

Snow severances approved with Halton Hills' help

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald Special

Halton regional council Wednesday rejected a staff planning recommendation and gave approval for the severance of two lots on property owned by Ontario transport minister James Snow.

Only six councillors, all from Milton, Oakville and Burlington, opposed the granting of the severances.

Halton Hills councillors were among the 16 members voting to quash an appeal already set in motion for the Ontario Municipal Board to overturn a decision of the land division committee granting the separations.

The Snow property, located at Hornby at the southern boundary of Halton Hills, was allowed two lots for the construction of homes for Mr. Snow's sons.

Agricultural advisory committee chairman Harold Middlebrook, who appeared before council to point out the reasons why the committee wants the severances appeal-

ed, was repeatedly asked what type of viable farming operation could be carried out on an eight-acre property such as Mr. Snow owns at Hornby.

Mr. Middlebrook said greenhouses, poultry operations and several other types of farming could be carried on provided the operator bought his feed and had a method of waste disposal.

He reminded council that the severances contravene Halton's new official plan since the Snow property is designated agricultural. He also said the committee is very concerned that Mr. Snow's severances would set a precedent for future applications on agricultural land.

Mr. Middlebrook said this is the first time the committee has taken a stand on a severance application because this was the first time they had been asked to do so. The Halton federation of agriculture asked the committee to look at the severances.

Halton Hills Coun. Roy Booth said it was the fault of

Halton Hills council for not designating Hornby as a hamlet in the official plan.

Halton Hills only included small communities such as Norval, Stewarttown and Glen Williams as hamlets because these are close enough to towns to eventually be hooked into services.

Mr. Booth said that while Hornby doesn't qualify as a hamlet it does qualify as a rural cluster. Severances for infilling are permitted in these clusters, he said.

He advised council against continuing the appeal to the OMB because he believes "we (council) haven't a hope in hell of winning".

Burlington Mayor Roly Bird disagreed and cited a similar situation in his city which was appealed and the city won, he said.

A Burlington councillor said that while there may be all sorts of reasons why Hornby should be designated as a hamlet the fact remains that it isn't one now. He called for planning staff should get busy

on correcting what was apparently an error in the plan but in the meantime council should continue the appeal.

Planning staff initiated an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board as a precaution in case council decided not to agree with land division committee's decision on the severances. If council had not dealt with the question within 21 days of the LDC decision the appeal time would have passed and nothing could be done about it.

A letter to the OMB withdrawing the appeal will stop the procedure, said regional planner Rash Mohammed.

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Disappointed Reed denies 'Snow-bashing'

Herald Special

Halton region politicians have disappointed Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed for not pressing an appeal of a land division committee decision granting two separations to land owned by Ontario transport minister James Snow.

Mr. Snow, who lives at Hornby in Mr. Reed's riding, represents Oakville riding. He applied to the regional land division committee for two lots to allow his sons to build homes.

Halton region council last Wednesday withdrew an objection filed before the Ontario Municipal Board opposing the severances despite recommendations from planning staff that the application did not conform with the region official plan approved two weeks ago.

Mr. Reed, who said he has remained silent on the issue because the matter was being considered before a

quasi-judicial body or under appeal, said it is not his style to be seen "Snow-bashing."

But he added, the Snow severance controversy is a case where justice must not only be done but appear to be done.

"They (the land division committee) can't set one criteria for one and another for someone else," he said. "Whatever criteria is established must be administered dispassionately and there appears to be a question of whether the criteria was applied dispassionately."

Mr. Reed also took issue with the land division committee approving the application with one of its members in an apparent conflict of interest position.

Fred Harrington, a former Burlington mayor and member of regional council, operates a motor vehicle licence office in Burlington and is connected with Mr. Snow's ministry.

"If the committee didn't

see conflict of interest in a situation like that, maybe it should be spelled out for them," he said.

Mr. Reed said he believes the question now is whether the land division committee has changed the criteria on which severance decisions are made. If the criteria has changed then he agrees with farm-community spokesmen that a precedent has been set and the floodgates have been opened to similar separation applications.

If the criteria has not changed, Mr. Reed argued, then the Snow severances stand out as a special separate situation.

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Dale Carnegie still popular

Calls for information regarding the popular Dale Carnegie course being sponsored in Halton Hills by The Herald have been exceptionally high, according to Bruce Beattie, class manager.

We are trying our best to get information to each person requesting information about the training, he said Monday.

This course is designed for rapid growth in the areas of personal development such as more confidence in group situations, better commun-

ications, conversations and leadership skills.

Training consultants and instructors are available locally for the next three weeks to do sample motivational meetings for departments of large companies of 10 persons or more and smaller companies of at least 7 employees, as well as service clubs and church organizations.

Please call The Herald for more information about the course or a speaker for your group at 877-2201.

Council approves highway facelift

Town council approved a preliminary design for the reconstruction of Highway 25 between Highway 401 and Acton Monday evening, which will include widening part of the route into four lanes.

Under a five year contract, the ministry of transportation and communication will widen the highway to four lanes beginning just south of Highway 401 to Regional Road 9. Paved shoulders will be added between Road 9 and Regional Road 15 and eventually extend

into Acton.

The ministry says it will construct a truck climbing lane where the highway meets the escarpment.

Town engineer Bob Austin told council that the ministry would not firmly commit itself to a starting date for the project, but will host an open house this Tuesday (September 2) at Speyside Public School to review the project with area residents. The open house will run from 2 to 4 in the afternoon and from 6:30 to 9:30 in the evening.

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