

# Township Council, Planning Board Deadlocked

Esqueuing Planning Board stuck to its guns, Tuesday night December 7 and sent the Official Plan back to council in its original form. Council rejected the Plan November 1 and asked Planning Board to amend it.

The controversial points opposed by a majority of council on a 3-2 vote were Planning Board's designation of lot 6 Con 10, T. H. McGee property, and the Speyside Consolidated Sand and Gravel property as quarry sites.

The Planning Board vote to keep the two designated sites in the Official Plan was also split 5 to 3 with Reford Gardhouse, Sam Penrice, Fred Nurse, F. H. Nelson and Tom Hill in favour of the plan in its original form and Len Cox, Dick Howitt and Jack Pemberton opposed.

The only way out of the deadlocked council and Planning Board issue, is to "dump it into the Minister's lap", to quote chairman Fred Nelson.

According to a letter from the Department of Municipal Affairs, the council can adopt the plan, exactly the way it is

recommended by the Planning Board, but with the changes council wants outlined.

There is no guarantee the changes would be made by the Minister, but it would break the deadlock between council and Planning Board.

**PRESENT USE**

The meeting Tuesday night was a joint council and Planning Board affair, with the aim of breaking the stalemate, but it did not succeed. At the first Planning Board vote on the Plan, only Cr. Dick Howitt was opposed, this time he was joined by two others.

Cr. Len Cox contended the impression had been given that all land would be zoned as its present use, and amendments would be sought after the Official Plan was approved. "We (the council) felt you were taking two applications out of a whole stack and designating them", said Cox. He emphasized that it had nothing to do with having or not having quarries.

Fred Nurse pointed out that gravel is only found in certain spots, and is a non-renewable

natural resource. "We think it should be designated, it's too late after houses are built on top of it", he added.

**SCREAMING**

Reford Gardhouse agreed, saying the designation of certain lands as gravel or quarry areas would prevent people buying near them unaware, and then "screaming to council or Planning Board".

"Why not designate the whole Niagara escarpment then?" asked Cr. Howitt.

In reply Sam Penrice said they made the decision on the information they had. "There has been lots of opportunity for any other quarry owners to be heard", he commented.

Chairman Fred Nelson pointed out that the Planning Board considered all submissions, and implemented most of the suggestions.

Cr. Dick Howitt contrasted the method of designating the two quarry sites, and not designating any estate residential sites. "We decided not to set aside specific estate development sites,

because the land would shoot up in value. So why designate quarry sites", he asked.

**SORT OF GUIDE**

The chairman claimed any site could be designated estate development, but quarries could only be where the extractive material exists. Nelson felt an Official Plan should be some sort of guide to the ratepayer. "When someone goes to buy land they should know where the potential quarry sites are, from then on it is their responsibility", he remarked.

"On that basis we should zone the whole township right away", retorted Cr. Dick Howitt. He claimed the Planning Board was mixing up two methods of drawing up an Official Plan.

"One method, the one I thought we were using, zones everything existing use, and amendments are made after the Plan is approved, and the other method zones the whole township", said Howitt.

The chairman did not recall any policy decision being made on that point. "I don't feel it is a

plan unless it's for the future, not just for the present. This plan looks ahead five years only, because we feel the area is fluid," added Nelson.

Howitt said he felt a personal sense of responsibility, because he said the plan was based on existing use at a public meeting. "I can't back down on that now", he added.

At this point the chairman, admitting there was a deadlock, suggested the only way out was to throw it in the lap of the Department of Municipal Affairs.

Planning Board then voted to send the Plan back to council in its original form.

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## School Board Looks at Priorities

# Class Size, Compulsory Attendance Work Permits Discussed at Workshop

Priorities and expenditures of the Halton County board of education were the subject of an eight-hour board public meeting on Saturday.

The board's ad hoc committee on priorities and expenditures discussed subcommittee recommendations on how the county's educational system can be improved.

Special education classes, equipment facilities and optional attendance areas were of prime concern to the committee members.

Before any of the committee's recommendations go to the board for approval they must first be passed by the committee's steering committee, which will make some revisions in the recommendations.

**FIRST REPORT**

Board policies and procedures were the subject of the first report presented to the committee. The report recommended that study be continued into class size and pupil-teacher ratio, and that compulsory attendance

receive further study.

The average class size in Halton has been slightly reduced this year, the number of classes with over 36 students reduced from last year's 37 to only 19. James Singleton, Halton director of education, said "many of those classes are by design", such as large-group typing classes.

The sub-committee reported that at present there is some confusion over pupil-teacher ratios—many people think the ratio is indicative of average class size, but it is not. The report recommended that "when public communications concerning the pupil-teacher ratio and their respective numbers are quoted, the average class size also be expressed."

**10 YEARS**

The second report tabled by the committee dealt with the "pupil-teacher ratio in perspective." The report revealed that the pupil-teacher ratio in Halton has been decreasing over the past ten years in both elementary and secondary schools.

In September of this year, the

elementary school ratio was 25 students per teacher and the secondary ratio was 18.48 to one teacher.

**GOT CLOBBERED**

The report recommended "the principal give high priority and consideration to smaller classes in the primary division, especially grade one." The sub-committee also recommended that special consideration of pupil-teacher ratio should be given to schools with special education classes and all three elementary levels.

The report suggested that some students in opportunity classes could be accommodated for at least part of a day in regular classes.

"We did a pilot project on this and got clobbered," said Singleton.

**WORK PERMITS**

The sub-committee also suggested that the board recommend the re-introduction of work permits to the Ontario department of education.

"I full-heartedly agree," said Jim Baker, principal of Aldershot high school.

Eric Balkind of Georgetown chairman of the sub-committee making the suggestion, said "some students are totally alienated to school and would be farther ahead to get out working. One high school principal estimated there are about 25 of these people in his school of 1,500. The vice-principal spends 80 per cent of his time with these people."

Baker said "these people affect the climate of the school, especially at the year one and year two levels."

The same sub-committee also recommended a new rate of pay

for supply teachers implementing a sliding scale, the rate depending on how long the supply teacher remained at the school. The estimated total savings of such a pay system is \$91,766.40 over the full school year for elementary and secondary schools combined.

## In the Mail Bag

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