

Taxi bylaw 'too stringent' says fleet owner

A review of the town's bylaw governing the operation of taxis in Halton Hills is needed, says a Georgetown taxi owner.

"The bylaw is too stringent for small operators," says Al MacMillan who with his wife

Lee operates Glen Taxi in Georgetown. Besides their company, there are two other companies, Flash Taxi in Georgetown and Reliable Taxi in Acton, plus two independent operators for a total of 17

taxis, he said.

One area the owners would like to see changed is the bylaw clause which allows a taxi licence to be lifted if the taxi is out of service for more than 60 days.

Mr. MacMillan said that in the summer, business declines to the point where we are forced to park the cars." However, high insurance premiums are paid on a quarterly basis and if the bylaw allowed a cab to be idled for a quarter, the owners would get a break, he said.

"What we're afraid of is losing the (licence) plate while the cars are not in use."

Another area owners want to see changed is the charge for waiting time, Mr. MacMillan said. The current rate is \$6 per hour or 10 cents a minute and he thinks it should rise to \$12 per hour or 20 cents a minute.

A third area owners want changed he said, is the \$500 fee for transferring a licence, which originally cost \$1,500 from one owner to another. Taxi owners already pay a \$500 fee just to be able to hold a

licence and he feels it should be paid just once.

The changes are needed because owners face rising costs in operation, insurance, repairs and fuel, Mr. MacMillan said. At the same time, the consumer, caught in an inflationary spiral, has become more conservative with his dollars and is not taking a taxi as often as before, he said.

To overcome the drop in demand, the drivers would like a pool arrangement for school children, he said. With five children in one car, each car-

ent would save money. The pool arrangement would also work for picking up passengers all headed in the same direction from the GO station, for example he said. The fee could be cut three or four ways.

The drivers work long hours on shifts, he said and "don't make big money." But in spite of this, the drivers feel they offer a valuable service to the town and one with an interest and closeness which is built up between the passengers and the drivers, he said.

Decision today on parking restriction for Maple Avenue

Regional public works committee has approved the restriction of parking along one side of Maple Avenue from Guelph Street to Mountainview Road to allow emergency vehicles to pass without difficulty from the new firehall. The proposal must be ratified by council today.



SEPARATE SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Five-year-old Sean Guistini seems to be Anne Guistini registers him for kindergarten pondering the future while his mother, Mrs. at St. Francis of Assisi school Thursday.

Liberals meet in Milton

Nancy Dunlop, president of the Halton New Liberal Association for youth, arranged for Liberal members to meet their representatives, in Milton Friday. Julian Reed MPP Halton-Burlington, Dr. Frank Philbrook, MP for Halton, and Ross Milne MP for Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe.

"The idea is to let people realize the MP's are attainable and are interested in the association," Mrs. Dunlop said. All three leaders agreed wholeheartedly that they were interested in hearing the voice of young people.

"There is an important place for young people on a more on-going basis in politics, not just at election time," he said. Julian Reed said, "Frank and I are fighting apathy all the time. Youth represent a large majority of the voting population and we need your participation."

Reed said the main reason he decided to run for office was because of his dissatisfaction with the Progressive Conservative Party.

"I am committed to free enterprise, and in simplified terms Liberalism is capitalism with a consciousness. Our ideology is not carved in stone and the party is philosophy is always changing," he said.

Dr. Philbrook asked members of the association why they joined the party, and why they attended the meeting particularly when a hockey game was on.

One young liberal said he attended the meeting out of curiosity but said he doubted the leaders would take anything to heart, or repeat any-

thing in Queen's Park that was said during the informal discussion. "Young Liberals won't be taken seriously, and I don't really know what I want, I might change my mind," he said.

President Mrs. Dunlop objected strongly and said, "Now we are an association and they have to listen. They want to listen."

MP Ross Milne said young Liberals are an important core group, especially with the threat of national unity being dissolved and hanging over Ottawa's head.

"People think it will turn out alright and the adult population continue to be apathetic towards politics," he said. "When you young people marry and start a family, or continue in a career it's important to decide what type of government you want."

Dr. Philbrook said he had tried to organize a meeting with young people for over two years, and congratulated Mrs. Dunlop on her effort.

"We are faced with a new, awkward, difficult and competitive world that requires important decisions to be made. The issues requiring our attention — unemployment, national unity, inflation, the question of central government, represent tough choices for the leaders, and the leaders need to know what Canadians want."

"The whole thing has become so complicated people have opted out and want leaders to make the choices for them. Canada is at the crossroads. It could become one of the strongest countries or it could founder. It's a good

reason for young people to get into politics," he stressed.

President of Ontario New Liberal Association, youth wing of the Liberal Party of Canada, Steve D'Agostino pointed out 50 per cent of the voting population would be between the ages of 18 and 35, and if the non-caring attitude continued it could hurt only Canada.

MP Milne called for an "attitudinal change" on the part of Canadians regarding the French language. Quebec is trying to preserve a language used for 300 years and franco-phones want it to be treated as Canadians. In the "white paper" Bill calling for french language being used only in Quebec he feels the Bill will be modified.

The three politicians are surprised at the unemployment rise. Dr. Philbrook, remembers the depression, and how the government was so small with very few unions, but now in the great affluent stage, unemployment is rising. However, MP Milne said with the number of young people moving into the work force, the unemployment should be reduced by 1980.

Mrs. Dunlop said there are various issues which affect young people now, and the key is to get involved. "Most people get involved only when something involves them directly, but it is important to be involved all the time," she said.

Before the meeting adjourned Dr. Philbrook summed up the leaders feelings saying he hoped young people would find their way to Ottawa.

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