



Mr. Joseph Standish, a lifelong resident of the former Township of Esquesing, has generously donated some of the bylaws from the year 1850 of the former Township of Esquesing to the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills. These bylaws will hang in the hall of the municipal administration building, Trafalgar Road. Here, the last clerk of Esquesing, Delmar French, shows the framed bylaw. Mr. French is now the deputy clerk of Halton Hills, of which Esquesing is now part.

1850 Esquesing bylaws presented to Halton Hills

A published copy of the original bylaws of the Municipal Council of the Township of Esquesing from 1850 has been presented to the Town of Halton Hills by John Standish, a lifelong resident of the former township. The framed originals also contain an excerpt from the township journal of that date and will hang in the municipal offices on Trafalgar Road.

John McNaughton was reeve of the township in 1850 and the first bylaw passed—No. 1, was to procure a common seal. "And it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same That the Common Seal of the Township of Esquesing shall have the device of a wheat sheaf, with the words, 'Esquesing Municipality, surrounding the same.'"

Bylaw No. IX was one to levy the following sums for the service of the year 1850, viz.: common schools, one hundred and forty pounds. Roads and

bridges, one hundred and fifty pounds. General purpose, one hundred pounds.

An "Abstract" original notes Esquesing has 25,589 1/2 acres of lands cultivated and 34,571 1/2 acres uncultivated. Livestock in the township of 1850 consisted of: 577 oxen, 4 years old and upwards; 1643 milch cows; 923 young cattle; 759 horses, 3 years old and upwards.

Buildings in the township included 23 square log houses, 308 frame houses, 14 frame and brick, 25 brick under two

storeys, 6 grist mills, 4 additional run of stones, 18 saw mills, 19 merchant shops, 1 distillery and 1 brewery.

Property and taxes listed on the township's assessment rolls by Richard Tracy, the "Town Clerk" included:

rateable property other than land, 36,903 pounds; taxes county rate, 285 pounds, 11 shillings and 10 1/2 pence; lunatic asylum, 36 pounds, 12 shillings, 2 pence; general purposes of the township, 413 pounds, 6 shillings, 3 pence; total taxation for 1850—455

pounds, 10 shillings, 3 1/2 pence.

The Journal notes the Township, the members elect assembled at McKenzie's Inn, in the Village of Stewarttown.

"The late Town Clerk took the Chair, and the names of the Members elect called, there were present."

Messrs. John McNaughton, Ninlan Lindsay, James Young, Robert S. Hall, and William Thompson.

The Journal notes Mr. McNaughton was elected reeve. Esquesing, of course, was merged into Halton Hills with the towns of Georgetown and Acton in 1974 under Bill 151.

No Cobblehill stop

The request for a three-way stop at Cobblehill Road and Victoria Avenue was rejected Monday night at Halton Hills Council.

Acton councillors have received numerous complaints about speeding on Cobblehill and Robert Fleming, 42 Cobblehill, came to council not too long ago requesting the three-way stop be installed.

Council turned down the stop sign after reviewing an engineering department report which said a three-way stop at Cobblehill and Victoria might cause problems with drivers trying to stop in an incline in winter.

Deputy engineer Ted Ballinger reported the town had surveyed the traffic and so did the police. They found little speeding and traffic was light.

Villagers pay but don't use water

A Rockwood village resident complaining about having to pay for water he does not use discovered that some members of Eramosa Township council are in the same boat.

Ray Ingleson again asked council why he is being billed for water he is not using. Township Reeve Bill Adsett said council will have to discuss the matter and then inform Ingleson.

Deputy Reeve Dave Masson declared a conflict of interest because he also pays but does not use water. Councillor John McLeod and plumbing inspector Carl Meadows indicated they were doing the same thing.

Meadows said there are a few other people like Ingleson. Once someone takes out a permit to run the pipe from the street to the house, it is assumed the homeowner is hooked up, said township clerk Lloyd Hindley.

"I guess in all honesty,

Councillor Ed Wood, who supported a stop sign for Cobblehill, said the residents know there is speeding and their request was an "earnest" one. He said the homeowners fear for their safety and the safety of their children. Wood suggested the stop signs go up for a year and be monitored to see if they do reduce speeding.

Having a stop sign would endanger nobody but not having one might, Councillor Roy Booth said in supporting Wood's call that the engineering report be rejected.

Councillor Ross Knechtel said continually residents report there is speeding and the police and engineering department says there isn't. He observed a stop sign may not be the best solution, but it was the best one available to the town.

Engineer Robert Austin said speeding is a widespread problem and there is proof that stop signs don't solve speeding. Sometimes unnecessary stop signs cause accidents, he warned.

Motorists and children take advantage of stop signs and don't exercise all the caution they should, Councillor Mike Armstrong warned. He said police enforcement of speed limits was the only answer.

Knechtel said he has seen no evidence police can control speeding in Acton. If people want the signs their request should override all considerations. He said councillors were only kidding themselves if they thought the police can control speeding.

There is speeding on every street and stop signs don't solve the problem, Mayor Pete Pomeroy said. Pomeroy noted a stop sign on an incline in winter would be dangerous, so he couldn't support residents' requests.

This is the second time a stop at Cobblehill and Victoria has been turned down by council. It was rejected because a stop on an incline is dangerous in 1976.

we're new to this game and some things should have been done differently," admitted the reeve to Ingleson.

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