

Bylaw is "in good faith" says wrecker's lawyer

The proposed bylaw governing salvage yards in Halton Hills is "in good faith and a good attempt to solve problems (plaqueing wrecking yards)", the lawyer for Halton Auto Wreckers told General Committee Tuesday evening.

A final draft of the bylaw was to be approved by Council this week.

Except for a few points, solicitor David Page seemed satisfied with the proposed bylaw. He did however object to a section which read cars should not be seen within a 75 foot distance from the yard. While his Limehouse client has already conformed with this, Page said he felt 75 feet was an arbitrary figure and any number would do. He suggested it should read the middle of the road instead.

Page also objected to the fact the property owners could not use 25 feet of their own land as it was needed for a setback. Bylaw Enforcement Officer Jack Lusty pointed out this was amended and a four foot high chain link fence could now be erected to provide for off street parking outside the larger fence.

Page noted the land in front of Halton Auto Wreckers was very swampy, not fit for

parking. He explained vehicles which had been parked there had been removed except a car carrier which had its tires slashed and was not moveable. However, the carrier discourages customers from parking there.

Councillor Pam Sheldon said she found his client's concern for customers' cars "admirable," but suggested "no parking" signs be put up.

The height of the required fence around the salvage yard also concerned Page. He pointed out in the proposed changes the maximum height was reduced from 16 feet to 12 and that it be "earth-tone brown" in color. Page noted at the request of Council his client is in the process of erecting an 18 foot high fence. Because of the cold weather which has set in, the project cannot be completed until spring, even though it has already been started. Lusty assured the lawyer his client's fence was "a legal non-conforming" structure and would not have to be cut down.

Lusty also explained cars can be piled as high as the fence, as long as they are not seen over it. For example, he stated, a six foot fence can have a six foot high pile of cars behind it. If the fence is 18 feet high the pile can be also.



Firefighters march to church service

Halton Hills Fire Chief Bill Cunningham leads volunteer firefighters from Acton and Georgetown to the annual church parade held during Fire Prevention Week. The parade started on Bower Ave. at the Acton Fire Hall and moved down the street to Elgin St. and over to Mill St. where it ended at Trinity United Church of Acton. The Acton Citizens' Band led the parade in the sparkling fall morning.

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Six try for Ward 2 seat Election is on Monday

Jim France

The big issue in the minds of most Esqueing voters is the purchase of property for a future municipal complex and tentative plans to build the municipal centre a year or two from now, according to Jim France.

After four weeks on the campaign trail listening to Esqueing residents living in the north, west and eastern areas of the ward, France says the municipal complex isn't just the biggest issue but "99.9 per cent" of voters want council to stop its efforts to buy the Stevens estate in Georgetown and forget about the project for a few more years.

"99.9 per cent of the people are against building a complex. They want the project put on the back burner until there are better economic times and lower interest rates," France declared.

He noted he went on the campaign trail to hear what the people think and feel about the issues and the message was loud and clear, no complex.

People fear the price for the land will in the end escalate over the \$600,000 offered by the Town at this point and that by the time the building is constructed it will have cost far more than the \$4.4 million estimated cost.

"People are dead set against it," France stated.

Voters are telling him that they want to see council put "first things first."

In their minds first things first means roads.

France said he's had a good chance to travel around the rural area and he agrees with residents of the ward "some of these roads are terrible."

If council has any money to spend on a complex it should instead be used to improve the rural roads. Many people have suggested money earmarked for the complex and land purchase should be spent on hiring local young people at reasonable wages to repair the roads. This would provide jobs for young adults coming out of school with trades and the money they were paid would be recycled in Halton Hills.

France has heard little from people about the aggregate issue, but some people have suggested aggregate should be extracted where it exists.

He also hasn't heard much talk about the ethnic cultural-recreation centres issue. France noted nobody seems to know what to do about these problems, "nobody seems to have the answers."

Esqueing voters are also concerned about high taxes and lack of restraint by local government bodies and agencies. He admitted taxes can't be reduced, the escalation of taxes and spending can only be restrained. The answer to rising taxes is to lure more industry to Halton Hills.

Transportation is an issue with seniors, especially those living in the rural area around Georgetown.

Rob Heaton

Market value assessment or reform under Section 63 is really "inflated value assessment" according to Rob Heaton.

Market value assessment has been tried in other areas such as Nassagaweya and has resulted in substantial tax increases. Section 63 adoption will only lead to more subsidization of the urban areas by Esqueing ratepayers, Heaton declared.

Council needs strong voices to protect the rural area and preserve agricultural land during this time when Queen's Park puts a higher priority on aggregate development. While it's true the further you go from Toronto to get aggregate the more it costs, but the same is true for food. Halton needs all the agricultural land it can hold onto so there's some place to spread sewage sludge. We'll suffer "severe consequences" if we allow all of our agricultural land to wind up under quarries, concrete and asphalt.

Rural residents fear what development will do to their water sources and Heaton thinks the Town should be writing iron-clad protection clauses into development agreements.

People in Glen Williams feel "hopeless" about their annual flooding problem when the Credit River jams with ice in the spring.



The field is set and the race is on for the Esqueing seat in the upcoming municipal by-election. Top row Tony Taylor and Peter Norton. Middle row, Jim France and Jake Kuiken. Bottom row, Dolly Moulden and Bob Heaton.

Halton Hills should have stronger voices urging a solution to this problem at Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

While there is no question that deer cause crop damage and cause serious car accidents, Heaton is concerned about allowing hunters to go all over the place looking for deer to kill. He believes the solution is to have "controlled hunt zones" in the areas where there is a big deer population, such as near orchards. The elimination of farm land is reducing the areas where wildlife can go, compounding the deer problem.

No matter where the Halton dump is located there will be problems for Halton Hills, Heaton observed. No dump should be permitted on agricultural land and dumps shouldn't be planned for as long as 20 years life. Energy from waste plants is the only long term solution. Heaton also feels Halton Hills must keep a close eye on Peel's dump plans and if a dump is located in Huttonville close to the eastern boundary of Halton Hills then Peel must supply east Esqueing residents with municipal water.

If there are to be more pinball arcades in Halton Hills then they should be in malls and forced to close the same time as other stores. Heaton said at a time when crime is on the upswing he supports police efforts to impose a selective curfew on young people and calls for more stringent controls on pinball arcades.

Jake Kuiken

Considering the tough economic times and people's concerns with ever rising taxes, council shouldn't be buying property for a new municipal complex or planning to construct a centre in the foreseeable future, Jake Kuiken says.

If a new Town Hall is built it should be on

the present Trafalgar Rd. site, not on the Stevens' property in Georgetown. Also, Kuiken said, if something happens and the Stevens' property deal falls through then council should forget about it. Otherwise, he doesn't see a lot of harm in the Town buying the land and trying to develop it to raise revenue for the municipality.

He shares the worry that the project will wind up costing much more than the estimated \$4.4 million before it's built. Kuiken doesn't want to see council push ahead with a complex in the foreseeable future either and doesn't believe existing taxpayers should be burdened with paying for a "municipal palace."

While some cultural-recreation centres in the rural area aren't a problem, Kuiken is concerned about the two which are causing council big headaches. He admits he doesn't have all the answers to solving the problems, but believes until they are, the Town shouldn't allow any more centres. The planned International Peace Camp in the Speyside area shouldn't be permitted.

With rural recreation projects and events such as rock festivals popping up out of the blue frequently, Kuiken says council must work at enacting bylaws and regulations to better protect rural residents.

Roads in Esqueing are a mess and he thinks council should establish a formula whereby a predetermined percentage of the taxes coming from a ward each year is spent on works projects in that ward.

He opposes development of some rural land north of Acton as an industrial park. Kuiken noted there are water concerns if factories are built on this property and while he supports strongly bringing more industry to Halton Hills, he noted there is still a lot of vacant industrial land in Acton.

Rural residents aren't getting a lot for their tax dollars and when they do make a simple request, such as some new traffic signs, they shouldn't be rejected as happened earlier this year.

Council should be urging the Town's representative on police commission to take steps to make the police more visible in Esqueing. He thinks a thorough review of police operations in Halton Hills might produce some innovative and inexpensive ways of giving the police a higher rural profile.

Land Division Committee must retain all of its present powers, no authority should be turned over to the region.

Kuiken also thinks the Town must be more stringent in enforcing bylaws in the rural area, such as for wrecking yards.

Dolly Moulden

The primary issue in Esqueing is proper long term specific planning of land use, Dolly Moulden says.

She says there has been general planning such as with the Official Plan, but farmers, residents, and owners of recreation land must know what is expected of them and what they can expect to be allowed to do with their property in the future.

The cost of a municipal complex really worries ward two voters and they really don't see there is a pressing need for more municipal office space. Voters have been telling her they don't find it inconvenient to have to go to several scattered municipal departments and believe the present system works well.

Moulden explained she can see it is inconvenient for staff and it means time wasted travelling from office to office, but that doesn't justify the cost of a new building.

She believes if Halton Hills could get some industrial tax dollars from south Halton then the Town would be on firmer financial footing to tackle a big project.

Before she can ever support property tax and assessment reform council must look at how increased taxes would impact on residents with fixed or marginal incomes. Moulden noted she has heard horror stories from Nassagaweya residents and seen the impact on one rural Milton family.

On the aggregate issue, Moulden says it's a choice of food or gravel and she's firmly on the side of food.

Municipal water for hamlets is a perennial issue which hasn't been settled and the cost to rural residents to have their garbage

(Continued on Page B3)

\$14,000 award, a police triumph

Regional Police are hailing as a victory a jury decision, last week, to award a Halton Hills policeman \$14,000 in damages for injuries suffered in a brutal beer bottle attack in 1981.

An Oakville teenager was ordered by a civil court judge to pay the money to Constable Louis Agostinho, 27, for throwing a beer bottle in his face when he responded to a call from a house party in Oakville.

Const. Agostinho, who was working out of the Oakville detachment at the time, sued the youth for pain and suffering, loss of wages, permanent injuries and future medical expenses.

"Perhaps this will give people a clear indication that police are not hired to take physical or verbal abuse," said Halton Police Chief, James Harding. "They're not doormats for people to wipe their feet on."

Said Const. Agostinho, "You're paid a certain amount of money and people expect you to take the abuse. I don't think it says anywhere that we have to."

He said he is getting pats on the back from fellow officers for successfully taking his case to civil court. The youth had been previously acquitted of a criminal charge stemming from the same attack.

"We've won some type of victory," said Const. Agostinho. "I just hope other officers will follow suit (in similar cases)," a view shared by Chief Harding.

While this is not the first instance of a policeman suing for damages, Const. Agostinho said that to his knowledge it is one of the largest awards ever to a Canadian officer. He added it was his view that civil litigation is an effective way to deter assaults against police.

"When you get down to it," he said, "it is in the pocket book that it really hurts them."

Chief Harding said the court decision would be "a very positive factor" for morale on the force because it showed officers they have the backing of the judiciary and the public.



P.C. Louis Agostinho

While Const. Agostinho is thrilled with the result of his case he admits it had been a long and painful experience, one that has left its scars.

As a result of the attack, he suffered permanent nerve damage to his face which prevents him from working in the cold for fear of frostbite, two broken teeth which required root canal work, a black eye that persisted for nine months and occasional headaches which have cost him time off from work. He also feels after being struck by the bottle and injured his knee which has prevented him from being able to ski.

But despite his injuries, Const. Agostinho's love of the job has not been shaken. "It's a job I enjoy and it's a job I have dedicated myself to," he said. "I intend to go on with it through thick or thin."



Betty Fisher, left, Georgetown trustee on the Halton Board of Education has announced she will seek the chairman's seat left vacant by the resignation of Len Auger, right. Mrs. Fisher is now vice chairperson of the board.

Auger retires from Board

Halton Board of Education chairman Len Auger has resigned from the board and will be moving to Ottawa where he has accepted a position with the Ottawa Civic Hospital.

The resignation, which was tendered to the board at their meeting last Wednesday evening is effective November 1, and ends a 10 year career with the Halton Board.

Auger was first elected to represent Oakville separate school interests in 1973 and has been chairman since 1982. He is currently employed as a professional engineer with McMaster University in Hamilton as director of planning and construction.

He is married with four children and two grandchildren.

Advertisements will be placed in Oakville papers for applications for the empty Oakville seat, and the interviews will be con-

ducted by Mark Bradley and Bill Priestner, the two Separate School taxpayers' representatives on Halton board. Recommendations will then be made to the board, on November 10, probably at which time the successful applicant will be sworn in.

Under the Education Act, a by-election is not needed. Had Auger not been acclaimed in last year's municipal election, the person with the second most votes could have been given the job.

Also on November 10, trustees will vote for a new interim chairman. Present Vice chairperson Betty Fisher has already announced she will seek the position.

However, this posting is only for a few weeks as the board will be holding its inaugural meeting December 1, at which time a new chairman and vice-chairman will be elected.