

MPP gets two lots for sons

# Snow's severances preferential?

By MAGGIE HANNAH  
Herald Special

Halt region's agricultural advisory committee will ask a provincial cabinet minister to justify plans to sever property from his farm in what is seen as a contravention of provincial agricultural policy.

The Halton Land Division Committee (LDC) granted transportation and communications ministers James Snow two severances of his nine-acre property July 2 to allow homes for his sons adjacent to his own residence.

Both the Halton Federation of Agriculture and the agricultural advisory committee, which is seeking a meeting with the minister July 22, filed objections to the application before the land division committee.

Planners for Halton region and for the town of Halton Hills also recommended against the severances.

Contacted at his Queen's Park office, Mr. Snow said he didn't feel he had received preferential treatment from LDC because of his political position.

He has owned his property for over 20 years and this is his first severance, he said. He followed the same procedure as everyone else and LDC treated him like any other citizen.

When a committee member objected to the insertion of a clause in the decision requiring him to retain ownership of the property for a minimum of five years he said he shrugged it off.

"I want the lots for my family," he said, "not to sell them to make money. The clause doesn't make any difference to me and I told them that."

**NO INVITATION**  
Mr. Snow said he had not yet received an invitation to attend the advisory committee meeting to explain his position. However, if he received an invitation he would go.

Ed Segsworth, president of the Halton Federation of Agriculture and a member of the advisory committee, said his group views Mr. Snow's plan as strip development, something which Halton region's official plan opposes.

The plan suggests that new rural homes be restricted to infilling in hamlet areas. The group doesn't believe Mr. Snow's lot qualify as infilling.

The federation also said it was Bill Davis' government, of which Mr. Snow is a cabinet minister, which brought in the green paper on agriculture. They feel the severances are in defiance of that paper which supports the retention of farmland for farming purposes.

Mr. Segsworth said the federation would like to hear Mr. Snow's explanation of his position before they decide what action to take.

Advisory committee chairman Harold Middlebrook said that Mr. Snow's invitation to the group's July 22 meeting has not yet been sent out, but it's going.

Mr. Middlebrook regretted the timing of the matter. They should have met with Mr. Snow prior to his appearance before the land division committee, he said.

While it appears as if a senior government member is in contravention of government policy, the committee has no intention of opposing the issue before the Ontario Municipal Board, he said. All the committee had planned to do was present a resolution to regional council strengthening their recommendation against

the severances.

Since the severances were granted July 2 and the 21-day waiting period during which objections to a decision may be filed with the OMB will expire the day after the proposed meeting, regional council could not act quickly on their recommendations.

**WILL DISCUSS**  
Mr. Middlebrook said he would have to discuss the question of moving the meet-

ing date forward with other committee members before a decision would be made.

Both town and regional planners recommended against the severances as being contrary to their respective official plans. The lots would create three non-farm residences in what is not recognized as a hamlet, rural cluster or estate subdivision. It was also seen as creating ribbon development on Trafalgar Road.

The region also objects to the

severances because the proposal is for a communal well to serve all three properties. Criteria for rural development in Halton's official plan require each residence to have its own well water supply and individual sewage systems.

The land division committee based its decision to grant the separations on Mr. Snow being a long-time area resident, the severances involve a family transaction and the Snow property is within the hamlet of Hornby.

LDC chairman Brian Fletcher says the committee dealt with the applications on their own merits. He didn't feel any political pressure over the decision.

"Mr. Snow is no different from anyone else," he said. "He has rights, too."

Nor did Mr. Fletcher feel a precedent had been set by the decision since each application is dealt with on its own merits the night it is presented to the committee.

Regional planning board chairman Roy Booth, a councillor from Halton Hills, is angry that the agricultural Advisory Committee should dare to question the actions of an elected official and has threatened to disband the body if it does so.

The committee was set up as an arm of the region to advise regional planning staff on agricultural matters in the absence of an agricultural planner, he said. The advisory mandate is only to investigate questions referred to them. This exceeds their mandate and is none of their business, he said.

"They're acting like a rate-payer's group," he said, "and I don't want them using the region's name for their private concerns. We set them up to advise us and maybe it's time we disbanded them."

Reminded that they are volunteers and have not abused regional funds for their projects, Mr. Booth conceded that disbanding the group wouldn't necessarily end their activi-

ties. The committee could continue to speak out on agricultural issues in the region and probably would, he said. But without the region's stamp of approval residents wouldn't believe the committee speaks on the region's behalf on agricultural matters and future embarrassment would be avoided.



Terry Fox will be running through Halton Hills next Wednesday, July 22, on his way across Canada, and a number of local organizations are planning fund-raising ventures to support his Marathon of Hope. Todd and Garry Butwell and Chuck Peebles are shown here modelling the t-shirts and buttons which are available at J.V. Clothing and will be on sale Tuesday at the McDonald's canteen. Halloons will also be sold from the McDonald's antique fire truck as it follows Terry along the route through town. Proceeds from all the fund-raising efforts will be given to Terry towards his donation for cancer research.

(Herald photo by Lori Taylor)

**Meet Terry Fox**  
at Georgetown Motor Inn  
Tuesday at 3 p.m. approx.



Terry Humberstone had a bad experience recently when someone slashed one of the tires on her van after she had parked it across two parking spaces to leave room to get her wheelchair out. Since her story appeared in the Toronto Star, several people have phoned and offered to replace her tires. Econo Transport of North York has replaced the tires on her van and now she's mobile again.

(Herald photo)

**Terry is mobile again**  
thanks to generous people

Terry Humberstone is discovering that there are a lot of generous people in the Metro area.

Terry, who has been paralyzed since 1974 as the result of a car accident, was the subject of a story in the Toronto Star when someone slashed one of the tires on her van. She had parked the van diagonally across two parking spaces one night on the way to a movie, to make it easier to get her wheelchair out of the van.

Since the story appeared in the newspaper, Terry has received numerous calls offering to replace the tires on the van. Econo Transport of North York has replaced the tires, Terry said.

Terry said that although the van has no insignia on it to indicate that the driver is confined to a wheelchair, "if they'd just looked inside, they'd have seen the lift for my wheelchair in the back. But I guess a lot of people wouldn't know what it was." This is the first time she's had this problem.

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Terry is completing her first term of studies at York University and is working towards a Masters degree in business administration.

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