



Mandy DeForest of Acton gave an enjoyable performance singing the theme from the hit movie Flashdance and Nobody at Halton Hills Day at the Ex.



Eight-year-old Tara Hamilton captivated the crowd after every song she sang and played on the piano. She was nervous performing but the audience loved her.

## Protest monument won't get Region funds

An Oakville sculptor received praise from regional councillors but no offers of financial help, for a unique and elaborate project tying in several of North America's biggest centres.

Josef Petrisko says he will make no personal financial gain by erecting "Struggle for Survival," a 50- to 60-foot high sculpture of a dying bird symbolizing our endangered environment, at the foot of the Rainbow Bridge in Niagara Falls.

Petrisko told members of the Region's administration and finance committee last

week that his search for financial backing for the \$130,000 project started with the federal government, but Environment Minister Charles Caccia advised him to "promote his idea with corporations and public interest groups."

Ontario's Ministry of Transportation and Communications offered more tangible support, earmarking a triangular site on Highway 420 at Falls Ave., facing the U.S. from the Canadian side of the Niagara River.

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett gave Petrisko a

sympathetic listening, but referred his request to the Region with a letter of support. Regional councillors paused only long enough to frame the bad news politely.

"I think it's only fair to tell you, Mr. Petrisko, that you're in the wrong place," Halton Hills Councillor Mike Armstrong said. "That's not to say I don't support your cause. I'm surprised this hasn't gone to Oakville council, but really it's the federal government that should be doing the funding."

Other committee members considered referring the

request to either the grants committee for consideration early next year or to the recently-formed Art Selection Committee, but none would indicate willingness to support the request in the future.

"The community is bound to see (any grant to Petrisko) as support of the individual, rather than the cause," Burlington Councillor Joan Little said. "It could create a horrendous administration problem."

Regional chairman Pete Pomeroy acknowledged that the Region's position might be different if the sculpture was

to be located in Halton. Petrisko said he has contacted mayors of U.S. cities like Los Angeles where air pollution and other environmental concerns are a problem. In selected locations around North America, he hopes, replicas of the Niagara Falls sculpture will be erected as symbolic reminders that the environment is in jeopardy.

"I've done my homework," Petrisko told the committee. "I've studied this problem for 15 years. This project will succeed with or without this council."

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