

Final meeting Region's meeting wraps up term

By PAUL DORSEY
Herald staff writer

Haltion region's newly-completed headquarters on Highway 25 just north of the Queen Elizabeth Way in Oakville provided the spacious setting for the final meeting of the 1977-78 regional council last Wednesday, at which departing members, including Haltion Hills Mayor Tom Hill and Coun. Pat McKenzie, received token gifts from their chairman.

Regional chairman Ric Morrow of Georgetown, who is himself leaving the post he has occupied for the past two years, presented 11 council members with rings bearing the region's coat of arms and invited each to say a few words about past achievements and future ambitions.

Mr. Morrow told council that two nights earlier he had been on hand at the campaign headquarters of Pete Pomeroy, Haltion Hills' new mayor, when defeated incumbent Mayor Tom Hill arrived to congratulate the victor of a hard-fought battle.

SILENCE FELL

So "distinguished" was Mayor Hill in conceding defeat and advising the mayor-elect to carry the town's name high at regional council meetings, Mr. Morrow recalled, that a silence fell upon the many Pomeroy supporters in the room as Mayor Hill left. All suddenly realized that a successful and valuable 12-year career in local politics had come to an abrupt end and were appropriately respectful, the chairman said.

Mr. Morrow chuckled as he described himself and Mayor Hill as "adversaries" on the old Haltion County council, when they served as the reeves of Georgetown and Esquesing, respectively. Any conflicts of old only provided the foundation for a long-standing friendship based on respect that continued on Haltion Hills and Haltion regional councils, he observed.

Mayor Hill assured council that he will "wear the regional ring proudly," as he does his county ring.

"I've had a pretty good time here for the past five years," he said, "so don't be too surprised if you see me back here sometime."

"Regional government brought about a great many changes in Haltion," Mr. Morrow continued. "Perhaps the change was greatest in Haltion

Hills, if any of you think it was easy bringing together three separate staffs, three identities and three communities - one of which is entirely rural - it certainly wasn't."

In saying so, the chairman handed a ring to Coun. McKenzie, a former Acton school principal who decided last month to withdraw from regional council and was then unsuccessful in gaining a seat on Haltion Hills council. His place at the region will be filled by Acton merchant Ed Wood.

HIGHS, LOWS

Coun. McKenzie commented that he had enjoyed both "the highs and lows" of his eight years in municipal politics, adding gratitude for the new regional headquarters by joking that he would like to consider everything north of the QEW "north Haltion".

"I wish you every success in making Haltion one of the best regions in Ontario," he told his colleagues who will be remaining.

Commemorative rings were also presented to Burlington Mayor Mary Munro, who will draw a prize from the political scene and will be replaced by new Mayor Roly Bird. Burlington councillors Ben Ciprietti, Don Carter and Tom Suttlerland, Oakville councillors Archie Donaghy, Carl Eriksen and Gord Reade and councillors Jim Watson and Jim Kerr of Milton.

In their acceptance remarks all were generally relaxed and light-hearted in their observations, although several councillors alluded to highly-contentious issues of the past four years that came close to dividing the region politically and ideologically. But even Coun. Eriksen, a consistently harsh critic of regional government, offered his best wishes to those who will continue trying to "make it work," assuming, he said, that regional government is indeed "here to stay."

Coun. Watson, who was unsuccessful for his bid for re-election, announced his intention to travel and write his memoirs as "My Political Decade." He will be replaced on council by former provincial NDP candidate Bill Johnson of Nassagaweya.

A LITTLE BEAUTY

"I believe you should try and find a little beauty in everything," Coun. Watson joked. "You just have to try a little harder to find the beauty in

defeat (at the polls). The beauty of it is that I won't have to come here again."

The mood became more serious as chairman Morrow recounted council's achievements during its just-completed term. History, he said, will recognize the 1977-78 regional council for those achievements.

Mr. Morrow cited the region's new department of business development, headed by "efficient and dedicated" Bill Marshall, the new official plan the new headquarters, the shifting of responsibility for the Haltion Board of Health, five new or expanded sewage treatment plants and the Bailie Reservoir, a "better" legal department, new procedural bylaws and the move toward uniform sewer and water rates a move which he said is intended to finally make all Haltion residents "citizens of one community."

The chairman acknowledged that council's resolution to establish a major landfill site in rural Milton was easily "the most difficult decision" of the past two years, one which "caused more ill feelings" among council members than any other issue.

RIGHT DECISION

"I firmly believe council made the right decision," Mr. Morrow asserted.

Mr. Morrow also thanked the region's "extremely competent, capable, willing and efficient staff" for their service to him and his council. He expressed hope that "someday" the true story of their extensive efforts and the many hours they put in will be told.

The new 1979-80 council will assemble for the first time Nov. 29 at the new headquarters. The meeting is intended primarily as a "get-acquainted" session.

Along with Haltion Hills' new representatives, Mayor Pete Pomeroy and Coun. Ed Wood, Haltion Hills' regional veterans Roy Booth, Russ Miller and Mike Armstrong will be, from Milton, Bill Johnson and Gus Goutouski, both newcomers to municipal politics; from Oakville, McLean Anderson, Ron Planché and Laurie Mannell, all re-elected, with newcomers Terry Mannell, Bonnie Brown and Carol Gooding; and from Burlington, incumbents Jack Rafitis, Pat McLaughlin, Walter Mulkevich and Vern Connell, with Ted McDonald, David LaCombe, Steve Toth and Jim Grieve.



GOOD EATIN' AT ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH BAZAAR

Roger Alehin (left) and younger brother Stephen dug in to the baked goodies being served at St. George's Church in Georgetown's bazaar held last Saturday. The young lads seem happy with the quality of the grub.

(Herald photo)

OMB hearing proceeds on Jehovah's Witnesses centre

A Georgetown landowner whose property abuts the proposed site of a national administration headquarters for the Jehovah's Witnesses failed to recruit town council's support Monday night to have an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing into the project postponed.

Sid Heller informed council that he would be appealing to the OMB at the outset of his hearing yesterday (Tuesday) for an adjournment, based on his contention that insufficient time was allowed for objectors to the project to prepare their submissions for the OMB prior to the hearing date.

Scheduled to commence yesterday morning in Toronto, the hearing was to appraise objections by at least two neighboring landowners to the proposal by the International Bible Society to build a massive administration complex, complete with a 136-room dormitory for on-site employees and students. The site is located off Highway 7 in the Moore Park area of Georgetown.

OPTION EXPIRES

Pointing out that the Association's option to purchase the site was to expire Oct. 31, Mr. Heller acknowledged that the Association had reason to try and expedite the approval process for its proposal prior to a preliminary OMB hearing Oct.

26. At that time, the OMB ruled that objections to the proposal warranted a full hearing and rejected a motion by the town and Association to dispense with the usual hearing.

As a result of that decision, Mr. Heller said, the Association is no longer facing any "economic pressure" to move quickly on the project and the town can take time to review what he called the "very weighty matters" involved in the proposal.

"(The Association) will need a number of certificates before they can continue anyway," he said. "It probably be another six months or so before the approvals can be obtained, so a postponement over the winter can't really hurt anyone."

"I don't know why the town should ask for an adjournment after we've already supported the project," Mayor Tom Hill responded, reminding council that two municipal staff members and the town's solicitor have been directed to attend the OMB hearing.

Determining that Mr. Heller planned to attend the hearing regardless of council's decision regarding his request, Coun. Roy Booth asked the landowners whether they would be prepared to make his presentation to the OMB even if his motion for adjournment was denied.

UNDER PROTEST

"Yes, I will be forced to, but it will be under protest," Mr. Heller answered.

Coun. Pomeroy asked Mr. Heller why he was appearing before council for the first time at "such a late date," pointing out that council had endorsed the Association's proposal in principle months before.

"I don't understand the procedure," Mr. Heller said, "or else I would have been here before. I found things just snowballed and now I find myself facing an OMB hearing. There are one or two councillors who agree that there is sufficient reason for having an adjournment. It's a common courtesy. I see from council records it's done often with no fuss."

Coun. Booth informed Mr. Heller that he had checked with municipal and OMB staff about allegations the landowner had apparently made in a telephone conversation with Coun. Booth Sunday evening.

"I found out that there are absolutely no grounds for your allegation that insufficient notice was given," Coun. Booth reported.

PROJECT'S STATUS

In the ensuing discussion, assistant planning director Brian Kroff clarified misunderstandings of the status of the Jehovah's Witnesses project and told council that the

proposal conforms to the official plan and, as such, requires no planning amendments. Nor is a public hearing necessitated, he said.

Mr. Heller claimed that Coun. Booth had told him the opposite, but stressed that he was not trying to place blame for the apparent oversight on any individual's shoulders.

When Mayor Hill quoted from a letter written by Mr. Heller to the town, in which he announced his objection to a "proposed change in zoning," Mr. Heller conceded that he had changed his mind about the target for his objections.

"I think we've all been treated very shabbily," Mr. Heller's wife told council. "We received a notice that (the Association) was trying to bypass an open hearing and rushed down to the OMB like babes in the woods not knowing what was going on. The OMB took note of our concerns and thought they had merit."

Coun. Booth challenged Mrs. Heller's assertion that the OMB is required by law to give all affected parties at least 30 days' notice of forthcoming hearings. While the practice is "normal procedure" for the OMB, he said, there is no binding legislation to that effect.

Coun. Pat McKenzie contended that the OMB's willingness to stage a hearing on the proposal is evidence of its desire to hear objections. He acknowledged that the OMB's decision to call the hearing "so soon" could itself prompt objections, but observed that a delay in the hearing process would in turn create hardships for the Association.

There were no resolutions asking council to endorse Mr. Heller's request and, as a result, the matter was not discussed further.

Booth challenges bylaw approval

Haltion Hills' "lame duck" council approved three bylaws at its final meeting involving the transfer of property, a move which contravenes municipal law, according to Coun. Roy Booth, who opposed all three bylaws in a recorded vote he requested.

Clerk-administrator Ken Richardson advised council Monday night that the Ontario Municipal Act does not specifically rule out decisions on financial or property matters being made by any council at its final meetings following an election. He added that the bylaws before council are the product of earlier council decisions and approval simply represents their ratification.

Coun. Booth maintained, however, that a council which fails to retain at least 10 of its members in a municipal election, as is the case in Haltion Hills, cannot legally deal with financial or property items. He suggested that the third and final reading of the three bylaws should be referred to the incoming council.

QUIT CLAIM

At stake were Bylaw 78-95, authorizing the execution of a Quit Claim deed by which Haltion region assumes control of a walkway on Egan Crescent in Georgetown formerly in the town's possession; Bylaw 78-96, dedicating a parcel of land on the Tench Line as a municipal road allowance; and Bylaw 78-94, which dedicates Park Avenue in Acton as a municipal road allowance.

Councillors Mike Armstrong and Pat McKenzie, whose names endorsed the resolution to give the bylaws the necessary third reading, refused to have the bylaws withdrawn at Coun. Booth's suggestion.

Coun. Pete Pomeroy expressed concern that the delaying of at least one of the bylaws could create a hardship for an affected property owner who is hoping to expedite the purchase of a parcel of land. He stated his willingness to "take a chance" in the buyer's interest.

Coun. McKenzie similarly pointed out that holding up approval for Bylaw 78-94 would

"break faith" with those involved since council had already stated its intention to complete the bylaw processing by Monday night. Coun. Booth agreed with Coun. McKenzie and initially offered to support Bylaw 78-94. Mr. Richardson admitted that there is "no rush" to approve the other two bylaws.

In the recorded votes requested by Coun. Booth on each bylaw, all three were approved. Coun. Booth opposed each one in turn and was joined by Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson in opposing Bylaw 78-95. Councillors Walter Biehn and Pat Patterson were absent from the meeting.

Among the spectators on hand, however, were three of the four men who will help form the town's new council next month. Ed Wood, Ross Knechtel and Harry Levy watched in silence as the 1977-78 council made its final decisions.

\$4,000 damage in collision

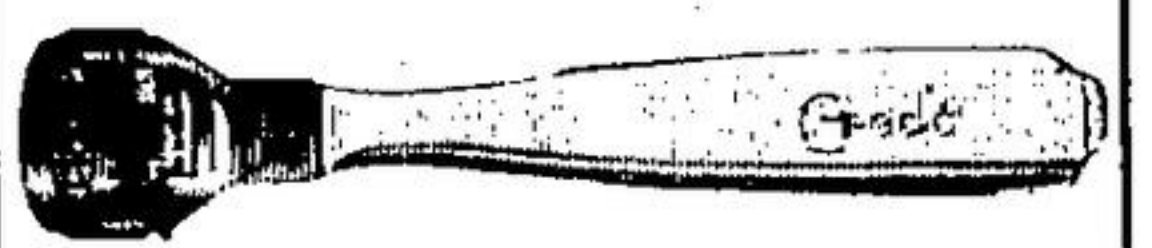
Damage was estimated at \$4,000 to two cars involved in a collision at the intersection of Windsor Road and Guelph Street.

A car driven by Terrence Lane, 31, of Toronto, was stopped at a red light on Windsor Road, when a van, driven by Charles Kidd, 25, of Woodbridge, struck the car in the rear.

Damage to the car was estimated at \$3,500. The van suffered \$500 damage.

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REGION FAREWELL

Retiring regional chairman Ric Morrow presents a commemorative ring to Mayor Tom Hill, on whose council he served for three years prior to his election as chairman of regional council. The presentation took place at last Wednesday's regional council meeting, when the 1977-78 council had its first and last opportunity to meet in Haltion's brand new headquarters. Also presented with a ring was departing Ward 1 Coun. Pat McKenzie. At left is Burlington Mayor Mary Munro, who chose not to seek re-election to a second term. The chairs occupied on regional council by Mayor Hill and Mayor Munro will be filled next week by mayors-elect Pete Pomeroy of Haltion Hills and Roly Bird of Burlington. (Herald photo)

Most Destructive
The most common rat species in the United States—the Norway rat—is considered by many experts to be the most destructive mammal on earth.

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Annual General Meeting

28th NOVEMBER, 1978
7:30 P.M.

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SPEAKER: JOHN McDERMID

Happy Birthday,
Dad

From Larry

1904 MARTIN

Co-ordinator named for Acton, Esquesing

Jennifer Linton, a native of Georgetown, has been appointed to the position of recreation co-ordinator for Acton and Esquesing.

Miss Linton replaced Karen King, who has taken a position with the Ontario government. She began work in her position on October 30, but Miss Linton has worked with the recreation department before. She was a playground supervisor for three years while she was at Georgetown District High School. She is

also involved in gymnastics in Haltion Hills, and is qualified to coach and judge in the sport.

Miss Linton said she is hoping to meet with all the sports people in Wards 1 and 2 to discuss the kind of assistance the recreation department can provide their activities. She said since she is relatively new, she doesn't want to make any drastic changes in existing programs, until she meets the people and learns what is available in the area.

As a recreation co-ordinator, Miss Linton will be responsible for the publishing of activities brochures for winter and summer, booking recreation facilities, getting personnel to assist people who want to run their own activities, and helping community groups with activities and projects.

Miss Linton has a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology (the study of human movement) from the University of Waterloo.

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