

# Morrow proposes new regional structure

By GEORGE EVASHUK  
Herald staff writer

Regional chairman Ric Morrow has proposed changes which would significantly alter the structure of regional government in Halton.

In his six month report released Aug. 3 to council and the press Mr. Morrow made recommendations to reduce the present number of 24 councillors by about half, limit the chairman's term of office to two terms and change the process by which the chairman is elected.

The changes "are not radical but democratic and very important," Mr. Morrow said in a press conference. "It's a new form...the old form of government was 100 years old. I'm not doing it to make myself popular."

Under the present form there are two councillors elected in each ward in the region with one sitting solely at the local level and the other, who garnered the most votes, sitting at the regional level as well. Regional councillors then elect a chairman from amongst themselves and a by-election is held in the affected ward.

Mr. Morrow noted that the recent report by former Premier John Roberts on metropolitan Toronto recommended that the chairman should continue representing his local seat. He concurred with Roberts that the chairman should continue to be elected even if indirectly rather than by campaigning at large.

"The power transferred to the chairman's office by that considerable political base

would most certainly not be in the best interests of local governments," Mr. Morrow said.

"The workload of the chairman's office is such that it would be irresponsible to expect the chairman to be able to give more than token representation on local council.

"It might require the chairman to become parochial at a time when this region has an urgent need for a chairman and members of council who are able to consider the broad regional view as a priority," he said.

"The conflict between having the chairman elected and retaining his local seat and the need to have a chairman who is truly a representative of the region...can best be resolved by reducing the number of regional councillors and hav-

ing them elected to serve only at the region," he said.

"We've got to make regional government a local government," Mr. Morrow told reporters. "A regional council would produce members more dedicated to the success of regionalism."

This arrangement would remove the need for a by-election and also allow regional council to meet in the evenings, like area councils, and school boards, thus opening up elected office to more citizens who work during normal hours.

Citing the Mayo report on the Ottawa-Carleton region, Mr. Morrow said councillors serving at the regional level have a strong tendency to take a parochial viewpoint based on their power base at the local

level with the result that the authority and effectiveness of regional is undermined.

As well, the workload, especially for the mayors, is too heavy and regional duties rather than local ones tend to get neglected. But should council decide to retain the present system, Bill 151, which created the region of Halton, Jan. 1, 1974, should be amended to restrict a chairman to two consecutive terms, Mr. Morrow said.

"...sufficient time for any chairman to institute changes and new policies."

"It would prevent the chairman's office from becoming too powerful and prevent any individual from monopolizing control of local government indefinitely."

Mr. Morrow also had two recommendations for the election of the regional chairman -

one that it be by secret ballot and another outlining the voting procedure.

"Our democratic society is based on an individual's right to cast their ballot in secret," he said. "Our political parties elect their leaders by secret ballot and to consider any other method would be a serious violation of our democratic principles."

As regional council has no procedural bylaw, Mr. Morrow supplied council with a draft bylaw wherein a tie vote for chairman would be settled by drawing lots rather than having the Lieutenant-Governor in council decide.

He also recommended that Administration committee provide rules of procedure to cover the formation of a striking committee to recommend the committee appointments,

meeting schedules and council seating arrangements.

Mr. Morrow's final recommendation was that the salary of the regional chairman be set for Dec. 31, 1978, the final day of his term of office.

In a survey he did of the salaries of 12 regional chairmen, he discovered that his \$25,000 per year stipend placed 11th with only Muskoka lower at \$21,200 and Metro Toronto at the top with \$49,400. Average salary for regional chairman is \$37,737.

He made no recommendations of what salary Halton's next chairman should get and said he does not want nor will accept a raise.

He also surveyed the salaries of regional councillors in 12 regions. Here, Halton's councillors fared a little better,

placing fourth with an annual salary of \$8,996. Durham region was highest with \$12,000 and Muskoka lowest with \$3,500. The average was \$7,633.

Mr. Morrow declined to say if he would run for another term. When he was elected chairman, he felt it would only be a part time job but conceded that the position tends toward a full time status in the future. Mr. Morrow is an airline jet pilot.

All of his recommendations will be forwarded to committees of council before council itself passes them on. His six months in office have reinforced his views on regional government, Mr. Morrow told reporters. "In my heart I know we have done the right thing in creating regional government."

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## the HERALD

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1977 Home Newspaper of Halton Hills

The full-size paper reaching more than 12,700 homes in Halton Hills

### Regional HQ underway

A legal delay which might have scuttled construction of Halton Region's \$2.7 million headquarters has been removed.

Peter Lush, regional council's landlord, objected to council's action June 16 to go ahead with construction of the headquarters at Bronte Road and Queen Elizabeth Highway on the grounds that it was \$5 million over budget and to be constructed in the Parkway Belt.

Last Wednesday Mr. Lush removed his objections after a judicial review he requested of the Supreme Court of Ontario on Provincial Treasurer Darcy McKeough's decision to permit construction in the Parkway Belt was postponed until August 28.

"The possibility looms of holding up the project necessitating winter construction with its inherent higher costs and with many man hours of non-productive time being spent," Mr. Lush said in his letter to regional councillors.

"I am advised that we have a strong supportive case on the matter at the moment," Mr. Lush said. However, "I have been weighing all of the facts and have come to the conclusion that my further actions could be a destructive nature, not helping out local government nor costs related to this building project."

Mr. Lush said he entered the legal arena at the risk of prejudicing his business position to give council the opportunity for "a sober second look."

He noted that although he had received "ample support" from a cross-section of people in Halton for his position, "there has been no specific stand taken by any of the four Municipalities."

He maintained his position still has merit; but "instead of possibly achieving substantial dollar savings, higher end costs could well be the consequence." He wished council success in their new home and pledged the full support of his company during the transitional period.

### Work files gravel info

Information pertaining to the opening of two wayside gravel pits in Limehouse was received and filed by works committee Monday after town engineer Bob Austin silenced Coun. George Malby's and Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson's protests that the method used to inform council was "high-handed."

The two councillors were annoyed that council was informed by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MTC) in a letter that the gravel from the pits would be used by Armbro Construction in the widening of the interchange at Highway 401 and Highway 10, and that Halton Hills council's permission was not necessary.

Mr. Austin said MTC informed him a month ago of the decision to re-open the Odorico pit on the Sixth Line, and the Spitzer pit on 20 Sideroad.

"I didn't need the works approval and if I bought all my correspondence to committee, we'd be tied up for hours," he said.

"The gravel trucks will carry about 100,000 tons of gravel," he said. Trucks travelling from Odorico pit to the highway reconstruction will probably use the Sixth Line to 17 Sideroad and trucks travelling from Spitzer will use 22 Sideroad to Highway 10.

"The MTC has assured us that the roads will be returned to their present condition. The ministry has applied calcium along 22 Sideroad and the Sixth line already," he said.

Coun. Malby said getting the roads repaired is only a verbal agreement with the Ministry and the town should have it in writing.

"Who do you want the agreement with, answer me that," Mayor Tom Hill said, "you're doing all the complaining. You should have checked with the town engineer first to get some background information. But



**CHARMAINE BIGELOW**  
**Queen to CNE**

Nineteen-year-old Charmaine Bigelow, who was chosen last September as Acton Fair Queen, will be entering the Canadian National Exhibition pageant, "Sweetheart of the Fair", August 17.

"I'll try my best but there are about 90 girls from southern Ontario competing in the pageant and I don't expect to win," Charmaine said Thursday.

She said she has enjoyed her term as Acton Fair Queen.

"I've attended dinners and meetings. It hasn't been hectic, just nice," she said.

A preparation convention for the pageant was held in February at the Royal York, giving the contestants a chance to meet each other, and be briefed on the day's activities.

On August 16 a rehearsal will be held. The girls have been instructed to learn Ontario's song, which Charmaine said she knows. All participants will be interviewed for four to six minutes, walk a short distance on the ramp, and give a three minute speech. Judges mark 40 per cent for the interview, and 60 per cent for appearance, poise, personality and conduct.

The ten finalists will be expected to give a three minute speech on agricultural societies or on Ontario agriculture, which Charmaine admitted she is having difficulty with.

The winner receives \$1,000 and numerous gifts. Second runner-up receives \$300 and third runner-up receives \$200. Miss Congeniality receives \$25.

The pageant is sponsored by the CNE and Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies.

### 8th Line: "Continuous pothole"

Bob Cunningham, spokesman for Eighth Line residents, appeared before works committee Monday for the second time to see if the road, which he described as "one continuous pothole," could be reconstructed.

Town engineer, Bob Austin said the Eighth Line received a treatment of calcium for the third time this year. The reconstruction is scheduled in the budget for 1978 and 1979.

Mr. Cunningham asked if ditches could be cleaned out to alleviate some of the water off the road. Mr. Austin said cleaning out ditches is considered as more than road maintenance and it wouldn't be advisable to repair segments of the road. But, he said, there are some areas where the water could be cleared off and the works department will do what it can.

### Mixed reaction greets proposal

Halton Hills regional councillors have only one thing in common in their reactions to the changes proposed in regional government by Halton's chairman Ric Morrow - they like some parts of his proposals, but not others.

Morrow's recommendations included changes in the method of electing the chairman, in his duties, in the number of regional councillors and in the salary of the chairman.

Mayor Tom Hill found something to disagree with in the very first paragraph of Morrow's recommendations although he prefaced his remarks by saying, "There's a lot of good in it."

Morrow noted that John Roberts, the former premier of Ontario who recently finished a two year study into Metropolitan Toronto, recommended that unlike now, the regional chairman represent his own seat as well as be the chairman, recommendation which Morrow supports.

"There's no way a man can do both jobs," Mayor Hill told The Herald in an interview. "Roberts should know that."

The jobs of the regional councillor and the regional chairman are two completely different functions, the mayor said.

However, Morrow did note in his report that considering the chairman's workload, "it would be irresponsible to expect the chairman to be able to give more than token representation on local council." As well, the chairman might become parochial when he and council needed to have a broad regional outlook.

"He's right," Mayor Hill observed but noted that there appeared to be a contradiction in the chairman's recommendation.

Morrow felt that one of the benefits of having the chairman elected by council yet at the same time retaining his seat would remove the necessity for a by-election. Another is that with a reduced number of regional councillors - 12 or 14 rather than 24 - regional meetings could be held in the evenings, permitting more citizens to participate.

The mayor felt there was a weakness in Morrow's recommendations regarding a candidate who had his eye on the chairman's seat. Such a candidate should tell voters in his ward that he plans to run for the chairman's office, Mayor Hill said. And as for evening meetings, "there's not enough night in the week," he added.

Turning to Morrow's second major recommendation - that the chairman be elected by secret ballot - Mayor Hill said he supported it completely. Bill 151, which created the region of Halton, requires that in voting for chairman, councillors do it by standing in alphabetical order. Such a manner of voting can create long lasting tensions in regional council, Mayor Hill said.

Morrow provided in his report a draft copy of a procedural bylaw to govern the election of the chairman and set up a striking committee. The mayor termed the draft bylaw "perfect", and felt that

instead, the same kind of representation as the former county council, responsible for soft services and some roads.

Coun. Miller said he has great personal respect for Mr. Morrow "...but they're taking

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### Picked Up in Passing



Rudy Tomazic (right) displays his winnings while his cousin Allan holds the prize winning stub.

### Holiday pays off

For 10-year-old Rudy Tomazic of College Street in Georgetown, a visit to his relatives in the United States last week really paid off.

The Tomazic family were visiting relatives in Imperial, Pennsylvania and Rudy's cousin Allan convinced Mrs. Tomazic to buy a \$1 lottery ticket in aid of the Enlow Pony League of the West Allegheny Baseball League for her son. It won his last book of tickets.

Three hours later the family learned to their surprise and joy that Rudy's ticket had won \$250. "He was really happy," Mrs. Tomazic said. The money has been deposited in his Georgetown bank account.

### 5 nurses graduate

Five Georgetown women graduated from Sheridan College, School of Nursing, August 5, along with 110 other graduate nurses. Anagid Bedrian, Lois Cynthia Day, Lee Barbara Motem, Anne Patricia Narey, and Anne Valerie Rieger successfully completed the nursing program.

### 3 receive arts degree

Cheryl Lynne Davies, Joanne Ruth Davies and Elizabeth C. McNeil of Georgetown received their three year Bachelor of Arts degrees from Erindale College, University of Toronto, on June 17 at Convocation Hall at the university. Susan D. Biefer of Norval graduates with a four year Bachelor of Science degree. Robert Dredge of Campbellville received a three year Bachelor of Arts degree.

### 41 head donated

Halton and Peel dairy farmers donated 38 heifers and three bulls to the agricultural station school in Mossoro, Brazil. The cattle left for Miami by truck from Rockwood International Farms in Georgetown, where they were assembled over the weekend. From Miami they will fly to Brazil.

Local farmers donation is the first project of Sending Help and Resources Everywhere Foundation (SHARE) which was incorporated in Peel last year.

Two Milton residents, Hugh and Melba Beaty, left for Mossoro on July 22 and will be in transporting the cattle from FortLazara Airport to Mossoro. The couple will teach students of the school to care for the animals properly. The couple will live in Mossoro for the next two years.

### MP Philbrook to explain

Council has decided to accept Halton MP Frank Philbrook's offer to speak to council on how the federal government is affecting local politics. He will be invited to attend whichever of the next two council meetings best suits his schedule.

For a preview of Acton's downtown face-lift, turn to page 11.