

Soccer field study is just that—a study

Parks and recreation director Glen Gray says the possible conversion of diamond A at the fairgrounds into one or more soccer fields is at this point just part of analyses being done on the whole recreation situation in Halton Hills.

"Some people have chosen to interpret the situation their own way," Gray said. "It is simply part and parcel of the master plan for all recreation needs in Halton Hills". The master plan is scheduled to be published in October of this year.

Gray said his department and its advisory committee has looked into the possibility of converting diamond A, which is at present being used predominantly for baseball, into one or two soccer fields. The department has also looked into the possibility of construct-

ing a baseball diamond, complete with lights, at the Alcott Arena site.

"There have been no decisions made on the issue," the director said. "Why people have gotten so concerned at this point is beyond me".

Gray said it would be more economically feasible to convert diamond A into soccer field(s) rather than skip one step and leave the diamond as it is and construct the soccer facilities at Alcott.

"The cost of converting diamond A into soccer facilities is not very much," he said. "If only one full-sized field is constructed there the cost would be next to nil".

However, Gray made it clear that his department is not favoring any plan at this point. He said, "At this point we are looking at the analyses being done objectively and waiting for more to be done before any decisions are reached".

He said at this point he has no idea when the analyses will be completed. He did say that he would like new facilities before the soccer and baseball seasons begin next year.

The recreation department has talked to people from the Georgetown Baseball Association and also the various soccer organizations on the facilities issue.

"One concern which has been stated is that having two soccer fields at the fairgrounds may interfere with sports which are going on at the park at the same time," Gray said. "Although we could easily convert diamond A into two soccer fields we are doing analyses to see what the affect it would have on the other sports."

"We want to make a decision which will not be detrimental to any sport," he said. "We want to solve the recreation facilities dilemma and we think the master plan will do that."

LETTER

As spoken

To the editor of The Herald:

Our present socially acceptable spelling is unteachable, mind-stunting, handicapping and deceiving. It stifles common-sense, blocks reading, represses literacy, promotes delinquency, and squanders energy. It impedes typing, obstructs alfabetical voice printing, causes mispronunciation and retards learning.

The 40 sounds in English have more than 500 different spellings. Each vowel sound has an average of 18 different spellings. English spelling is malignant lawless, erratic, mal-evolved, pseudo-historical antiquated and time-wasting. You are invited to join the efforts to revise the current conventional spelling with sound spelling.

Mr. K. Tillema
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Ontario.

Pleased to hear of Ford's move

By JULIAN REED, M.P.P.

(Halton-Burlington)

We were, of course, all pleased to learn this week that Ontario has been selected as the site for a new Ford Motor Company engine plant, which will employ 2,600 people and produce in excess of \$60 million in taxes each year.

You will remember that a special debate took place in the Legislature on the last day of the session. The Minister of Industry and Tourism had informed us of the negotiations which had been taking place with respect to location of this new \$335 million plant. Ford had been offered considerable financial incentive to locate the facility in the U.S. and the Canadian Government had recommended that an incentive be offered to persuade the company to locate in this country - an incentive to be financed jointly by the Federal Government and the Government of Ontario.

The Ford Motor company had originally wanted \$30 million and the Federal Government had expressed a willingness to pay three-quarters of that cost, provided the Government of Ontario paid one-quarter. While the Ontario Government was deciding how to proceed, the Federal Government offered the entire \$30 million itself. However, the Ford Company increased the required amount to \$75 million, and the Federal Government subsequently proposed that Ontario and Ottawa pay \$37.5 million each.

Announcing the location of the plant in Ontario, the Premier indicated that this \$75 million figure had, during discussions between Federal, Provincial and Ford officials, been modified to \$68 million - the figure which was eventually offered and accepted. Of this total, the Federal Government had agreed to contribute \$40 million and the Ontario Government the remaining \$28 million, equivalent to approximately a 60-40 sharing agreement.

While the establishment of this new facility will create some 2,600 new jobs directly when it becomes fully operational, it is also estimated that there will be a further 2,600 jobs in feeder industries. The annual payroll in the Ford plant will be approximately \$65 million, with a similar amount generated in the feeder companies. The construction industry will benefit from the 18-24 months construction phase.

In making the decision to locate in Ontario, Ford Motor Company chose to ignore powerful U.S. protests. Senior American officials also protested to the Canadian Government about this country's cash incentives offered to obtain more auto industry jobs. The officials were in Ottawa for discussions on the subject of the 13-year-old Auto Pact which, with exceptions, provides for free trade in parts and vehicles

between Canada and the United States. Canada suffered a \$1-billion trade deficit on the arrangement last year, and former Deputy Finance Minister Simon Reisman, who led the team which negotiated the Auto Pact, has been appointed to review it.

There has, as you know, been considerable discussion about the Auto Pact recently. This is because the industry is expected to experience investment of an estimated \$60-billion over the next decade. Decisions now being taken will affect the manner in which this investment will be divided between the two countries.

During the last-day debate in the Legislature, Liberal Leader Stuart Smith argued that Ontario should take the necessary action to secure location of the Ford plant here, even though this would be, in effect, submitting to "blackmail". As he pointed out, in a letter to the Prime Minister of Canada at that time, "The economy of Ontario and of Canada is heavily dependent upon a healthy and modernized automobile industry and it is clear that we are in great need of this half-billion dollar facility which would create 2,600 jobs. Furthermore, the fact that incentive arrangements have been offered by the Federal Government for a General Motors plant to locate in Quebec is being well publicized in Ontario and it is felt only fair that the same terms of assistance be made available in this province where, even in many areas of Southern Ontario, unemployment is at least as high as it is in the Province of Quebec."

This new Ford project in Ontario is considered to be a significant component of the enormous investment programs which are to be undertaken by the automotive industry in North America with the intention of producing a new generation of lightweight energy-efficient automobiles.

Hopefully, location of this new plant in Ontario will result in further expansion of automotive facilities in the Province. Hopefully, the federal-provincial approach to assisting Ford Motor Company will lead to an over-all automotive investment plan. The Ontario Government has indicated its willingness to work together with the Federal Government and the other provinces to develop a well-defined program, and has urged Ottawa to give this matter the highest priority.

The Premier has expressed the belief that: "While there may be those who question the principle of governments providing direct financial incentives, to large and profitable corporations, this must be weighed against the ongoing social and economic benefits of increased primary and secondary employment and improvement in municipal, provincial and federal tax revenues."

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