

Water reports discussed

Bureaucratic buzz-words attacked at region

By PAUL DORSEY
Herald staff writer

A heated debate on the semantics of bureaucracy surrounded some angry remarks about the value of 21 consultants' reports being prepared for Halton regional council last week.

Council members spent much of their meeting last Wednesday debating the comparative suitability of the terms "accepted" and "adopted", which were being juggled in a public works committee recommendation before council.

The recommendation was ultimately sent back to the committee for further consideration.

A series of reports on

groundwater supplies, existing sewer and water systems in the area municipalities and the estimated costs of improvements needed to serve future population growth have been prepared for the committee by consulting engineers, complete with alternative proposals for action.

GOVERNMENT PLOY

Milton Mayor Don Gordon called the reports a type of provincial government ploy aimed at controlling Halton's future development. The various costs listed in the reports, he charged, are so high in some cases that regional council would not even consider implementing such programs.

With financial contributions from the province, the region

has commissioned thousands of dollars worth of consultants' reports, all of which were initially recommended for "adoption" by council, followed by their utilization as guidelines for future planning by regional staff.

Concerns shared by public works committee members, however, produced an amended recommendation which advised council to simply "accept" the reports. Some councillors who are not committee members agreed that the term "adopt" may be interpreted to mean that council is sanctioning one or more of the expensive proposals contained within the reports.

Regional solicitor Dennis Perlin then persuaded both the

committee and council to again change the recommendations so that the word "adopt" figures prominently.

He explained that the term carries more weight at hearings before the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) and in courts of law, implying to hearing officers that regional council firmly supports the report's contents.

MONTHS ARGUING

Mr. Perlin reminded council that he and his staff spent three months arguing about council's intentions for an Oakville development proposal before the OMB, largely because council has had merely "accepted" a pertinent report.

Public works committee chairman Ron Planche of Oakville agreed with Mr. Perlin's appraisal of the situation, pointing out that council would have ample opportunity to consider the implications of the reports once their individual contents have been sifted and consolidated by regional staff.

"We're heading for one, big master servicing plan that will approximate the policies of our official plan," Coun. Planche said. "You will have further opportunity to accept or reject the recommendations you see here."

Councillors Carol Gooding of Oakville and Ted McDonald of Burlington, among others, maintained that the terms "receive," "endorse" or

"accept" serve equally well to demonstrate council's intentions for such preliminary investigative reports.

Oakville Coun. Terry Mannell charged that the reports proposed "multi-million dollar extravaganzas that we won't even be considering" and warned against applying "standardized language" by habit to such "disparate reports".

Mayor Gordon cited one recommendation in the R.V. Anderson Associates Ltd. report regarding sewage collection in Acton as an example of the astronomical cost of some of the proposals. One of several suggestions for meeting Acton's future sewage treatment

demand, the mayor recalled, involves piping the effluent from Acton south to Lake Ontario, using a pumping station at the midway point. The estimated cost of the project, according to the consultants' report, is \$43 million.

SPEAK FOR ITSELF

"Halton Hills can speak for itself," he said, "but Milton doesn't want any part of any projects that cost that much."

Mr. Perlin argued that the terminology he was suggesting does not constitute "rubber-stamping" as Coun. Mannell had suggested, but a majority of councillors voted to have the matter reconsidered by the public works committee.

In a recorded vote, Halton

Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy and councillors Ed Wood and Russ Miller, Burlington Mayor Roly Bird and councillors Pat McLaughlin and Walter Mulke-wich and Oakville councillors Planche and McLean Anderson voted in favor of the recommendation as presented last week.

Those supporting a deferral included Halton Hills Coun. Roy Booth. His colleague, Coun. Mike Armstrong, was absent from the meeting.

Coun. Mannell speculated that the committee may now be able to apply both terms where applicable to the six reports currently before council, recommending "adoption" for three of the reports and "acceptance" for three others.

Summer feeling at Sunday concert

By LORI TAYLOR
Herald staff writer

The Georgetown Choral Society and the Acton Citizens' Band Sunday evening concert had the feel of a summer Sunday evening in the park, with people stretched out on the grass listening to the band and singing along with familiar melodies.

The title of the concert may have been "Spring Song-Spring Wind", but the feeling was summer, although Holy Cross Church would not be said to even remotely resemble a bandshell.

This is not the first time the band and the choral society have performed together, and hopefully it won't be the last time. In some cases, combining music and song causes one or the other performance to be diminished, but this was not the case Sunday evening.

The two groups jointly performed a number of songs and each took its share in the spotlight. From the opening of the concert with a grand and glorious version of "O Canada" to the finale, an equally grand and glorious version of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic", the concert kept a steady pace.

DANNY BOY

The selection of songs for the program was good with some family tunes, such as "Londonderry Air", also known as "Danny Boy", "Dry Bones" and "Nobody Knows" were mingled with other less familiar songs. Dale Wood, conductor of the choral society, displayed his known fondness for the works of composer Vaughan Williams by including three of his songs on the program.

The only fault which might be found in the program was the looseness of the theme. The songs were performed beautifully by both the choral society and the band, but the

evening seemed to lack unity. The spring theme in the title was not totally reflected in the selection of songs.

The Acton Citizens' band, conducted by Dr. George Elliott, played several marches, and a selection of tunes from the musical "Carousel". The addition of the band during "O Canada", "Sine Nomine" and "The Battle Hymn" was a real asset to the concert.

Highlights of the evening were the "Dry Bones", "Sing a Rainbow" and "Londonderry Air". "Dry Bones" was performed in a lively fashion, and people all over the audience were nodding their heads and tapping their feet in time to the music.

JELLO SONG

"Sing a Rainbow" might be more familiar to the television generation as the music for one of the old Jello commercials, but in its original form, it is a pretty, melodic piece. Some of the audience who were more familiar with the commercial version might have found themselves hearing different words as the music went along, but whatever words the audience heard, they enjoyed the song just the same.

"Londonderry Air" is always good for a tear or two, and a few sniffles could be heard from the audience as the words died away.

The audience reaction through the evening was warm and appreciative for both groups, and the concert concluded with a standing ovation, which increased when Dr. Elliott and Mr. Wood shook hands, and then held their arms aloft.

Both the Georgetown Choral Society and the Acton Citizens' Band will be performing at Summerfest June 2 at Acton High School.

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