

Letters to The Editor

NEC hearing officer 'damn unkind,' angry ratepayer complains to Davis

Copy submitted to The Herald for publication:
Mr. W. Davis,
Premier of Ontario.

Dear Mr. Davis:
I wish to protest the treatment I have received from an Ontario Hearing Officer, W.T. Shrivies.

I recently attended the Phase II public hearings on the proposed plan for the Niagara Escarpment, a session specifically pertaining to the Region of Halton. I attended these hearings June 16, 17 and 18 in

order to hear the presentation submitted by Standard Industries. Their proposal concerned a change in zoning boundaries on proposed plan map 3 from escarpment rural to an ultimate land use potential for mineral extraction. The whole thrust of the presentation was geared towards future extractive operations and their contention of absence (little or no) environmental impact.

At that time when questions were invited from the floor I requested permission to speak. I have never previously atten-

ded a public hearing, let alone felt compelled to speak. I prefaced my questions by apologizing for my obvious nervousness engendered by the novelty and formality of the situation. I asked the hearing officers to "please bear with me".

My questions stemmed from a genuine concern regarding the implications of the proposed boundary changes. Our property shares a common boundary with Standard Industries and we would be directly influenced. My questions were repeatedly interrup-

ted by Mr. Shrivies, frequently in mid-sentence.

Despite the proposed land use thrust of Standards' presentation (including an actual map of the potential extraction area in the order of 30 acres) any question dealing with potential effects generated by such use eg. noise, blast impact, dust, traffic, congestion, proposed length of extractive uses, daily productions, etc. was disallowed as "inappropriate".

It is very possible that I couched the questions in layman's phraseology, I am not an expert in these matters, merely a very concerned citizen. Nevertheless the manner in which I was continually interrupted was one of arrogance and contempt. My concerns were made to appear foolish and irrelevant. I became more and more distressed but this seemed only to fuel Mr. Shrivies to new heights of antagonism.

This 'gentleman' eventually reduced me to tears. (I might add that while not immune to the demonstration of sensitivity and emotion I am not prone to tears. I have never previous-

ly broken down in any public arena.

I was under the impression that a public hearing was a forum for the expression of public opinion. An occasion for an elected government to assess in true democratic fashion the desires of the people it assumes to serve and to subsequently act accordingly. If my experiences reflect the true face of the democratic process then we are indeed in dire distress.

I feel (an opinion subsequently backed by several members of those in attendance) the treatment I received was biased, unjust and uncivil, not to mention damn unkind. I am especially concerned as I plan to present my own submission, albeit brief, to these hearings. May I anticipate the same treatment? Dare I hope for a public apology?

I appreciate I am but one small voice in the electorate but I hope that does not mean my concern will be ignored. I believe in the democratic process. Please restore my faith.

Yours truly,
Jean Falls

Boo! to The Herald - tickets worthwhile

To the editor of The Herald:
BOO! to The Herald (a taste of your own medicine) for condemning town council for REQUIRING Halton regional police to continue ticketing cars parked overnight along residential streets. The \$5 tickets, which SHOULD soon rise, ARE a worthwhile incentive to keep the roads clear in the winter and it makes just as

much sense to keep the roads clear in the summer.

Obviously, you have never driven down Duncan Drive on a Sunday evening, streets lined with cars, leaving little more than a cow path for two cars to pass through. This produces the same kind of small scale chaos which occurs when a street light is malfunctioning.

Both drivers of two cars barreling towards each other assumes the other will 'bow out'.

The only ingredients of a traffic accident are two stubborn (we're all a little stubborn at one time or another) drivers, licensed to kill.

P. Douglas,
Georgetown.

Canada's Witnesses turn to Georgetown

Continued from page A1

In surroundings kept cool through extensive insulating rather than energy-consuming air conditioning, a five-unit Harris press can churn out 35,000 copies an hour. Smaller machines handle other publications and the printing shop includes offset plate makers, an art room and a darkroom, as well as 7,000 square feet of storage space for printed and unprinted stock. Nearby is the mailing department.

There are about 145 people continuing to work at the site, most of them staying in the residential building, a "dogbone" shaped structure which features an indoor swimming pool, a 300-seat dining room, lounges and a recreation area. (There is also an outdoor basketball court and greenhouse located on the property).

An underground tunnel connects the two buildings on the complex, protecting residents from bad weather during the 600-foot walk. Inside, the rooms are large and windowed, and except for a kitchen, are self-contained.

Many of the residents staying at Watch Tower have furnished their rooms with a few belongings saved when they decided to become fully

dedicated Witnesses, dissolving most of their worldly assets and committing the rest of their lives to the faith's work.

They live on about \$60 per month while staying at the complex, which furnishes their meals and provides rooms free of charge. Contact with the community beyond the Watch Tower gate is kept to a minimum; even small necessities such as soap and razor blades can be purchased at a small "tuck" shop in the residence.

Little is brought in from the outside, except from other Witnesses. Food arriving from the farm is quickly shuttled to the lower level of the residential building to be fast-frozen in the complex's blast freezer. Fifteen other coolers, including 2 for

cheeses and another for vegetables, and an elaborate meat cutting operation cater to the kitchen's demands.

Residents can also use a large laundry and stitch everything from socks to drapes in the complex's sewing room. Another room in the basement is an entanglement of wires, channeling Watch Tower's intercom system as well as the nine Brampton and three Georgetown outside lines.

As many as 26 residents have decided - after years of service to the Witness faith - to make Watch Tower their home. For most, however, this rolling, grassed site will prepare them for work within the faith, although they'll know little about the community in which they are staying.

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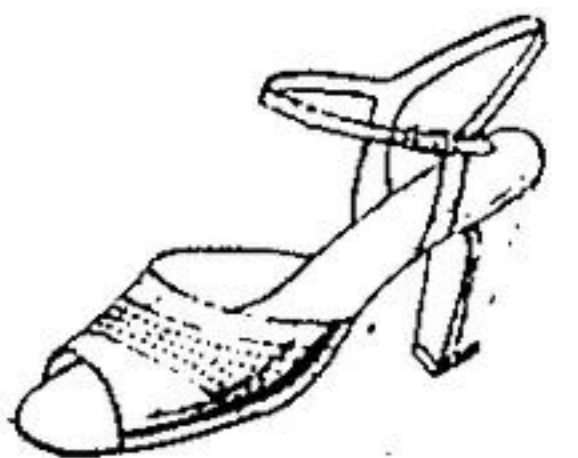
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