

Zoning Change Is Shot Down By Committee

Focal Properties has escaped redesignation of lands south of Silver Creek which would have effectively halted proposed housing development.

Georgetown Planning Board, before regional government arrived Jan. 1 of this year, attempted to have the land zoned agricultural, a move which would have put an end to any housing development. The board wanted to put the brakes on development there and encourage population growth in other areas.

Georgetown council, before its demise, refused to act on this amendment to the zoning by-law.

This week, administration committee of Halton Hills council also stated that it will not consider the amendment, number 18 in any form.

Coun. Dick Howitt blasted the proposed amendment. "It smacks of the Parkway Belt where the provincial govern-

ment undertook down zoning arbitrarily," he said.

"It amounts to expropriation without compensation."

Focal Properties protested the planning board's intent at a public hearing last November. D. R. Fraser, of Fraser and McLaughlin, told the hearing that he considered the board's action arbitrary. He said the Silver Creek land could be developed in step with enlargement of sewage treatment facilities. Sewage treatment problems are seen as one reason for population controls.

Council inaction on both fronts presumably clears the way for development to proceed, at some time, on the project. The project has been envisioned since at least 1965 when the then council of Georgetown entered into an agreement with contractual obligations to let the plan proceed.

Three Persons Injured In Two-Car Mishap

A two-car collision at the corner of Main Street South and Maple Avenue Monday sent three persons to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital.

John Scott Thompson, 62, Hewson Crescent, Georgetown, was treated for minor injuries and released. The driver of the second vehicle, Marie Delna Clendening, of RR 3 Georgetown, and one of four passengers in the Clendening vehicle, Bertha Marcolini of RR 7 Georgetown, were admitted to hospital suffering cuts and bruises. A hospital spokesman reported both were in good condition and under observation.

Damage to the Thompson vehicle was estimated at \$1800 and damage to the Clendening vehicle at \$1,000.

Two people suffered cuts and bruises in a two-car collision Saturday at the intersection of Guelph St. and Sinclair Ave.

Holly Carol Parkinson, Streetsville, a passenger in a vehicle driven by Murry A. Easton of Streetsville, and David Turner of Erin Township, a passenger in the second vehicle operated by Joanne M. Turner, also of Erin Township, were taken to hospital by a passing motorist.

Damage to the Turner vehicle was estimated at \$2,500. Damage to the Easton car was \$600.

Police are investigating.

A two-car mishap on Guelph St. Wednesday resulted in minor cuts and bruises to the two drivers, Idonio Pedro of Brampton, and William Elliot, also of Brampton.

Hydrants Thawed Out

Frozen hydrants that hampered firefighters attempting to fight a fire Jan. 5 have been thawed.

The problem occurred on Sinclair Avenue after an explosion ripped through a condominium that was under construction. Mayor Tom Hill said today the problem has been solved.

"I believe the problem was confined to one hydrant and was caused by drainage difficulties. However, it has been solved," he said.

Firefighters trying to extinguish a small blaze caused by the explosion had to find an

alternate hydrant when the closest one was found to be frozen solid.

The blast itself is still under investigation by the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office from Toronto. Georgetown Chief Ken Buikema said he has not received any results from this investigation.

"I haven't heard anything, but they are still investigating."

It is believed that a propane heater used in the new building may have been responsible for the blast which blew nearly every window out of the structure.

Region Rapped Again For Salary Increase

Halton regional council has come under fire again for the size and speed of the pay raise councillors gave to themselves at the first council meeting held last September.

John Sommerville, vice-president of the East Oakville Ratepayers Group accused the council of "insensitivity" and a lack of appreciation for what he called the "gut feelings" of taxpayers towards all levels of government.

Mr. Sommerville said his argument was not made specifically against the proposed size of the new regional salaries, \$8,500. He even suggested the amount might not be enough to cover the work put in by some councillors but he did criticize the council for ignoring the storm of public protest aroused by the raise.

His protest was the second made to council within the past month. At a meeting of the council in December, a Scarborough ratepayers association criticized the amount of the increase and accused council of premature haste in setting the amount.

NO REPLY

The council made no formal reply that either that group, or to Mr. Sommerville's presentation yesterday.

Mr. Sommerville described the public response to questions asked by ratepayers at separate meetings held in Oakville, Coburg, and the Niagara region. He noted attendance at two of the meetings totalled 900.

"The question was simply this," Mr. Sommerville explained, "how many present had any degree of faith or trust in any level of big government."

According to Mr. Sommerville, out of a total of

tendance of 900 only five people indicated they did trust government.

The ratepayer accused council here of aggravating the mistrust by its pay raise and its insensitivity to public protest.

"How can society function at all - let alone well - without some minimal degree of faith or trust in the decisions of our elected representatives?" Mr. Sommerville questioned.

"We are talking about the basics, the glue that holds our society together," he went on to say.

"If you wish us to believe you arrived at your decision thoughtfully, deliberately, after some reasonable and responsible evaluation of the time required and the tasks to be performed, then give us some visible sign that such an exercise did in fact take place."

NO TRUTH

Mr. Sommerville attacked the argument that higher wages attract better councillors, and suggested that could find no truth in the statement in the private sector.

"In fact, I suspect the reverse is true," he noted. "We were of those who would serve their community with no reward except for the knowledge that he serves his neighbor?"

"No one is forced to run for the position of councillor," he observed.

No discussion took place regarding the pay increase by councillors at the meeting yesterday, but the issue may come to life at the next council meeting of Jan. 23.

At that meeting it is expected council will pass into law the recommendations and resolutions that were made in the last months of 1973 during meetings held while the council was not yet officially in office.

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PAL STILL MAY HAVE RABIES, DISEASE HAS FARMERS WORRIED

BY GORDON GREEN

Mac Hyatt and his family, of RR2 Norval, have been told to stay away from their pet dog until next June.

The dog, named Pal, has been a member of the family for six years, but last week it killed a fox, and the family learned Monday the fox had rabies.

"We were eating supper when a neighbor phoned and said there had been a fox sighted in the area," said Mr. Hyatt. "I went out to find Pal and I saw blood on his fur and knew what had happened."

The fox was found about ten yards from the back door with a broken neck; Pal had done the job well.

The head was cut off the fox, and tests proved it rabid, so Pal faces quarantine in a barn stall for the next six months, during which time he cannot be touched by the family.

The Hyatt family is only one of several families in this region to be hit by foxes. Reports are pouring in, and several foxes have been found lying on the roadside dead, presumably from the disease.

SEVERAL REPORTS

George Herrington, Halton Hills Animal Control Officer, said he has received several reports of rabid foxes.

"I lent my gun to a farmer last week who was having a problem with one fox," said Mr. Herrington. "I told him to blast it the next time he saw it, but so far he hasn't had a chance to shoot it."

"I hope he gets it though because they are getting to be a real problem out here. We've even had one fox reported in the Acton area, and from the description, I believe he too had the disease."

Foxes are normally timid and shy animals and won't venture near humans, or even houses. However, when they are stricken with rabies, they become quite bold and sometimes attack livestock or even people.

One farmer, Spencer Wilson, of RR 2 Norval, found a dead fox in a shed behind his house. Three weeks later, he discovered rabies in one of his cows.

"My husband was just going to the shed to find something and found the fox just inside the door. It was dead," said Mrs. Wilson.

COW HAD RABIES

Two weeks ago, when one of our cows started bawling, we

knew it had rabies and my husband had to drag it out and shoot it."

A bulldozer was brought in to dig a hole big enough to bury the stricken animal. The rest of his cows have been quarantined.

Several farmers in the area have reported seeing foxes, and another chased one using his snowmobile in an attempt to shoot it, but the animal escaped into thick underbrush.

Last week, Mrs. Murray Laird had a close brush with one of the foxes after it wandered onto her back porch.

"I was working in the kitchen when I heard the dog barking at the back door. I looked out the window and saw the fox sitting there chewing on an old coat."

"I screamed and yelled at it, but it didn't leave until it felt like it."

QUITE SERIOUS

Mr. Herrington says the problem is becoming quite serious and warns everyone to be cautious of cats, raccoons and foxes.

He says cats particularly are dangerous because they are so friendly, and noted that two cats are presently suspected of having the disease.

"We received a call last week from Farrell Steel Limited in Georgetown saying employees had sighted two cats acting peculiar."

"By the time I got there they had died. We haven't yet received results from the test, but I'm pretty sure they had rabies."

Several employees of the steel foundry had come in contact with the cats, and if the tests prove positive, they will have to undergo rabies inoculations.

"These cats are the first domestic animals to turn up with the disease in town this year, but we also picked one up this week. We have it under observation, but I don't think it is rabid."

EPIDEMIC

Dr. Edward Earl, of the Brampton department for the health of animals, said he has not seen such a high number of rabid foxes in this area in about 10 years.

"I don't know whether I would say it is an epidemic or not, but there certainly are more of them than I have seen in quite a while."

"We have positively proven two cases of rabies, but there are several more specimens

being tested. I think these too will prove positive."

According to Dr. Earl, the biggest threat to farmers is the loss of livestock, which are susceptible to fox attacks while grazing.

This seems to be the greatest worry to farmers in the area, who are quickly having their cows inoculated. However, the inoculations won't be effective for three weeks.

"If someone sees a fox they should shoot it," says Dr. Earl. "If they don't have a gun, they should just stay away from it, but under no circumstances should they try to frighten it. A rabid fox will attack a human."

OUT OF HAND

There is no longer a bounty on foxes in this area, and Mac Hyatt thinks it would be a good idea to reinstate it.

"It is getting out of hand, and frankly, I'm quite worried," said Mr. Hyatt. "What we should do is reinstate the bounty, or get a group of farmers together and go out hunting them."

"I don't like to shoot animals, but when they are rabid, they are a great hazard for livestock. If we could wipe them out we wouldn't have to worry about them."

Until this problem became noticeable in early December, there had been only two reported cases of rabies in Halton County during 1973.

However, Mr. Herrington now feels the problem will manifest itself, and probably get worse before it gets better.

Regional Solicitor Selected, Salary Set At \$27,000

Robert Noel Bates, Barrie, who has specialized in municipal law, has been appointed solicitor for Halton region by the regional council.

Bates, 33, a former reporter with the Toronto Star and CBC, has been practising law in Barrie and is solicitor for Georgian Bay Township and council for Vespra Township.

He is a former member of the Georgian Bay Township council and planning board.

Bates has specialized in municipal law including planning procedures, subdivision development and expropriation.

As regional solicitor he will receive a salary of \$27,500.



PAL RAISES his paw for his usual friendly handshake, but near him for six months; Pal may still have rabies. (Herald Photo)

Letter From Morrow

Mr. Hyde, I Hope You Remember

Halton Hills Coun. Ric Morrow has replied publicly to persons who have called or written letters about an area council decision for a fire chief.

The councillor made his position known in a letter to the editor, text of which is carried here.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the many citizens who have called and written letters expressing concern about Council's premature decision on the fire chief.

Some time ago council advertised for a fire chief and received four applications.

These applications were narrowed to a choice between Mr. Holmes and Mr. Buikema. Mr. Holmes had been a volunteer member of the Acton Fire Brigade for 25 years and a volunteer chief for the last 13 years. His application listed no formal courses in firefighting. He was at the time employed in a full-time job unrelated to firefighting.

Mr. Buikema had been a full-time firefighter for over ten years and had been full-time Chief of Georgetown for two years. His list of qualifications included over 20 courses in the firefighting field and related fields, as well as attendance at the Ontario Fire College. In addition, Mr. Buikema had scored very high on examination when applying for the position of Georgetown chief. Based on these applications and knowing that Mr. Buikema had done an excellent job for Georgetown I felt then as I do now that he deserves the top job.

OPINION

I have never made any negative statement of Mr. Holmes but at all times have stated that I feel Mr. Buikema is more qualified. The facts, I believe, support my opinion. From the beginning it was my hope that Mr. Holmes would fill the position of deputy chief as his intimate knowledge of the Acton area would complement Mr. Buikema's technical know-how and knowledge of the Georgetown area.

Council's decision on Monday night to appoint two district chiefs is certainly a poor compromise which will lead to budget and command difficulties, not to mention a waste of money. This interim solution is about as ridiculous as having two mayors or two clerk-administrators. Eventually there will be three full-time chiefs under council's present guideline and this is most assuredly a ridiculous waste of tax dollars.

Council decided on the spur of the moment to pay the new District Chief of Acton the same as the Chief of Georgetown. Council completely disregarded personnel policy, the fact that Mr. Buikema had worked for the municipality for two years to reach his present salary, and the fact that Mr. Buikema would be responsible for a fire area with twice the population. When the vote was taken most members did not even know the salary amount in question.

This flagrant disregard for personnel policy, years of service and job responsibility will result in increased salary demands from present staff. I hope Mr. Hyde and others remember this when the tax rate is set.

Finally I wish to congratulate sincerely, the members of the Georgetown Volunteer Brigade. They have acted in a mature and responsible manner throughout this episode. Even when it appeared that their full-time chief was about to be replaced by a volunteer from Acton, they showed their dissatisfaction in a responsible fashion and not by threatened or actual resignations. They have demonstrated their sincere interest in the fire protection of the area they serve.

A special committee of Council will meet with the volunteer firefighters from Acton and Georgetown.

The committee, established at a special meeting of Halton Hills council last Thursday, will relay a vote of confidence passed at the same meeting.

The move came following a letter received by council from the Acton Firefighters Association, stating that members of the association were disturbed by recent statements made by certain councillors.

WILL RESIGN

The letter stated that unless these statements were publicly refuted, the firemen would resign. They said they would like to meet with a committee, either to receive a note of confidence or to arrange a "phasing out" of their operation.

In particular, the Acton firemen were upset because they felt their chief, Mick Holmes, had been maligned during the recent controversy regarding the Halton Hills fire chief.

The letter stated: "We are quite disturbed with the way our chief has been maligned. He applied for the job in good faith, it is a pity this faith was violated."

The letter continued to say that members of the brigade have faith in their chief and states proof of his high qualifications can be statistically proven by looking through past files.

According to their letter, the Acton Firefighters also felt they had lost the confidence of the Halton Hills Council, and said they could not function without this confidence.

The confidence vote taken by council was passed unanimously, and voted the same tribute to the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department as well.

MEET FIREMEN

The committee established by the same resolution will consist of councillors Len Cox, Mike Armstrong, Ernie Sykes, Garnet McKenzie, and mayor Tom Hill.

Land Bank Late Says Masson

Allan Masson, Halton regional chairman, says the provincial land bank program for residential use by municipalities may have come too late.

Mr. Masson said the new legislation giving municipalities the right to acquire land for residential building purposes comes at a time of rising labor and material costs. Homes will continue to remain out of the reach of many, he said.

Faced with the present costs of construction, Mr. Masson said the only alternative is to find cheaper ways of building homes.

The Halton regional chairman was responding, at a meeting in Niagara Falls, to an announcement by Robert Welch of the Ontario cabinet. Mr. Welch announced the scheme to permit municipalities to acquire land for housing.

The minister said it is up to each region to decide if it will participate in a land bank program. Mr. Masson said action should have been taken years ago when the cost of land was cheaper.

Outers Collect Trash For Money

A small group of Acton students have ecology on their minds, but don't mind making a little money while they're at it.

The Outers Club, which was first organized by Wally Rowley and Dr. Paul Tamblin in 1972, has been holding glass and paper drives all year, and will continue to do so until at least the end of this school year.

The glass and paper collected is recycled on a monthly basis, and it is estimated that more than 10 tons of glass have undergone the process since their program first began.

It is also estimated that 12 to 14 tons of newspapers have been collected.

Although the group is interested in preserving their environment, it finds good use for the monies raised through its efforts.

WANT CANOES

The present fund-raising drives are aimed towards the purchase of six white canoes, and if possible, some rock-climbing equipment.

When the group was first organized, it held various activities including a Bruce Trail Hike and clean-up, canoeing, and team initiative tests. To climax the first year a seven-day wilderness canoe trip was held.

Before it could hold the canoe trip, however, it raised more than \$1500 in order to purchase tents, accessories and other equipment needed to sustain 20 people out in the wilderness.

Committee Established To Meet With Firemen

Mayor Hill said the committee will meet with the Acton firefighters and the Georgetown firefighters to relay the vote of confidence personally, and to determine if there are any other difficulties.

"This is what we are going to do. If there are any other problems uncovered, then we will bring them back to council."

A tentative date has been set for the meeting, but mayor Hill said he could not release it until it was confirmed.

Former Acton mayor, Les Duby, now a member of the Halton Hills fire committee, says he couldn't agree more with the sentiments expressed by the Acton firemen in their letter.

"The council as a whole definitely supports the firefighters," said Mr. Duby, also noting he fully supports the actions of the force.

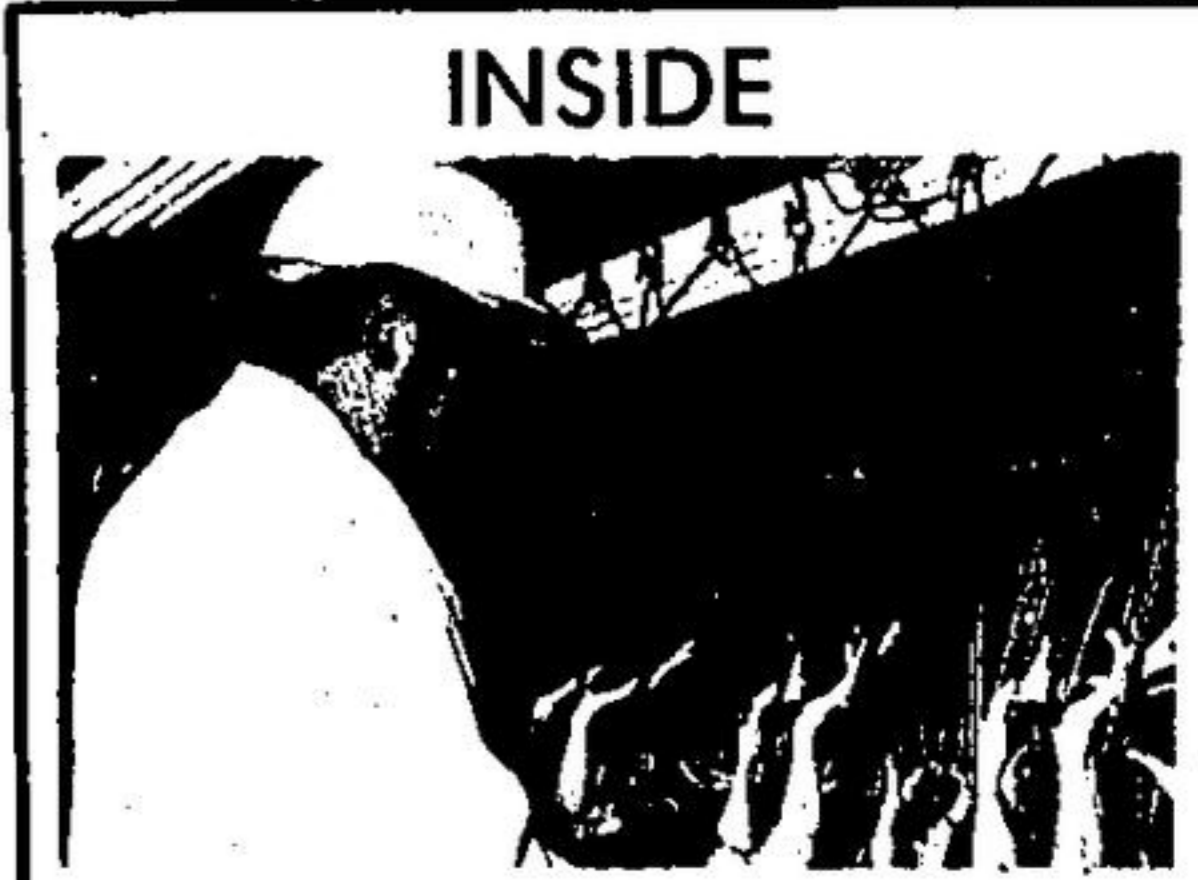
Further support came from councillor Garnet McKenzie, who said: "I don't blame them a bit, especially when they got all that nonsense from council."

MUST ANSWER

Mr. McKenzie blamed the results contained in the letter on councillor Ric Morrow.

"Morrow must answer for what he has been saying," Mr. McKenzie insisted. "The firefighters don't have to take the insinuations that have been made against them."

The special meeting called on Thursday was held behind closed doors, and press representatives were told to leave shortly after it began.



THIS MAN checks chickens over before they come to your dinner table. To find out what else happens, see new weekly feature on Pg. 6 of the first section.

A HALTON Hills man likes birds, but his are a little larger than the common canary. His favorite is an eagle. See front page of second section.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

DR. LENO BRAIDA, of Oakville, has been re-elected to his fourth term as chairman of the Halton Separate School Board. Elected vice-chairman also for a fourth term was Angelo Ponzilli of Milton, who defeated Halton Hills trustee Harliey Sherk. The word "County" was dropped from the board's name in recognition of the beginning of regional government.

A WEEK-LONG curling fest got underway last weekend and will wrap up this Saturday at the Halton Club in Halton Hills. About 100 rinks are taking part in 325 games in the double knockout competition. Eleven rinks will take part from North Halton.

BRIAN BEST who wound up his six-years as Milton mayor has been selected Citizen of the Year by the Milton Chamber of Commerce. Best will be honored at a dinner to be held at the Roma Social Club January 30.