

Burlington motion has surprising support

Oakville 'flip-flop' threatens mill rate

Halton region's equalized sewer surcharge system, implemented six months ago to the delight of Halton Hills ratepayers, is in danger of reverting to its former chargeback format and thus threatening to boost the town's mill rate.

Thanks in part to a concerted effort by Halton Hills regional councillors to maintain the rules of procedure, a contentious motion by Burlington Coun. Joan Allingham proposed last Wednesday has yet to be discussed.

Angered by apparent inequities in the "equalized" water and sewer rate system implemented January 1, Coun. Allingham hopes to have council vote on a reversion to the chargeback system, by which sewer and water costs would again become part of property tax bills based on assessment. For less populous Halton Hills, where regional sewage treatment facilities have seen many expenditures recently, the step backward could be costly.

Coun. Allingham's motion comes up again next Wednesday (June 18), and her colleagues from north Halton are concerned that the equalized system may no longer have the strong support it did last year.

"I wasn't too concerned about her proposition getting any support because the majority of people on regional council voted for the new system in the first place," Coun. Russ Miller commented, "but it's really scary how many people have changed their minds."

Inequity out

Water and sewer surcharge rates per 1,000 gallons will remain unchanged. Halton regional council decided last Wednesday, but users will be charged for all consumption, effective August 1.

Under the old system, residents were being charged for a basic 3,000 gallons whether they used that much or not. The region received many complaints from people

who weren't using the basic amount, however, and decided the charge wasn't fair for many people, especially if they are on fixed incomes.

"Senior citizens with fixed incomes are some of the people that we hope to accommodate with this new structure," Mayor Pete Pomeroy said. "There's no reason why anyone should have to pay for 3,000 gallons of water if they're only using 2,000."

legislation which formed the region provides that the municipalities will be guaranteed sewer and water services from the region," he noted. "We'll be consulting our solicitors on this, but I think we'd have solid legal grounds to sue the region if Allingham's motion passes. Town council will go as far as necessary to protect the interests of this municipality."

At least 16 votes from among the 21 councillors present were required last Wednesday to waive the region's rules of procedure and discuss Coun. Allingham's motion, but when the smoke cleared following an intense debate, only 14 members voted to hear the motion.

Halton Hills' five regional representatives, Mayor Pomeroy and councillors Miller, Roy Booth, Ed Wood and Mike Armstrong, were joined in maintaining procedure by Milton colleagues, Burlington Coun. Walter Mulkewich and Oakville Coun. McLean Anderson.

Coun. Anderson pointed out that the motion seeks to complete the system's reversion by January 1, 1981, a date beyond the current council's term of office.

Burlington's eight regional councillors swing the "big axe", however, according to Mayor Pomeroy, and this time have recruited the aid of Oakville's delegates to almost tip the scale against equalized rates.

"They (Burlington members) have never been able to let it rest," the mayor said, "so they've gone to Oakville, which originally supported the surcharge, to garner support. As far as I'm concerned, the mayor of Oakville (Harry Barrett) has done a complete flip-flop on the issue and has undermined the credibility of his council. I'm really disappointed in his lack of courage and his inability to stand by his original decision."

Halton Hills councillors speculated on the likelihood of Coun. Allingham's motion and its apparent support being mere election-year politicking on the part of members from the south.



THE BUTTERFLY CHORUS

These young ladies aren't really shushing one another, and in fact, they aren't really young ladies - they're butterflies in a beautiful garden. These butterflies were part of a ballet recital last Wednesday at Knox Presbyterian Church. Girls from five different levels of dance skills demonstrated their talents to parents and friends at the recital.

(Herald photo by Lori Taylor)

Not all Acton residents want pond preserved

By LORI TAYLOR
 Herald Staff Writer

To some residents in the neighbourhood of Fairview Cemetery, the body of water in the cemetery is a thing of beauty; to residents along Cobblehill and Kington Roads, it's an eyesore which leaves them plagued by mosquitoes from April to November.

Colin and Sylvia Ash contacted The Herald after reading last week's news about Storey Drive resident Brian Cargill's concern over the dumping of fill into the cemetery pond and the dumping of garbage on the slopes. They were concerned that Mr. Cargill's statements might be taken as representing the views of all the residents on Cobblehill Road.

Mr. and Mrs. Ash, along with neighbors Margaret and William Anderson and their daughter Beverly, Linda Franklin, Pat and Bob Gardner, Karen Wilcott and Ann Barrow met with The Herald Monday to air their own views on the filling in of the body of water in Fairview Cemetery.

Mr. Ash said that until a couple of years ago, the area was sprayed regularly to control the mosquitoes. Then the region called a halt to the spraying because of the cost involved.

UNBEARABLE
 "I think everybody would agree that in the last two years, the mosquitoes have been unbearable," Mr. Ash said. "Before they stopped spraying, we might get a few

late in the evening, but nothing like what we've got now. It may be just a coincidence that we've got them since they stopped spraying, but I don't think so."

"That water over in the cemetery is stagnant. It's perfect breeding ground."

"They call it a pond, but it's never been a pond," Mr. Anderson said. "It's always been a swamp. When you tell people how bad the problem is, their solution is, 'Don't go outside'."

"One of the people who wants to keep the pond said she stays indoors, away from the mosquitoes," Mr. Anderson said. "I said I have a pool and I want to use it. She said, 'That's your problem.'"

Mr. Anderson said he has a light that kills insects, and keeps it on 24 hours a day to try to bring the mosquitoes under control. The mosquitoes are so bad that he has to use a hose to clean them off the screen of the light each night.

SWAMP DRAINAGE
 The swamp itself is an indication of the serious drainage problem in the area, Mr. Gardner said. He has problems with spring run-off each year forming a huge puddle in his back yard, and flooding in his driveway because the water runs too quickly from the top of the street. The large water surfaces have already provided breeding grounds for mosquitoes, he said. Two years ago, he had a small pond in his backyard nine inches deep and about 30 feet by 40 feet.

"Two years ago, they told me the catch basins were the lowest spots in the area, but I had all that water in my yard, and those catch basins were all but empty," Mr. Gardner said. "If they're going to fill in that swamp, they need to fix up the drainage around here, too."

Mrs. Franklin said there was a petition circulated recently on Kington Road asking the town to resume spraying the mosquitoes but she has a "idea what, if anything, has happened with it. Residents along Cobblehill Road, on the other side of the cemetery, were not approached with a petition. Mrs. Franklin said the petition she signed had three pages of names supporting the spraying.

AERATOR EXPENSIVE
 Mr. Ash said Mr. Cargill's suggestion of putting an aerator or a pump in the swamp to disturb the surface of the water and prevent mosquitoes from laying their eggs in the water is ineffective and an unnecessary expense.

"The cost of installing it and keeping it going is too high," he said. "I've had friends who've installed them in their ponds, and it hasn't worked."

Mrs. Anderson said it seems to her that every time the town tried to do something about the problems of mosquitoes and drainage, one or two people spoke up against the proposal and the whole thing would fall apart.

"One way to handle it would be for the town to call a meeting to find out what the majority of the residents want," Mr. Ash said. "If they want to set up a meeting, I'll make sure everyone on the street knows about it."

"The way I see it, the thing to do is to install a proper drainage system for the area, and then fill in the swamp," Mr. Ash said. "That one corner there is an eyesore. They work hard to keep the rest of the cemetery looking nice, cutting the grass and spraying the weeds. If they filled in that swamp, they could put topsoil on it and landscape it to fit in with the rest of the cemetery."

The town's general committee asked town engineer Bob Austin for a report on the possibility of spraying mosquitoes two weeks ago after Acton resident Christina Houston appeared before the committee to complain about the mosquito problem on Churchill Boulevard, where she lives.

At that time, regional councillor Roy Booth pointed out that it was a decision by the region to cut back on the spraying program, and that if the town decided to resume spraying on its own, there would be no financial assistance from the region.

Mr. Austin told the general committee the town's supply of insecticide dates back to 1976 and would no longer be effective. He also said the town has no one licensed to spray insecticides and he doesn't know how long it would take for someone to re-qualify.

Homeowners not informed

Concerns may dump golf range

By STEPHEN FROST
 Herald Staff Writer

Considerable pressure from neighboring homeowners has prompted the town's general committee to recommend council's rejection of a golf driving range proposed for the Eighth Line and Steeles Avenue near Hornby.

Citing possible damage from golf balls, intense lighting at night and a potentially disturbing influence on the effective operation of the nearby home for the mentally retarded, a

delegation of residents asked that the Val Shaw Hills development proposal be reconsidered.

Dan Matthews, spokesman for area residents, pointed out that, despite opposition to the project from both town and regional staff, council went ahead and approved it anyway.

Mr. Matthews presented the committee with photographs of damage done to houses and companies surrounding a driving range in Mississauga and

noted that most were beyond the 250-yard marker that is supposedly the maximum range.

Dominion Bridge Company Ltd. of Mississauga claims that even though the distance from their employee parking lot to the tee-off point on the range is in excess of 300 yards, and few golfers can drive a ball that distance, "the bouncing ball travels a lot further."

The company stated that over the past year, several office windows were broken and damage to cars in their parking lot exceeded \$750.

Coun. Pat Patterson took exception to the claim. "There's not a soul in this area that can drive a ball 350 yards," Coun. Patterson said.

PACKED GALLERY
 "I can't come a call from the packed gallery. I'm sure as hell would like to see you," Coun. Patterson replied.

Coun. Roy Booth agreed, but noted that most nearby driving ranges, the "250-yard marker" is closer to 150 yards. "How many homes are within 500 yards of the driving range?" Coun. Booth asked.

Mr. Matthews replied that 12 homes, plus the residence for the mentally retarded are within that distance and would be adversely affected.

Jim Reid, a farmer in the area, told committee members he is distressed that his house is only 300 yards from the proposed range and his barn 500 yards.

"That's entirely too close for agriculture," Mr. Reid claimed. "Another concern I have is water. I have a problem with water on my farm and if a driving range comes in and drills a well, I may go short."

"I also think that by zoning recreation in the area you would be discouraging farming prematurely. We're just not ready for this type of development. There is also some concern on my part about cattle eating golf balls and despite what others may say, if a cow gets it into its mind to eat one, it will."

Coun. Mike Armstrong apologized to the residents on council's behalf for the town's failure to call a public meeting when it approved the original

by-law. "I think that the best solution now would be to have a public meeting and hear both sides of the story," he said.

Peter Branch, representing the Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee, backed the

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HE'S THE FASTEST

Bruce McIntyre, who won the Mayor's Road Race Sunday, for the second year in a row, looks more surprised to have done so than does Mayor Pete Pomeroy. Pomeroy ran the 5.5 kilometre course since last, McIntyre had to run it twice to win. The winning time was 35 minutes 47 seconds.



Dick Willis (left) and Mike Luxbacher represented their companies Monday night when recreation director Tom Shepard told council about the acquisition of seven acres of land abutting on Sinclair Avenue for soccer use. Mr. Willis is president of Irwin-Dorsey Ltd., and Mr. Luxbacher is manager of operations at William Neilson Ltd.

(Herald photo)

Companies 'pitch' in to boost soccer scene

Town recreation director Tom Shepard has pulled off a major coup acquiring additional soccer facilities for Halton Hills, with the generous help of two corporate citizens, William Neilson Ltd. and Irwin-Dorsey Ltd.

The companies asked merely that the town take responsibility for litter control after soccer games and for repairs to any damage to their buildings which results from the facility's use.

The only cost to the town would be the maintenance of the facility. Mr. Shepard told the Herald that he was pleased with the generous offer by

the two companies and said that at the end of the summer he hopes to discuss with them the possibility of a long-term arrangement concerning the use of the field for soccer.

It is recognized in the town's new Master Parks and Recreation Plan that there is a tremendous shortage of soccer pitches in Halton Hills, and that interest in soccer is growing rapidly. The acquisition of the fields on a long-term basis would go a long way toward alleviating this shortage.