

BETTY STOKES

Councillors' reactions

Cont'd. from Page 1.

away more say from the peo-

Coun. Miller felt that the salaries for regional chairmen are "ridiculous." The job of regional councillor should be like that of county warden, an "honor and not a job," he said. Chairman Morrow has done a good job but it wouldn't have been any better at \$40,000 Coun. Miller said. "The job needs the desire. The salary doesn't matter."

The present number of regional councillors could be cut Coun. Miller said. But everytime you cut, the small municipalities such as Esquesing and Acton get hurt most. "I don't see how you could cut down in the north with only one (councillor) from each ward," he said. "You need someone on regional and local council from your own ward."

Coun. Pat McKenzie said the chairman should be elected from amongst councillors and not replaced, as it was under the county system of government. And provided that a reduced regional council could administer water and sewage without a chargeback system but with a uniform rate across the region, Coun. McKenzie felt a smaller council was a good idea.

Coun. McKenzie noted, however, that county council had a smaller workload than has regional council.

He felt the four mayors should not be on regional coun-

He said that evening meetings would not necessarily work. "It's almost impossible to be a regional councillor unless you own your own business, are a privileged executive who can take time off, as

he himself is, retired, Coun. McKenzie said.

He agreed that Bill L5 151 has to be modified, "We've seen some of its weaknesses." Chairman Morrow is trying to improve the system and his recommendations will start people thinking, Coun, Mc-Kenzie said.

Coun. Mike Armstrong wasn't interested in a regional seat when he ran for office in December but was appointed to the position when Ric Morrow, a last minute, dark-horse candidate, was elected chairman. Coun. Armstrong noted that most of the work done at regional council is at the committee level and there is not a cumbersome number to work

Reducing the total number of regional councillors by the four mayers would not make a big difference at the committee level but might make the chairman's job easier. Coun. Armstrong said.

He felt that reducing the number of councillors from north Halton would hurt Acton the most and as it is, "We don't have enough representation on regional council."

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No time for poetess

"All I need is another 24 hours every day," Betty Stokes says when asked how she finds time to pursue all her activities.

Betty lives on the Sixth Line with her husband Allen, her daughter Debbie 12, and her son Darren 11. Just doing her housekeeping and selling real estate doesn't fill up Betty's spare time, however.

Belty is also a poet. She says she started writing poems when she was 10 or 11 and has been at it ever since. Although most of her poems probably centre around nature and the country way of life, she says she writes about everything. Contrary to the way many modern poets begin, Betty followed some type of rhythm and pattern as she composed her lines. She used different styles depending on what she was trying to convey, but it was not free verse as modern poets describe it, she says.

"I've only started writing free verse in the last year or two," she says. "I find it harder to write that way. It seems easier to get the message across using verses and a more traditional approach."

Betty took a night course in Creative Writing at Sheridan College a couple of years ago but found it did not teach her what she had hoped to learn. The students were a mixed group interest wise. Some wrote poetry while others preferred prose. The instructor seemed to favor free verse and Betty felt rather old-fashioned and awkward with that form, she says.

The stress which she hoped to see on proper structure and good grammer was not taught. Instead she got a lot of encouragement to find a market for her poems. She heard them rend aloud and got feedback on the class reaction to her writing which gave her a more objective view of her abilities, she says.

"People can't understand why I don't do anything with the things I write," she says. "It would be levely to make a living this way, but...." and she smiles.

"I don't need to have my work published to get the satisfaction but of it. If I can communicate my feelings about something or someone else understands what I feel then I'm content.'

Country Estate published her poem, The Auction, which she wrote after her lattier sold his farm and its contents were auctioned. The CBC used it one Sunday morning complete with background music, she says, but she missed it.

Betty also writes short stories, although so far she has not had any of them published.

Gardening is another love with Betty. She grows everything from seed, she says, and gets great pleasure watching the plants grow. She also played piano, organ, drums and guitar, and paints and sketches. She hopes to be able to take flying lessons soon,

"That's where you can really look at thing objectively," she chuckles.

New business on Main St.

Owners of a new business in Georgetown, Dov Clobotaru and Sam Plotzer, intend to sell high quality products at a low. low price.

People's Discount Warehouse, the new store, is located at 72 Main Street, and the grand opening is Friday, August 12.

Mr. Clobotaru said he has been researching how to sell merchandise at a discount price, without going broke - himself, for four years.

"People aren't buying new products the way they used to because they can't afford it," he said.

His system, which is completely honest, allows him to sell clothing, stereo equipment, hardware items - all brand name items - at a price that will compete with other discount stores.

Both partners who are originally from Israel, said they chose Georgetown because it reminds them of their home

town. Although they presently live in Toronto they would like to move to Georgetown.

Plowing match Sept. 27

Plans are underway for the International Plowing Match which will be held at Groelees Bros. farm near Kingston, September 27 until October 1. Flora MacDonald, MP for Kingston and the Islands, will officiate at the ceremonies. Sub-surface drainage has been added to keep the environment as dry as possible. For further information contact E.A. Starr (416) 963-1091.

Varian gets \$19,999 contract

OTTAWA-A federal contract worth \$19,999 has been awarded to Varian Associates Ltd. of Georgetown to provide the defence department with computer maintenance service, the department of supply and services announced last week.

It was one of 263 unclassified contracts worth \$10,000 or more that were awarded by the department to Canadian companies during the week ended July 22. Total value of the contracts amounted to \$19,539,416.



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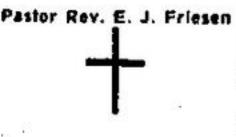
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