



Youngsters from Speyside School look over a selection of books available at the sale last Tuesday and Wednesday. The Speyside School book sale was held to raise funds for new library books. Left to right are Beth Cameron, Stacey Sproule, Laila Khan, Chris Elder, Beth Gillett, Todd DeForest, Judy Reid and Kurt Andrews.

Town will take tough stand on possible land severance changes

Halton Hills plans to take a strong stand on how the Land Division Committee's job is handled after the new Planning Act takes effect this summer.

During discussion of the region's new powers under the new legislation in the land separation aspect of planning, most councillors favored either retaining the present system of representation on the Land Division Committee from each member municipality in Halton or else a Halton Hills Land Division Committee.

Councillors were vocal in their decision to put more teeth in a planning department recommendation that the region consult area municipalities before establishing its new land severance policy next year.

The new Planning Act allows the region to appoint a staff member to handle land severances, return responsibility for land severances to the area municipality, appoint its own selections to a Land Division Committee, set up a committee of council to handle land separations, or allow local councils to give land separation authority over to committee of adjustment. The region has lots of options.

Both councillors Pam Sheldon and Finn Poulstrup voiced support for keeping Land Division Committee the way it is now with local municipalities appointing representatives to the body. Sheldon cautioned it could be costly for the Town to resume control of land severances.

Poulstrup and Sheldon, as well as other councillors, noted they have heard rumors regional staff will push for a staff member to handle land severances.

There are concerns about the future of the land severance responsibility in not just Halton Hills and Milton but also Burlington and Oakville Councillors Mike Armstrong and Russ Miller reported. Miller noted there is already some support for the idea of returning the land division committees back to the local level.

Most councillors also said the present system is working well and is fair.

Armstrong reminded his colleagues that it is the regional council and not planning staff which will make the final decision on who handles land severances. He said the problems seem to centre on the number of appeals of land division committee decisions, not on who decides about severances. He admitted councillors in the south don't understand problems in North Halton when they must decide about appealing Land Division Committee decisions but he wouldn't join some of his colleagues in blanket attacks on the entire regional planning operation.

Councillors felt rather than waiting to be consulted after a new policy is formulated the Town should push its preference now.

Noting Halton Hills has only five of 24 regional voices, Councillor Phil Carney pushed for a strong Town stand on the issue. He was fearful about regional staff making land severance decisions and charged the bulk of people in the south aren't aware of the unique problems of the north and also don't care.

Carney urged the Town control its own destiny and not leave matters in the hands of the region. He noted Halton Hills must either get new assessment or raise taxes dramatically in the years ahead.

Sheldon said it was unacceptable to allow regional councillors or staff to make land severance decisions. She also felt a staff study of duplication of planning responsibilities at the local and regional level had nothing to do with the land severance issue.

She noted of 240 Land Division Committee decisions last year only 10 were appealed. The problems aren't the land division committee but the regional Official Plan and it was time for people to admit "maybe" the plan wasn't working in all aspects and should be challenged.

Obituary

Clara Blacklock

Funeral service was held in Acton on March 28 for Clara Dinah Blacklock who died in Cambridge at the age of 94.

Mrs. Blacklock, of Cambridge Country Manor, had been ill for about six years before her death.

Born on March 1, 1889 in Nassagaweya, she was the daughter of David and Eliza Finlay (nee Taylor), and attended S.S. No. 3, Nassagaweya School.

On April 4, 1911, in Nassagaweya, she married James Menzies Blacklock. The couple lived in Brookville before moving to RR 1 Acton. Mrs. Blacklock has lived in Cambridge for the past 23 years. She was affiliated with the Eden Mills Presbyterian Church.

Left to mourn her loss are sons Gordon, Lloyd, Russell, all of Guelph, and Alving, of Burlington, and a daughter Winnifred (Mrs. F. Richardson), also of Guelph. She was predeceased by her husband James, brothers Phineas, Roy and Laverne Finlay and sisters Mabel (Mrs. William Blacklock) and Maude (Mrs. William Reid).

Rev. C. Doehring officiated at the funeral. Interment was at St. John's Anglican Church Cemetery, Nassagaweya. Pallbearers were grandsons Donald and Bruce Blacklock, Guelph, James Blacklock Toronto, Wayne Blacklock, Burlington, and Mervin and Lloyd Richardson, Guelph.

Clergy Comment

by Rev. C. Hodgson

Many people today are concerned because they feel the world is running out of vital natural resources. Is it?

Projections of running out of energy or food sources are misleading. God gave to man the command, and ability to fill up the world with people, and to subdue the earth for their own needs.

Shortages of one product have always been a motivation to create a new product from existing and often overlooked resources.

India, for example, does not have a hunger problem because of the lack of food. It has a hunger problem because of their religious beliefs, which are contrary to the Word of God.

Hindu religion teaches that people who die are reincarnated in the form of animals; thus it is against their laws and religion to kill rats, mice, cows, or other animals.

Every cow eats enough food to feed seven people and there are two hundred million "sacred cows" in India.

God promises adequate provision for those who serve Him and obey His laws. One the other hand, He warns that those who reject His word will experience destructive hunger and famine.

It is for this reason that in both the Old and New Testament, God warns us that "man does not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord" (Deut 8:3, and Matt 4:4).

However, sin is the world's biggest problem, and Jesus Christ came, lived and died, so that you can be made free and learn how to live in abundant life. The Bible says "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31)

Mayor Pete Pomeroy said the proper way for land severances was for each to be judged on its own merit "against" Official Plan policies by a "third party", namely the present Land Division Committee.

Carney urged land severances be given to the committee of adjustment to handle as they used to be.

It was decided to defer the matter two more weeks so a strong Halton Hills response can be formulated.

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