

CONCERNED owners Donald and Raymond Chlason, 20 Mountslaview Rd. South, enlisted the help of friends to try and coax "Fluffy," their eight-month-old pet cat, from his lofty perch atop a telephone pole on Prince Charles Dr. The feline, a nearby resident told Donald, had maintained his position for three days since first climbing the pole, probably in the hopes of a sparrow dinner. Rescue finally arrived on Thursday, when the boys called Ontario Hydro. Providing moral support for Fluffy were Tom Wylie, Andrew Barnes, Kevin Ladd, Brian Archer, Barry King and Donald and Raymond Chlason.

Halton will support Niagara Escarpment appeals

Who has the final word? The Niagara Escarpment Commission? or Halton Region? Officially the provincially organized commission does but, according to Burlington Mayor George Harrington, that does not mean the region is going to sit quietly and let the NEC hold absolute power. If an individual appeals any NEC policies, set down in its yet to be completed Master Plan for the Niagara Escarpment, the region may throw their support behind the appeal. "Are they our gods, against whom we have no means of appeal?" Mayor Harrington questioned during last Wednesday's meeting of Halton regional council. Speaking on a change to the region's interim planning policy that pointed out that NEC policies "may prove more restrictive than, and may supersede the following regional planning policies" Mayor Harrington objected to the region's lying down and accepting the commission's over-riding power. "I wonder if this commission has not been unfairly imposed upon the people of the region of Halton," he said. "We're here to protect the people against such semi-judicial bodies and we must stand up and fight for the people." Halton Hills councillor Ric Morrow agreed that the power of NEC is extremely strong. "I would fully support a motion of our expression of concern on this matter," he stated. He stated that he did not entirely respect the method by which the NEC has been set up and is operating. Mayor Anne MacArthur of Milton, however, noted that one-half of the people serving on the NEC have been appointed by the region's municipalities and that the power was not entirely the province's. Council supported a motion presented by Mayor Harrington that stated that the region would be prepared to support any appeals which it deems should be carried out against any decisions by the NEC in its forthcoming master plan. That plan is expected to be introduced within a year.

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Speak up

The members of the region's administration committee were caught in an embarrassing situation last Wednesday when they had to admit that, despite not hearing a word that was said about a particular item, they were willing to, nevertheless, okay spending \$2,400 for it.

When questioned during regional council about the \$2,400 expenditure Councillor Carl Erikson of Oakville admitted, "Because we couldn't hear what was said I'm afraid none of us on the committee can answer any of your questions at this time."

Regardless of being able to hear or not the administration committee passed along a request for the funds to regional council to send a public health nurse to attend a course on "The Expanding Role of the Public Health Nurse" at the University of Toronto.

The course, it was later revealed, would be spread over nine weeks and would take 24

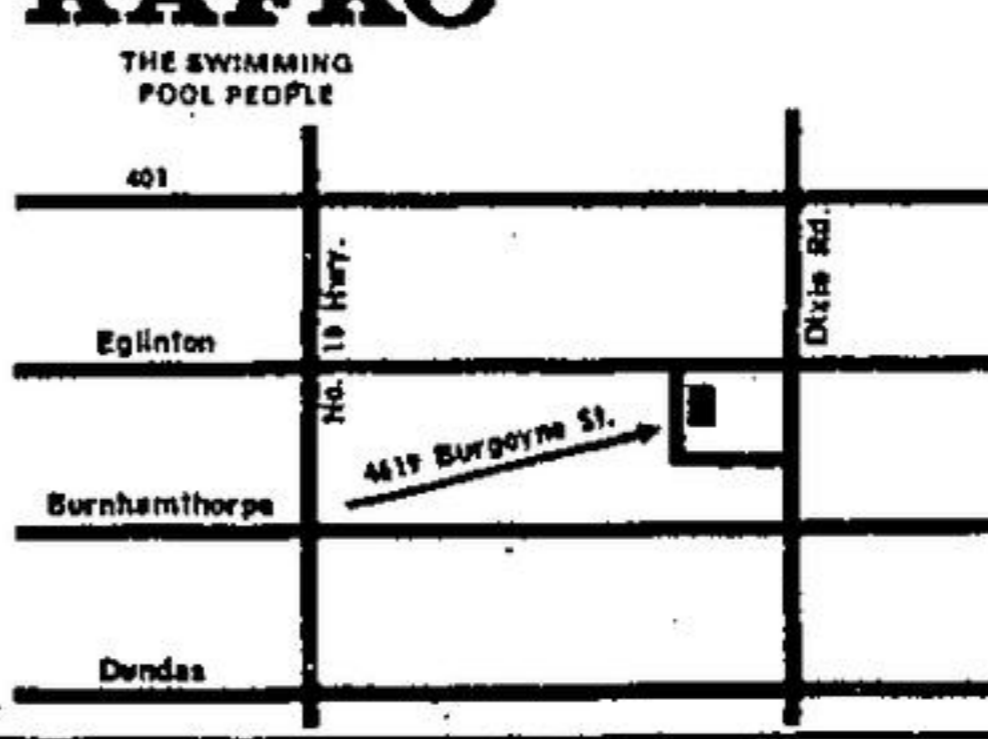
days. The fees, although paid by the region, would be later fully subsidized by the ministry of health.

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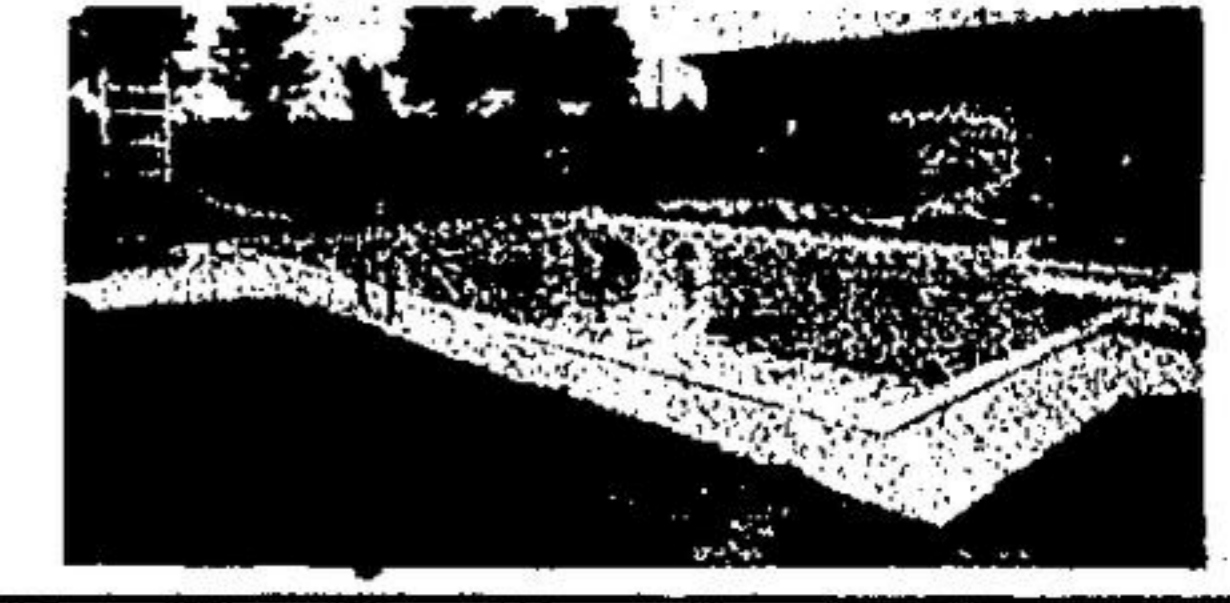


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Acton meeting shows Halton Hills still hasn't accepted regional government

Charts, maps and rhetoric did little to soothe hard feelings on regional government in Acton.

Politicians from three levels of government last Tuesday night spoke in defense of the system but encountered almost unbroken antagonism, sarcasm and scepticism, at a public meeting sponsored by Acton Rotarians at the Legion Hall. They were asked about street cleaning, local autonomy, garbage collection and even ice rental rates at the Acton arena, and almost all of the questions carried the accusing footnote, "under the old system..."

George Kerr, MPP for Halton West represented the provincial government; Allan Masson, regional chairman and the chairman of three regional committees spoke for the region while Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill and Acton Councillor Les Duby represented Halton Hills. Not all of the crowd of about 150 appreciated the gathering of out-of-town officials. One woman complained indignantly

that she neither recognized nor knew the function of Mr. Masson and the Oakville and Burlington councillors who accompanied him.

The politicians spoke soothingly of the costs already cut and the benefits yet to come under the system excepting Mr. Duby, formerly the Acton mayor.

Mr. Duby did not directly or specifically criticize the restructured local government. But he did little to support it. "When governments are big enough to give everything you want, they are big enough to take everything you got," he observed.

He opened his statements with a courtesy that may have been a complaint about a government that many residents consider remote not only structurally but geographically.

"I want to thank the people who come from out of town," said Mr. Duby. "I have to go elsewhere from time to time and I find it very time consuming." The observation reflected

complaints from the crowd that local public works employees must now travel out of town daily to a central works yard in Etobicoke, to be assigned their duties.

The crowd which was largely made up of local merchants and businessmen seemed little satisfied with guarantees from Mr. Kerr that the advantages of regionalization are yet to come. He acknowledged in response to direct question that the system could not win a public vote of support, but said that in five years that support would materialize.

Asking why no plebiscite or public referendum was conducted to determine whether the new system should be initiated he replied, "there would have been no regional governments if there was."

"The pros and cons would have been outweighed by emotional arguments," he said. "People don't like change."

"If you have a plebiscite or referendum on an issue of this kind you may postpone what we feel is necessary municipal reform."

Frequently during the meeting Mr. Kerr reminded the crowd that tax rates in Acton increased only minimally from 1972 to 1974, although he acknowledged that the increase was held in check largely because of a \$1 million start-up grant made by the province to Halton in 1974 and another \$1 million grant which is to spread over 1975 and 1976.

"Halton region received more in start-up grants than any other region established by the provincial government," he said.

Mr. Masson said that although the region in 1974 claimed \$957,000 in taxes from Halton Hills, in contrast to \$465,997 claimed by the former Halton County the year before, the money was used to finance the greatly expanded enlarged duties assumed by the region.

Those new duties, formerly covered by local municipal taxes include policing, sewage disposal, water supplies, and garbage disposal, he said.

At least one of the merchants however kept track of the more visible municipal ser-

VICES...and the reduction of those services under regionalization.

Wayne Moss, proprietor of a downtown hardware store complained that increased litter and dust on Mill Street make it impossible to keep the stores clean.

Throughout the year he said the street was swept only occasionally by machine, in contrast to work crews who swept the street by hand, every Monday during the previous year.

"It may be archaic, but it does the job," he noted.

He complained as well that Halton Hills snow removal teams do not clear the main street until the morning after heavy storms with the result the traffic is tied up through the business district.

"In the old system they began at 8 o'clock the night before," he said.

Norman Elliott, a former Acton councillor charged that the three Acton representatives on the Halton Hills council are outspoken and overruled by more aggressive representatives of Georgetown often on strictly local matters.

The result, he said, is that the community is being dictated to by outsiders "on local matters like our cemetery rates and what to do with the ducks in our lakes."

Minimum wage for real estate

Real Estate brokers in Ontario should seriously consider a minimum wage for salesmen, according to A. F. Johnson president of Johnson and Carney Ltd. of Georgetown.

Speaking to the annual meeting of the Ontario Real Estate Association, Mr. Johnson said a minimum wage would eliminate some of the undesirable practices now evident in the real estate brokerage business. At present, brokers hire salesmen on an indiscriminate basis, he said. "There are literally hundreds of people in our business making three or four sales a year."

"If brokers had to pay their salesmen a minimum wage, they would no longer be able to support these guys...A minimum salary would force these people to shape up or ship out."

He estimated that 95 percent of salesmen in Ontario received 82 percent of real estate commissions in 1972. About half of these people earned less than the minimum wage, he said. "This leads me to the conclusion that if we had a minimum wage in our industry we would have to eliminate half the people."

He suggested that newcomers to real estate sales would be more financially secure in the early stages when the going is rough. "We could attract better sales people from other industries - the kind we'd all like to have."

"What about the effects on vendors and purchasers? They would be dealing with a salesman who doesn't have to make a sale tonight. It would mean the salesman would give less biased advice. It would be better advice with less pressure."

However, Sally Midwinter, an Ottawa real estate saleswoman, disagreed with Mr. Johnson. "I don't think salaries would produce what most people want. They would more than likely produce complacency."

She suggested that salaries could be a useful tool in the early training stages. "But I sincerely doubt whether salaries would produce a dynamic sales force. It would destroy the free enterprise aspect of our business."

Robert Snea, president of Thomas N. Shea Ltd., of Markham, said a universal salary scheme would require a more vigilant hiring program on the part of brokers. He said the provincial government might be the only body capable of forcing a minimum wage on the real estate industry. He

warned that if boards or provincial associations attempted to impose a program they might find themselves in trouble with federal competition legislation.

Kenneth Creppin president of Shipman Real Estate Limited of Ottawa, said a salary system would have a detrimental effect on the motivation and aggressiveness of real estate salesmen. "Salesmen must be capable of adjusting to a changing market. And it's my belief that a salaried person would be lax in adjusting to a falling real estate market."

Figures released at the meeting show that membership in the Ontario association rose to 21,900 during 1973, an off-year for real estate sales. At the end of 1973, there were 19,000 members, up from 16,000 in 1972. There has been a simmering dispute among industry officials over the large number of people writing the examination to get a salesman's license. Officials argue that the facility with which new salesmen can enter the business, lowers the average salary scale and produces a lower class of worker. The number of individuals writing the Ontario introductory examination for a salesman's license declined after June last year, following the general drop in the real estate market.

However, there were 6,823 individuals who passed the examination and received their licenses.

DID YOU KNOW
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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
The Annual Meeting of the GEORGETOWN & DISTRICT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION will be held in the Hospital cafeteria at 8:00 p.m., on MARCH 13TH, 1975. Honorable Life Members and 1975 members are urged to attend. Hospital by-law amendments will be presented to the annual meeting. A copy may be obtained by members at the administrative offices during business hours. A guided tour of the new facilities under construction will be conducted, and a short film presentation will be made.

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2. Proof of age is required
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L. BRAIDA, PH.D., Chairman of the Board
C.G. BYRNES, Director of Education

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