

New meeting wanted by Halton region

Halton region chairman Ric Morrow and the mayors of Halton's four member municipalities will seek a meeting with the new provincial minister of intergovernmental affairs, Thomas Wells, to discuss Mr. Wells' "disappointing" response to the region's appeal for changes in local government.

In a letter to Mr. Morrow, Mr. Wells commented briefly on each of the 11 suggestions and requests compiled earlier this year by Halton's Bill 151 Review Committee, which was appointed by council to examine the workings of regional government after four years and to outline possible improvements.

Upon reading Mr. Wells' four-page response to the committee's comprehensive analysis of regional government, however, some council members were angry and frustrated that the committee's efforts seemed to have had little impact upon Queen's Park.

"It appears the minister has superficially gone over our lengthy report," Milton Coun. Jim Watson said. "I move we reform the Bill 151 review committee to deal with his response."

PERSONAL REACTION
Milton Mayor Don Gordon wanted Halton to prepare a more personal reaction to Mr. Wells' assessment of its situation, though, and asked Mr. Morrow to visit the ministry

along with the four mayors to discuss the matter at length. Oakville Coun. Carl Eriksen pointed out that such a meeting was requested by Halton in June. Four months later, he said, the region receives this "disappointing response" that shows no willingness on the minister's part to consider making any changes in the structure of regional government, as had been promised earlier.

"The minister's letter is very clear," Coun. Pat McLaughlin on Burlington stated. "He's saying, 'thanks, but no thanks.'"

Mr. Morrow assured council he will ask Mr. Wells to arrange a meeting with Halton officials as soon as possible.

In his response to the region's brief, Mr. Wells refused to consider three of the 11 recommendations, choosing instead to stand by existing legislation. The other recommendations are either already under consideration, could be implemented or, in one case, has been implemented.

Following are some of Mr. Wells' comments on the specific recommendations:

Constitution of area municipalities - Mr. Wells expressed confusion over the intent of the region's suggestion concerning municipal boundaries in Halton and requested further information.

Election of chairman by secret ballot - the minister cited

public accountability as his reason for upholding existing legislation which requires council members to elect their chairman openly.

COUNCIL VACANCIES
Vacancies on council - Mr. Wells simply quoted the Ontario Municipal Act, which grants regional councils the right to fill vacancies by election or appointment. Area councils, he added, can also consider special by-elections for the same purpose.

Four proposals for regional roads, planning, the delegation of minister's powers, the committee of adjustment and land division - presently under evaluation, with a cabinet decision expected in the near future.

Stopping up highways - Mr. Wells has requested further information concerning the region's request to have the present 60-day time limit reduced to 30 days for regional objections to be filed against plans to close off area municipal roads.

Composition of police commission - Mr. Wells rejected the proposal to increase area municipal authority in police matters.

Water, sewers, storm drainage, entry onto highways - while seemingly hesitant to consider changes already rejected by his predecessor, Darcy McKeough, Mr. Wells suggested that "co-operative consultation between the respective municipal bodies is desirable".

YEARLY ESTIMATES
Yearly estimates - Mr. Wells recommended the same approach toward the submission of annual needs estimates to Queen's Park, with a deadline of Apr. 1 as proposed by the region.

Regional objections to area municipal signs - the minister prefers to have local municipalities within the region resolve their own issues of posting highway signs.

Elderly persons centres act - the region's desire to have Halton deemed a municipality for purposes under the act has already been accommodated under recent provincial legislation, according to Mr. Wells.

Public Utilities Commissions - Mr. Wells reported that restructuring studies are underway in several centres across the province, but the study intended for Halton is apparently having difficulty getting off the ground. If this is the case, the minister said, the study could be referred to Ontario Hydro and the ministry for further consideration.

What's In A Name
"What's your name?" the new teacher asked a young lad on the first day of school.

"Julie," he replied. "Not Julie," the teacher maintained. "Don't use contractions. Your name is Julius."

Naturally when the teacher asked the next boy what his name was, he replied matter-of-factly: "Billious."



TRIP WINNERS

The winners of the Georgetown Hospital Auxiliary's free trip to the Bahamas draw, held at the recent Georgetown Fall Fair were on hand last Friday night to collect their prize at Cochrane Travel in the Moore Park Plaza. (From left to right) Hospital Auxiliary member, Jean MacDonald congratulates winners Hans and Elizabeth Buscher as Ed Cochrane looks on. The Buschers have won an all expenses paid, one week holiday in the Bahamas for their one dollar lottery ticket investment. The Auxiliary purchased one of the trip tickets while Cochrane Travel donated the other. The Buschers plan to take their holiday in November.

Acton homes

Ontario Housing Corporation (OHC) has awarded the contract for Acton's senior citizen apartments to J.P. Ducharme Homes Ltd. of RR1, Dashwood Ontario.

The \$799,420 bid presented by Ducharme Homes is still subject to approval of the provincial and federal government, says Sam Carr, an OHC spokesman.

OHC hopes that construction on the 2 1/2 storey, 52 unit structure can begin with four to five weeks but explain that this will depend largely on the contractor and the weather. Given a starting date of mid-November Mr. Carr estimates that the Elizabeth Drive building will be ready for occupancy "by this time next year".

Investigation "is not unusual"

Three officers from the Ontario Police Commission (OPC) were to begin investigating the adequacy and efficiency of the operation of the Halton Regional Police force yesterday morning, but no reports will be completed for at least two months because crime statistics are compiled monthly, said the OPC chairman.

Judge Thomas Graham said that there was nothing uncommon about the OPC having to conduct such an investigation and added that the commission has seven such investigations going on at the present time.

"As you know we were asked to look at the force by the crown attorney," Judge Graham said. "He has complained about the way they prepare charge information sheets for court evidence so we'll be looking at the work load for the whole force. We'll see if they're too busy, check their training, study their record system, their communication system, and the information centre. It'll be at least two months before the report is completed and ready to be released."

It is only coincidence that the Halton Police Commission chairman came under fire at

the same time as the launching of an investigation of the force, he says.

The commission has definitely not been asked to look at the workings of the Halton Police Commission.

"That would be beyond our jurisdiction," he explains. "The solicitor General would investigate that if he felt it was necessary. He'd send in OPP (Ontario Provincial Police) investigators to do the job."

While the solicitor-general's announcement that Halton Police Commission chairman William Hourigan will be replaced came as "a bit of a surprise" to Judge Graham, he expects the post will be filled by the time Mr. Hourigan's appointment runs out Oct. 31.

"I'm sure he'll find a replacement by the end of the month," said the judge. "You can't stop the \$7 million business."

It would not be impossible to operate without a replacement however, he said, and points to places like London which regularly has a three-man commission.

Judge William Warrander resigned from the Halton Police Commission in June and has not yet been replaced.

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Georgetown man guilty of fraud

A Georgetown man has been fined \$8,000 in provincial court after pleading guilty to three counts of tax evasion.

Federal prosecutor Heather Smith asked Judge John Robinson to make a public example of Roland Sparling, 83 Mountainview Rd. north, for failing to report \$60,000 worth of income he earned between 1970 and 1975.

Mr. Sparling was convicted Wednesday in Oakville and given six months to pay a \$8,218 fine, representing the amount he owes the government in taxes. Judge Robinson stipulated a six-month jail sentence if Mr. Sparling fails to meet the requirement on time. Mrs. Smith told the court

that Mr. Sparling operated "a fairly sophisticated scheme" during the years when he was employed as an aircraft engineer, both on salary and under contract, at airports in Kitchener and Toronto. She said he persuaded some of his employers to keep no records of their payments to him. Those who could not be persuaded were unaware that Mr. Sparling claimed deductions on his income tax returns substantial enough to warrant undeserved rebates.

Mrs. Smith asked Judge Robinson to impose a stiff fine in order to alert all taxpayers of the importance in filing regular and accurate income tax returns.

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