

Yaremko, concerned woman plead for trees

A former solicitor-general of Ontario and a concerned Halton woman, both self-confessed lovers of trees, made separate appeals to the regional planning and public works committees last week asking that greater consideration be shown for woodlots and roadside trees.

John Yaremko, a Toronto resident and former solicitor-general for the province, asked the planning committee to revise Halton's nearly-completed official plan so that a certain amount of residential development can take place within designated forest and woodlot areas.

Mr. Yaremko explained that he has invested some 20 years of work into three "major plantations" on land he owns on the Nassagaweya area of north Halton and six years ago decided a 160-acre portion to the region for conservation purposes.

An admitted conservationist himself, he nevertheless advocated "controlled development" of an estate housing nature for some wooded parts of Halton where the region has "a responsibility to plan self-supporting residential areas". Mr. Yaremko suggested a ratio of one residence for each five-acre area as a suitable guideline for the development of woodlots.

Such a ratio, he said, would enable the developer to build homes without altering the appearance of the forest to passers-by. The controlled development of forested areas, Mr. Yaremko pointed out, would ease continuing pressure to develop farmland and can be compensated for through trees planting programs at other suitable sites. By this method, he said, the region can maintain a 20 per cent tree cover and still reach its stated objective of increasing the acreage to 25 per cent.

Mr. Yaremko's presentation was referred to the planning department for further consideration as the official plan undergoes its final inspection. On Wednesday, a similar approach was taken toward an appeal made by Betty Barhydt of Burlington who asked the public works committee to take steps ensuring that regional roads will be lined with trees in the future.

Despite the committee's acceptance of a motion by Oakville Coun. Gord Reade making tree planting and maintenance along regional roads that have been reconstructed or widened.

The committee refused to endorse the suggestion after Coun. Tom Sutherland of Burlington pointed out that such funds cannot be allocated until the budget is considered next spring.

Mrs. Barhydt's appeal bemoaned the current lack and poor condition of trees along Halton's regionally-controlled roads, where she said tax money is being wasted on the planting of trees in "an extremely hostile environment". There have been no attempts to line the roads with trees since the turn of the century, she reported, when provincial legislation encouraged farmers to plant trees by offering a 25-cent per tree incentive grant.

Campbell ends 15-day fast, minister's letter delayed

Rev. Ken Campbell has ended a 15-day fast. Mr. Campbell embarked on the fast to protest a study being conducted by broadcaster Laurier LaPierre into the education of the young child in Ontario.

Mr. Campbell was concerned that the ministry of education was jointly funding the commission in co-operation with four teachers' federations. He objected to a statement by Mr. LaPierre that "the child of Ontario is not a family child, he is an institutional child. It is not the school that is the extension of the home, but the home that is the extension of the school."

He was also concerned that the ministry would encourage, financially and otherwise, the work of the commission when the man heading the commission held such "revolutionary views" of the parent-child relationship. Education Minister Tom Wells wrote Mr. Campbell and handed the letter over to a courier service for personal delivery Aug. 4.

Mr. Campbell late Thursday morning to say the letter, which had not reached Mr. Campbell, had been traced and would be delivered immediately. The letter reached Mr. Campbell Aug. 10.

Mr. Campbell said he had thought the contents of a second letter he had sent to Mr. Wells had been responsible for the delay in Mr. Wells' response, and he had not expected a response before Aug. 10.

Mr. Campbell said he was reassured by Mr. Wells' letter that the ministry is not encouraging "the sort of 'social revolution' apparently being advocated by Mr. LaPierre."

Mr. Wells said in the letter that the funds given to the various teachers' federations were not for the purpose of financially supporting the commission. The grants are to finance certain research projects which the ministry expects will be of use both to the commission and the ministry.

"I stress that these are projects which are of mutual interest to ourselves and to the Federations and which bear on the question of the nature of the background and needs of the young child entering the school system, and on the effectiveness of the response of the school system to those needs," Mr. Wells wrote.

"As for all the educational research funded by this ministry, the reports will be made public and will be quite independent of the report of the commission," he continued. "I hope this information will help you understand the ministry's role and will alleviate your concerns. As I have indicated, I respect the sincerity of those concerns, but I am equally sincere in stating that you are misinterpreting the position of the government and this



SLEIGHT OF HAND

ASTONISHING feats of sleight of hand and chicanery kept the youngsters spellbound at Saturday's muscular dystrophy carnival organized by Steve Rainbow of Irwin Crescent. Here, Kevin Peaker displays his talents at stage magic, one of a number of interesting attractions that enabled 10-year old Steve to raise \$75.16 for muscular dystrophy research and treatment, quite likely a record for the Halton Hills area.

According to his mother, Dianne Rainbow, Steve attended a charity carnival in the neighborhood last year and wouldn't rest until he found the opportunity to organize one of the worthwhile affairs himself. Steve expressed appreciation to about 25 local merchants who donated prizes and articles to sell at the carnival.

Food co-op seminar

Halton Hills Energy Conservation Centre is holding an information and organization meeting Aug. 23 for anyone interested in forming a food co-op in the Georgetown area. A co-op can't compete with supermarkets but it can provide significant savings in produce, dairy products and bulk-purchased foods for its members, organizers say. The meeting in the centre office starts at 7:30 p.m.

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