four females, Diane, Prudence, Marie-Claire, and Louisa (how's those for names) have the run of the barn proper while Jean-Claude has the nursery pen to himself. Jean-Claude has an overly social nature where lady rabbits are concerned.

The bunnies gambol around tripping over their ears—they're the kind with long droopy ears—and chasing the cat. One stall has a mound of loose hay in it reaching the window eight feet up the wall. Marie-Claire and Louisa race for their mountain, scramble up it and sit on the window ledge peering out, startling passers-by. When they've had enough sight-seeing they take turns sliding down the slope.

Diane and daughter Prudence (said with a French accent), prefer to dig holes—they read Watership Downs. They create Holland tunnels under stall partitions, encourage Jean-Claude to burrow out of his area to them, and are currently working on a Stalag 13-type escape tunnel under the foundation.

Every day, Pat puts the rabbits back in their pens and arms himself with a shovel to repair today's amusement.

Wildlife preserve?

Recently, Mack and I were working in the barn. The rabbits were out fussing around our feet trying to help. The kitten was wrestling with Marie Claire in an attempt to turn her into a playmate. Marie-Claire wasn't quite sure how to wrestle cat-fashion but she made a good stab at it. Pigeons were cooing and chickens were clucking amiably in corners. Both dogs were lying in a patch of sun while one rabbit hopped up and down the old dog's back.

"You know, I don't think anyone would believe this barn if you wrote about it," commented Mack.

I bet you don't.

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Wagering
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Holstein winners at Erin Fair

By Henry J. Stanley
Halton exhibitors placed as follows: Senior Bull Calf, 1st, Bertram R. Stewart, Hornby and Harry Moore, Terra Cotta. Yearling Bull, 1st, Indian Garden Farm (Ken Murray). Acton. Grand Champion Bull, Bertram R. Stewart and Harry Moore. Junior Heifer Calf, 8th and 9th, Fred Nurse, Georgetown. Heifer Calf (July 1977 to June 1978), 3rd, Claude F. Picket, Georgetown; 11th, Claude F. Picket and James Carney, Milton; 19th, Indian Garden Farm. Junior Yearling Heifer, 2nd and 12th, Fred Nurse; 3rd, Jeff Nurse, Georgetown. Senior Yearling Heifer, 1st Claude F. Picket; 2nd Gordon R. Sinclair, Burlington; 16th and 17th, Indian Garden Farm. Three Year Old Heifers, 1st and 3rd, Claude F. Picket; 15th, Fred Nurse. Four Year Old Heifers, 17th, James C. Reid, Georgetown. Mature Cow, 4th, Jeff Nurse; 11th Indian Garden Farm.