

Widespread objections to Oakville United Way

"We may be Halton Hills, but we're not Oakville and we're not stupid," Mary Simpson of Georgetown's local council of women told representatives of the Oakville United Way (OUW) at a meeting Wednesday.

"Only 36c of every dollar goes to the region and the rest goes to Oakville and you have the nerve to try and come up here to collect money for Oakville," she added.

Resentment of the Oakville United Way invading the campaign territory of North Halton was made quite clear by members of local charitable organizations.

The consensus between Georgetown and Acton fundraising group members was summed up by Vic Birton, of the Acton CNIB and Heart Fund, who said: "When we go canvassing door-to-door, people will say, I already gave at work. It's going to make it tougher for us, and we don't want it tougher."

OUW campaign chairman Terry O'Connor repeatedly asked, "Where are we going to get the money?" in reference to finances necessary to support regional services used by North Halton residents.

Because of inadequate information, a second meeting was scheduled for Oct. 2. In the interim, Mr. O'Connor will do the necessary research to discover how much it costs regional services to include Georgetown in its programs.

Based on this data, local fundraising groups will decide if and how Georgetown will contribute.

"You (OUW) do not have to collect money for the region," said Marilyn Sunucks, Muscular Dystrophy Association representative for Georgetown.

"You do not have to collect from us for them. Suddenly the OUW decides just to come in here and do it, but I don't think it's your job."

One widespread objection to the OUW was the method used to expand its fundraising area to include Georgetown.

"Perhaps the word Oakville is as defamatory as any word printed in the newspaper," said Mr. O'Connor, "some of you are justifiably angry. We went about it the wrong way—without consultation with local agencies."

Mr. O'Connor asked friends in Milton, Acton, and Georgetown whether they thought their communities would be receptive to the OUW. Only Georgetown acquaintances of Mr. O'Connor's said yes, so Georgetown was designated as a "pilot project" town. Local charitable groups were not consulted.

"You should have had the meeting before not after (sending letters to industries and press releases to newspapers)," said Paul Farkas of the Georgetown Red Cross.

"The United Way is an intelligent outfit," said Coun. Ric Morrow, "but your approach was not the best."

A Georgetown resident who asked to remain anonymous commented after the meeting that Mr. O'Connor "should be an expert in the field of public relations."

A lawyer, he served as Halton MP from 1972-74, was campaign manager for federal PC candidate Flora MacDonald in 1975, and this is his second year as OUW campaign manager after being a board member.

Erica Thompson of the Georgetown Red Cross described the literature supplied by Mr. O'Connor introducing the local campaign.

"The letter to industries did not mention the United Way was in Oakville, so its contents were misleading, and the press release did not say UCW is collecting money for the 'y' and the Red Cross and other groups, in Oakville, not Halton Hills. And it didn't say about 50 per cent of the money was going to Oakville community services."

Mr. O'Connor was unable to explain why vital facts were missing from press releases.

"Mr. O'Connor is not a dumb man, he's a smart man," said Mrs. Simpson, "and you got taken" she suggested to local OUW representative Rick Chandler.

Other problems caused by poor communication and lack of information was evident.

Mr. O'Connor outlined the financial difficulty caused last year when a Georgetown service club did not fulfill their promise to donate \$2,700 to Halton Helping Hands (HHS).

Georgetown Rotary Club President Gerry Peace spoke up and said his organization gave HHS \$2,700 in three cheques, the last one dated May 1978.

Mr. O'Connor who said he is "involved" with HHS, contradicted him.

After the meeting, Mr. Peace rushed home, and came back with the three cheques made out to and cashed by HHS to show The Herald. He added the HHS has requested \$3,200 this year.

The destination of tax dollars was another subject questioned.

Mrs. Thompson said she was under the impression that regional services were partially supported by tax money, which means Georgetown already indirectly contributes to them.

Also an area of contention was the present origin of OUW funds.

Larmer Brown, OUW president, said money is annually "siphoned off" from the Toronto United Way to the OUW because Oakville is a "dormitory" of Toronto.

"An industrial campaign is not industry, it's people," pointed out Georgetown "Y" president Doreen Burt, "If you recognize Toronto as siphoning from you, when you come in here we are being siphoned."

The issue of out-of-town factory employees contributing the United Way at work further complicated the matter.

A study done by Mr. Chandler concluded about 50 per cent of the people who live in Georgetown do not work in Georgetown. Now, if they are giving to either the Oakville Hamilton-Burlington Toronto United Ways, that money is used for regional services.

Mr. O'Connor said it would be difficult if not impossible to find out how many Georgetown residents give to the OUW and TUW at work.

Until Mr. O'Connor presents the figures on how many Georgetown people use regional services and how much it costs for them to do so, no move will be made to deduct donations from local industrial employees as OUW originally planned.

"Judging by the response from industry, this is futile," said Mr. Chandler "people have talked to them, and they were very heated... but it was undertaken with the best of intentions."

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A WINNER! Neil Young of Georgetown rounds rounds a curve at St. Jovite, Que. on his way to a win. For details see page 16

1,145 underenrolment, school teachers pooled

An underenrolment of 1,145 elementary pupils in Halton schools has resulted in a 25 teacher surplus, it was revealed at board of education meeting Thursday.

The 25 teachers have been pooled for supply teachers purposes and to fill vacancies created by the resignation and retirement of other contracted teachers between now and December.

Based on projections made at the beginning of the calendar year, board officials were surprised to find only 31,311 children reported for September classes.

"We can't staff schools in September, we have to hire in January, February and March based on projections," Emerson Lawender, the board's director of education said.

"We're usually accurate, but this year we were miles off."

Twenty-four Halton schools are affected by the cutback in teaching staff.

Original projections for September enrollment were made on the basis of homes completed or under construction in Milton, Acton and North Burlington early in the year, he said.

But many of those homes, he added, are still for sale or under construction. The board's survey earlier this year showed 703 single-family homes available for occupancy.

"We have no idea what happened to the population in Halton in the past 12 months," Mr. Lawender said. "The regional chairman, Allan Masson, last week in a speech to the Oakville Chamber of Commerce, said labor can't move into Halton because the price of housing is too high."

Cost of pooling the surplus teachers will come from the board's supply teaching budget and should amount to about \$150,000 by the end of December, finance superintendent Bruce Lindley said.

He said the reduction in teaching staff will not have any effect on the provincial grants to Halton. Mr. Lindley explained that Halton set an operating budget about \$2 million below provincial ceilings this year and the increased per pupil cost will be absorbed by the difference.

"What this means," he said during a break in the meeting, "is that the per pupil cost will rise from about \$1,170 to about \$1,200 per pupil."

The adjustments for teachers are based on the pupil-teacher ratio of 24.5:1 set by board policy. Sixteen of the teachers are on first year contracts.

It is expected that between 26 and 31 resignations and retirements will occur before the end of the year.

Instruction superintendent John Belch said the board "first considered whether the teacher is on a probationary contract and how many years they have been in the Halton system."

"But we also considered the needs of the school," he added. "If there was only one music teacher in a school who was new, we'd have to remove someone else."

All re-assignments were made following consultation with school principals, Mr. Belch said.

At Wilson head of the Halton Public School Men's Teachers Federation, said the re-assignments were arrived at following meetings Sept. 13 between the federation and the board. The Halton Elementary School Teachers Federation was also involved.



Jeffrey Lyons and Tom Beene

Ford and owners settle dispute

TORONTO—In a precedent setting move Friday, Ford Motor Company of Canada settled out-of-court a dispute with disgruntled owners of rusty Ford products.

The settlement arrived at following serious negotiations since a \$371 million class action was launched in April, could cost the automaker from \$1 million to \$30 million, separate sources say.

"If a book is ever written of consumerism history, Tom Beene's name should be included," Jeffrey Lyons, lawyer for the Ontario Rusty Ford Association said.

Mr. Beene, a Georgetown resident, is president of the Ontario Rusty Ford Owners Association and one of five people instrumental in launching the class action.

Under the terms of the settlement the action has been withdrawn.

"If it wasn't for the persistence of a guy like Tom Beene, it never would have gone through," Mr. Lyons added.

He said the Ford settlement shows "consumers as a concentrated group can force business to give better deals."

Ford has agreed to pay 50 per cent of the costs of repair to Ford products up to \$300 maximum above a threshold amount set by the year of the model. Otherwise owners can receive a certificate of \$300 for trade-in on any Ford product.

But most important, Mr. Lyons explained, Ford leadership has been shown in providing compensation for original owners who have suffered abnormal rusting.

Mr. Beene said most of the work was carried out by his wife Sandy after they left their 1972 Ford pickup truck rusted beyond what they considered reasonable.

The 2,500 rusty Ford owners in the association "who stuck together deserve a lot of thanks," he said. "I didn't think it would get this far, but I'd go it again."

The Ford announcement Friday applies to all original owners of Ford products from 1970 to 1974 regardless of whether they are association members.

Mr. Lyons said Ford has also announced a three-year rust warranty with its 1977 models which, he said, "is a forward step for the benefit of all consumers."

"What I'm more proud of," Mr. Beene said, "is that they said you couldn't beat a corporation. And although we didn't totally win, neither did they."

Beene said he was not "100 per cent happy" with Ford's settlement. "I was hoping for a little better settlement on the consumers side. But we figured it if had dragged on, Ford could have delayed and we could have got nothing."

But he emphasized that it is the long range effects of Ford's action that are most significant.

"It did open the eyes of the consumers to what you can do as a group. Now it's up to the consumers, the people themselves."

"You pick up lots of things and meet a lot of people. It'll be nice to get back to normal."

Beene said he and his wife would probably celebrate by watching television or going to a movie, something they've been unable to do with the work of the association falling on them.

In a telephone interview Sandy Beene said: "I feel kind of good about fighting it to the end... but I'm not really pleased with the settlement. But it was something."

She said she and Tom sent out over 5,000 letters and often worked until two or three o'clock in the morning reading and answering each one. "It was just the two of us working at home."

She and her husband said the government gave little or not help during their struggle.

Letters of complaint from rusty Ford owners to Bryce Mackay, then minister of corporate and consumer affairs were forwarded to the Beene's in 1972 Georgetown, home. The Better Business Bureau also forwarded letters to the Beene's.

The final settlement came after several months of negotiations among Bryce Mackay, Roy Bennett, president of Ford of Canada, Phil Edmonston president of the Automobile Protection Association and Jeffrey Lyons.

Mr. Lyons said it was the first time the government was involved in direct mediation between the consumers and business.

Sandy Beene said she hoped class actions by consumers against manufacturers of shoddy goods would be made easier by the government when parliament reconvenes in October.

An attempt by Halton Region to disconnect water services to a 40-unit townhouse development on Maple Avenue may be a misunderstanding, both the developer and town officials told The Herald.

Last week regional public works committee ordered a section of the water services to the Galaxy Holdings development, east of Mountainview Road, removed to prevent the developer from reconnecting service.

Al Pilutti, owner of the development, said in a telephone interview with The Herald Monday that he hopes to resolve the matter within a week. He has asked to attend the next meeting of the council.

"It appears the problem started back in 1974 when the region came into force and the overlap," he said. "The region was not set up to handle water and sewers and I entered into an agreement with the local town council."

"There's a lack of communication between what happened and what should have happened," Mr. Pilutti said.

A check with the Halton Hills municipal office shows that a schedule attached to the subdivision agreement appears to call for the provision of services subject to local bylaws and an agreed internal and external servicing plan.

But a section of the agreement calling for a security bond covering the installation of services was not approved.

LEWIS TAKES UP SITE F, VOWS LEGISLATURE DEBATE

NDP Opposition Leader Stephen Lewis has told the Tremaine-Britannia Citizen's Group which is opposed to site F as a Halton landfill site, that he will take their struggle to the floor of the legislature when it resumes.

"There appear to be alternatives," Mr. Lewis said Wednesday after questioning the group's members in the home of Stuart McFadden. "There's quite a case to be presented. I'm really intrigued by it."

He said the issue "has province-wide implications." A survey of a dump at Stouffville, which had been used without sufficient foreknowledge, unearthed several "contentious issues," Lewis said.

A strong point for the group was that Agriculture Minister William Newman is against Site F because of the loss of 500 acres of prime farm land but that Environment Minister George Kerr supports its use for landfill, Lewis said.

"The agriculture ministry 'could fight a rear-guard action,' he said. "We might be able to persuade them to step into the matter."

"I'd like to see them win," he said.

Mr. Lewis said it was a "personal frustration" that the "selling of 20-year landfill sites" pushed back research and development on the alternatives of reclamation and recycling.

He told the group a member of his staff would come to see them and collect more documentation.

Mr. Lewis told reporters after the meeting that an act of legislature is needed to protect agricultural land so that "people must then prove that land must come out of agriculture." A better land use policy is needed, he said.

Stuart McFadden said in an interview after the meeting that the opposition leader's interest would possibly add more muscle to the group's struggle. But more importantly it would give access to the files of M. M. Dillon, Halton's consulting engineer, McFadden said.

Mr. Lewis' interest was "another line of attack," McFadden said.

Mr. McFadden said provincial guidelines on the locating and management of landfill sites are needed.

Town planner Mario Venditti explained that council approved the subdivision agreement in September, 1974, when the regional engineering department was still not functioning.

He could not explain why the section covering the security bond was deleted.

Following the approval of the agreement the plan was submitted to all agencies for approval of both a rezoning and an official plan amendment. This was not completed until 1975. During that time no changes were requested of the developer. The region was required to approve of both actions.

Regional manager of engineering planning and development, Ray Cripps said Monday he did not believe Halton Hills would enter into an agreement in 1974 because water services became a region responsibility on Jan. 1, 1974 when Halton Region was formed.

Mr. Venditti said the negotiations took place in mid 1974.

Mr. Cripps confirmed that no action has been taken to remove a section of the water line because some purchasers of the condominium units have already taken up residences.

Mr. Cripps said "it is wrong to penalize the residents" and confirmed that the order of the works committee was designed to prevent residents from moving in.

He said the problem surrounding the development's water services is the ministry of environment's approval of the external water main.

Mr. Pilutti installed a six inch main from an four inch "and there's not a great deal of valve" in that, he said.

Mr. Pilutti, who could not attend the works committee because of business commitments, had asked Coun. Ernie Sykes to seek a derogation of the matter. Coun. Bill Mason said that "if he (the developer) was interested he would be here."

The region is seeking a six inch main along Maple Avenue because it does not believe the existing four inch main is adequate to support the development.

Regional works director Bob Moore said last week that a registered letter was sent to Mr. Pilutti notifying of disconnection, but Mr. Pilutti refused to accept the letter he said.

"This is a shocking, flagrant disregard for the law," Halton Hills Coun. Dick Howitt said. "Halton Hills should not even be responsible for 50 per cent of the six inch main because the four inch main is adequate for existing houses."

He said Mr. Pilutti should also be required to install a second fire hydrant, but Mr. Pilutti said that conversations with various officials indicate that no firm set of guidelines are available.

He feels his fire hydrant is located within the standards of the Underwriter's