

Frequently cautioned

NEC planning director resigns

By SIGNE BALL, Herald special
Don Taylor, director of planning for the Niagara Escarpment Commission, has resigned. The Herald learned Thursday.

Mr. Taylor left his post last Monday following discussions with commission chairman J. V. McMullin over escarpment planning procedures and progress.

"I had a feeling we weren't getting along fast enough," Mr. McMullin said in an interview.

The commission's proposed plan, second stage in the development of a master plan for the escarpment, was scheduled for completion in May, but "There were two or three meetings where we didn't seem to get anything accomplished," Mr. McMullin said.

"Commission members weren't getting the type of material they felt they

should," he said. "Decisions weren't being made."

Mr. McMullin admitted commission members themselves may have contributed to the delay.

"There was a little fault on both sides," he said.

Mr. Taylor was on holiday and could not be reached for comment today.

PAST MONTHS
For the past few months commission members and planning staff have been hammering out a revised plan that will reduce the 18 basic and overlay designations of the commission's preliminary proposals to just four basic designations.

Mr. Taylor has frequently cautioned commission members in recent months about straying from their mandate to preserve a natural corridor along the 450-mile "Giant's Rib" of the escarpment, stret-

ching from Niagara Gorge to Tobermory.

However, Mr. McMullin said the commission members did not feel Mr. Taylor had been overly stringent in his recommendations.

Mr. McMullin said Mr. Taylor would not be replaced immediately, if at all.

The planning staff has been reorganized into several committees of four or five people, each of which will answer to commission director Gerald Coffin, Mr. McMullin said.

The committees will deal with such topics as mapping, development policies and gravel mining, he said.

Mr. Coffin has set a new deadline of Aug. 15 for completion of the proposed plan, though "even he admits that may not be possible," Mr. McMullin said.

Taylor was hired by the commission on a contract basis from the provincial treasury

department, with whom he will continue to be employed, Mr. McMullin said.

SECOND DIRECTOR
Mr. Taylor is the second director of planning to resign from the commission.

He replaced Terence Priddle in September, 1977. Priddle was chief architect of the preliminary proposals, though he resigned before the proposals were published in February, 1978.

According to Mr. McMullin, Mr. Priddle offered no explanation for his resignation.

"I think he felt he had gone as far as he could," Mr. McMullin said.

Since publication the preliminary proposals have been surrounded by a storm of controversy and have been vehemently opposed in all or part by a number of ratepayers organizations and municipal governments along the escarpment.

The proposed plan is being prepared in response to objections and comments of various interested groups and affected municipalities.

However, CONE (Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment)

an umbrella organization with 500,000 members in nine conservation groups, now accuses the commission of arbitrarily and drastically reducing its own mandate to the detriment of effective preservation of the escarpment.

NEW TRIBE FORMED FOR CANADA DAY

In honour of Canada Day a new tribe has been created. The LOP-I-HO Tribe. On Sunday, July 1st the LOP-I-HO Tribe will be out in full regalia to lead the inhabitants of Limehouse and surrounding area in the celebration of Canada Day. Come and enjoy the festivities, sponsored by the Limehouse Women's Institute. There will be a parade, music, short speeches, exhibits, games, good times and a community potluck picnic. It all starts at Limehouse School at 3 p.m. on July 1st.



WING POWER

Sarah Fenske has wings and pedal power, but she's not going to take off. Sarah was one of the contestants in the Airedale Court Party parade. There were also prizes for other competitions, such as baking and handicrafts. The children watched movies and the adults danced later in the evening.

(Herald photo)

Agreement OK for seniors home

Herald special
Halton Hills general committee agreed Tuesday to enter a standard agreement with the ministry of community and social services to regulate admission to the senior citizens' complex being built on Elizabeth Drive.

The committee earlier had a request for a two year residency requirement in the agreement sent back by the ministry.

The ministry told committee that if the agreement were to be changed for Halton Hills it would have to be changed across the province.

Halton Hills council was originally faced with a recommendation which would have accepted the agreement but requested a separate two year residency requirement.

POINT SYSTEM
The ministry already has a built in residency requirement in the point system it uses to assess applicants. People are granted a point for every year they have lived in the area, up to a maximum of ten points.

Town clerk administrator Ken Richardson told the committee that, under the current system, if someone from North Bay has 65 points and someone from Acton has fewer, the ministry could give a spot in the Acton complex to the North Bay senior citizen.

Some councillors felt the two year requirement would restrict applications to the point where the building would not fill. Coun. Booth pointed out "you're cutting off a large segment of the population."

The building is not filling as it is, and councillors believed there would be no hardship to local seniors if the two year residence were dropped.

ANY CUTOFF LEVEL?
Coun. Walter Biehn wondered if there were any cutoff level of income beyond which applicants would be refused entry. He thought that if there were not, then wealthy senior citizens who did not want to go into a nursing home could move in, and because the rent paid would be tied to income, their high rents would help pay for the building.

Mr. Richardson replied that there is a ceiling, and added that if a richer person were allowed in and then someone came along with a real need of the low rental housing, there would be a problem. "What could you do, throw the first one out?" asked Mr. Richardson.

Proclamation sounds like "Third Reich"

Despite reservations shared by some councillors, the town's general committee has accepted a recommendation by the Council for Canadian Unity and proclaimed the week of June 25 to July 1 Canada Week in Halton Hills.

Coun. Mike Armstrong expressed full support of the proclamation but questioned the wording of a resolution supplied to the town by the Council on National Unity.

"This sounds like it was written for the Third Reich," he complained. "It's really Mickey Mouse stuff. Can't we have it re-written or get the newspapers to come up with better wording?"

A majority of committee members accepted the proclamation as presented, however. It reads as follows:

"To honour Canada, our beloved country, deeply enriched by the contributions of many cultures, fatherland of all Canadians; To honour this country, home of over 22 million people, proud of their heritage and the freedom they enjoy; To honour this land of peace and prosperity, this promised land of untold resources;

"To honour this land which is ours, of which we are all proud, I hereby proclaim the week of June 25 to July 1 Canada Week. Thus, I invite the citizens of Halton Hills to celebrate it by striving to know our country better, by flying our flag, by participating in Canada Week and by promoting Canadian unity."

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