

Paul Nielsen charges:

Water shortage fabrication to hinder housing

A water strike at a new well to be drilled on the Fourth Line northeast of Acton could solve the problems of a small developer, as a result of discussion at Halton Region's Planning and Public Works Committee Wednesday.

The developer, however, treats the decision made by Public Works with a certain skepticism.

Paul Nielsen, an Acton retailer whose small development company, North Halton Real Estate Ltd., has been waiting since 1976 to build 28 single family houses on a small, already serviced property near

Acton High School, thinks the water shortage is "a problem of perception rather than substance."

Nielsen told the committee last week that his small development would increase the load on Acton's water resources by 3,000 to 4,000 gallons a day... an insignificant amount, he pointed out, when millions of gallons of fresh water daily pour over the dam at Fairy Lake.

Yet, for several years Halton Region has prevented his small development from going ahead due to a perceived "shortage of water."

"It's utterly and totally theoretical... an alliance of bureaucrats," he said in an interview later.

The latest hold-up occurred when his small development, an infill project on already-serviced land (roads and sewers are already in place) was lumped in with a larger development project of Acton East and placed on hold after being referred to the Ontario Municipal Board.

Planning and Development director Pash Mohammed told the committee that his department had already petitioned the Ministry of Housing to leave out the 6½-

acre property which Nielsen plans to develop since that area is clearly infill development and has no significant impact on the services of the area. So far, he said, he hasn't heard back from the ministry.

A decision allowing \$20,000 to test drill a second well by an existing Fourth Line well serving Acton could help solve the problem, committee members observed, if the test were successful. Nielsen, although he sees the decision as a ray of light, does not yet see the time when his development can go ahead. "I see some progress in the

fact that the committee agrees this development is just minor infill and not linked with Acton East."

However, the water issue is still to be resolved, he observed, and the committee will not let even a minor infill project go ahead until more water is available in Acton. "An additional well on the Fourth Line could handle the extra load," Chief Administrative Officer Dennis Perlin noted. "If no water is found, then the development cannot be allowed to go ahead."



newsmakers

Georgetown, Ontario, Wednesday, August 31, 1983



Town still interested in Acton's old stone school

The Town is still interested in the Old Stone School, Acton, and has asked Halton Board of Education to give it until June 1984 to close the purchase.

Thursday night, the school board agreed to the request.

Georgetown Trustee Betty Fisher wanted to know how long the Town had known about the intended sale of the school and 1.5 acres of land.

Superintendent Pon Warren explained the Town was told in June 1982, at which time interest was expressed.

Fisher asked what happened if the board did not wait for the Town to make up its mind. Warren said it would be put out for sale to all the other agencies first, then to the public. He noted the board is not obligated to wait until June of next year, but pointed out the Town has consistently shown interest in the old school.

Asked by Fisher if any others were interested, Warren said Halton Region had phoned about it, and would pursue it if the Town is not interested.

Trustee Dan Jackson pointed out there has been no offer made on the property by the Town, and suggested it was pointless to have a closing date when there is no offer.

It is rumored the region may be considering the Old Stone School for a daycare centre.

The Old Stone School, on the same site as Robert Little School, was leased to the Halton Roman Catholic Separate School Board from 1977 to 1982, when it was no longer needed. That year the school was declared redundant.



Marilyn Bird, winner of the Halton Women's Institute Dr. Ethel Chapman Scholarship, weeds the garden on her Eighth Line farm. The garden is also a 4-H project.

Two win W.I. scholarship

Marilyn Bird of R.R. 2, Georgetown, and Tammy Hunter, R.R. 1, Acton, have won Halton Women's Institute scholarships.

Marilyn has been awarded the Dr. Ethel Chapman Scholarship while Tammy was awarded the Halton W.I. Bursary for 1983.

Halton District Women's Institute offers the scholarship each year to a 4-H Homemaking Club member who has completed at least six clubs, or a past member having completed 12 clubs. The Halton resident, or member of a Halton 4-H club must be a graduate of Grade 12 or 13 who is continuing her education.

Marilyn, 18, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Bird, fits all the requirements, having graduated from Grade 13 at Georgetown High School this year and having completed 14 Homemaking Clubs, with the Ashgrove club. In addition she has completed eight agriculture clubs and enrolled in seven agriculture clubs this year.

Marilyn, who says she loves the farm life, is enrolled in Family and Consumer Studies at University of Guelph, next month.

She just returned from a 4-H exchange stay in Wisconsin where she and five other young farm people, stayed and helped on a farm there.

Tammy Hunter

Tammy completed her grade 13 studies at Acton High School in June, with an average of 80.3 per cent. She has also completed twelve homemaking clubs with the Dublin 4-H group, and three agriculture clubs. These



Tammy Hunter, 18, of RR 1, Acton recently won a Halton Women's Institute bursary valued at \$200.

achievements were prerequisites of the award.

(Continued on B3)

Parade to support Ontario horse park on Bennett farm

Enthusiastic equestrians will parade along a four mile route, their destination Scotsdale Farm on Trafalgar Road, one mile north of No. 7 Highway, outside of Georgetown and Acton this Sunday, September 4. The parade will start at Lloyd Marks' farm on the Ninth Line, at 1 p.m.

Scotsdale Farm, part of the Bennett estate was bequeathed to the people of Ontario. Decisions are not finalized as to the future of the property, but the Ontario Equestrian Federation has proposed that the estate become a park with a horse theme incorporating equestrian activities with the intention of educating and entertaining the public. The parade is in support of that objective, and is sponsored by the Equestrian Federation and the Ontario Trail Riders Association.

The parade route follows the last four miles (6 km) of a 425 mile (680 km) trail blazing project which began on August 14, in Timbertown on the Ottawa River. From there, in relays, the entire route is being covered on foot and on horseback or in horse-drawn vehicles.

Points along the route are: Killaloe, Barry's Bay, Whitney, Bancroft, and Marmora. From there the group follows the 200 mile (320 km) Great Pine Ridge Equestrian Trail established in 1973, finishing at Scotsdale Farm at 2 p.m. with a brief ceremony including invited ministry officials.

Refreshments for all participants will be available at the parade mustering site at 3 p.m.

A repeat of the project is planned for 1984 as an Ontario Bicentennial Project of the Ontario Trail Riders Association.

All interested individuals are being encouraged to take part in support of a permanent Horse Park for Ontario.

Question lodging for French-speaking pupils

The French Language Advisory Committee to Halton Board of Education applauds the provincial government's proposals to allow children from French speaking homes to be educated in their own language. Pat Picknell, a committee member, told the board last week.

The government suggests both transportation and lodging for French students who have to travel more than 24 kms be provided. Halton board already provides transportation.

Trustee Anne Fairfield questioned the lodging recommendation pointing out it could be costly for any board. She doubted any parent in Acton, Georgetown or Milton would ask the board to pay for room and board in Hamilton, where French education is provided for Halton students, but said "by accepting this report someone might go for it."

Picknell pointed out that part of the government proposal, still being debated by school boards across Ontario, is intended for students in the north where roads might be difficult in winter.

Fairfield indicated she would oppose this section when it comes up for debate in September or amend the distance so Halton would not fall in the category.

The Advisory Committee suggested the term "French-speaking pupil" as mentioned in the government proposal be defined more specifically as perhaps the mother tongue spoken in the home. Otherwise said Picknell school boards could find themselves providing transportation for students in French Immersion or in core French.

The committee urged that a board purchasing the French education from another board, in Halton's case Hamilton, be guaranteed a continuation of the service.

Trustee Bill Priestner wondered why Hamilton should keep looking after other areas if their own French speaking population expanded. He also questioned the establishment of a liaison committee as suggested by the French Language Advisory Committee.

Picknell replied there was no direct access to the decision making in Hamilton so contended there should be a committee made up of members from the French speaking communities in Halton, Hamilton, Wentworth, Brant and Norfolk, who purchase the French education from Hamilton.

School Trustee Elaine Niehm pointed out if a board is obligated to continue providing French education how would other boards with a growing French population be encouraged to set up their own school.

Trustee Marg Bullock, a member of the French Language Advisory Committee, said there are 90 French speaking Halton pupils being transported to Hamilton, with a total of 400, only 6½ per cent from Hamilton. "If in the future we have 400 or 500 do we want to build a secondary school for that many, or is it in our interest to have protection in Hamilton?"

The Advisory Committee urges only

resident French speaking pupils be considered in establishing a minority language section.

The committee also asks that funding be provided to ensure the equivalent education to majority language schools, and seeks special financial consideration be minority language schools where that population is low.

Advisory Committee member Picknell explained if funds go to the French speaking students on a percentage basis, there could occur a situation where only three or four per cent have French as a mother tongue, meaning only three or four per cent of the budget would be allocated. She noted transportation and higher cost of books makes a more costly operation, "so it doesn't work out."

The recommendations will be discussed by Halton Board of Education at the September 8 meeting. Their reply then goes to the Ministry of Education.

The French Language Advisory Committee consists of nine members, with six French speaking ratepayers elected by the French community, and three school board trustees. Laurent Thibeault of Georgetown is a member of the committee.

Ballinafad

Balloon creates excitement in village, district

Summer holidays are almost over. It will soon be time to think of the more serious season, which is just around the corner, when children go back to their studies, and young people start out to universities of their choice. I'm sure both, old and young, will have no complaints about the beautiful summer weather we have enjoyed this year.

Next Sunday which is included in the long Labor day weekend holiday, church service will be cancelled in the Ballinafad church.

There was a bit of excitement again, this Saturday evening, when a balloon was set up on the Eighth Line. This time it was on the McDonald property, situated on the corner of the 2nd Line and Ballinafad Town Line. The McDonalds were entertaining a number of people with a picnic at their home.

Ada Kirkwood and Margaret Jamieson were asked by the Halton District WI if they would spend Saturday, August 27 at the CNE. The FWIO has a corner set up in the Coliseum where they are demonstrating the art of quilt making. Ada and Marg, who are experts in the art were able to go and put in their allotted time quickly. They enjoyed meeting people, not only Canadians, but from many different parts of the world.

Halton Hills man new Ingersoll chief

An Acton resident and Halton Regional Police sergeant has been named to head the Ingersoll Police Force.

Bruce Richards was named by Ingersoll council recently to replace their chief, who retired after many years of service to the community of 8,500 people.

Chief Richards will command a department of 12 officers, four full-time civilian employees and two part-time civilians. The force also has two cruisers.

He has been with the Halton Regional Police Force since its inception in 1974 and previously was a member of the Georgetown Police. He joined the Georgetown force in 1971. Richards, who worked as a police detective in north Halton for six years, was promoted to sergeant and posted in Burlington in 1981.

Bruce and his wife Lynda and their two children, Lisa, 11, and Adam 8, currently live on Tidey Ave. in Acton. When they were first married the Richards made their home in Acton before moving to Georgetown and then returned to Acton a few years ago.

Born in Toronto, Richards and his family moved to Chatham and then he went on to further his education. He moved to Georgetown as a young adult.

A graduate of the Police College in Aylmer, Bruce has received special police training in criminal investigation, criminal intelligence, management and fraud, in addition to the standard recruit training. He took business administration at Humber College before becoming a



Sergeant Bruce Richards police officer and is now taking police science at Humber.

During his career in plainclothes, Richards worked on a number of homicides in Acton in the 70s, including the Dominion Hotel fire case.

He also worked on standard crimes like break and enter investigations, drugs and morality cases.

He is going to Ingersoll because he'd "like to get back to small town policing."

The Halton force, he observed, is getting back to "policing the way the community wants it." Big city police methods aren't working. "I wanted my own town to look after. I want to find out how the people of Ingersoll want their policing done."

Richards noted he is a big booster of crime prevention. "It's a lot cheaper and easier to stop crime before it happens than to investigate it, make arrests and prosecute the case after the crime has taken place."

For four years he was a member of the Halton Police Association executive, including two years as president. He was a member of the executive when the police association asked the Ontario Police Commission to probe the operations of the young Halton force. He described the Ontario Police Commission investigation and recommendations as the turning point for the regional force. Richards recalled new administrative personnel were hired and they turned the Halton force into "one of the most progressive police forces in Canada."

Richards is a former member of the Georgetown volunteer firefighters too. He and his family will move to Ingersoll.

He was one of 33 applicants for the chief's post, and the successful candidate out of six interviewed.

Richards is the second Halton police sergeant named chief of a small town police for this year.