

Local developer protests proposed tighter rules

Local developer Al Pilutti appeared before Halton Hills town councillors Monday night to protest proposed grading restrictions on local developers.

Mr. Pilutti said he was reacting to an article in last Saturday's Herald Outlook that said Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson would like council to consider stricter grading rules for developers. Coun. Serjeantson said land was being "stripped" and not developed immediately. She pointed in particular to the Hall Road property proposed for a condominium project by Mr. Pilutti.

"There is no more need for new controls... especially on private land," said Mr. Pilutti. "There aren't too many rights left (for landowners)," he said.

Mr. Pilutti said a new regulation, similar to the one in place in Brampton, would affect farmers, homeowners and developers.

Coun. Serjeantson asked Mr. Pilutti if he would reseed the Hall Road property if construction does not proceed on the condominium project in the near future.

"We are doing our utmost to develop the land as soon as possible," he said, saying he hoped it would not take 1 1/2 years to get the project under way.

"The grading is actually part of getting this project approved."

Mr. Pilutti said he was "forced" into the grading but said he would

not reveal the details to town council.

The topic turned to an approximately eight-acre property near the Hall Road location. The land is presently owned by the Town of Halton Hills, but Mr. Pilutti recently made a verbal offer to the town to buy the property he once owned for \$250,000.

Residents surrounding the property near Fagan Drive, Rosefield Drive and Wilson Court objected to Mr. Pilutti's proposal to develop residences on the land in the past and are objecting again.

They have sent petitions to town council asking that the town not sell the property back to Mr. Pilutti.

The developer says the land is not valuable for recreation and is unlike an environmentally-sensitive tract of land beside it. He said the property has no trees and is not in a valley as Coun. Serjeantson claimed.

"The land, as it is now, is a garbage dump," he said. "You have to be careful not to step on dog droppings."

Mr. Pilutti said councillors should see the property before voting on selling him the property.

"It's valid that we all have an opportunity to view that piece of property," said Coun. Joe Hewitt.

Mr. Pilutti proposes to build houses on the property if the town sells him the land.

Another empire stepping down



Your Business
Diane Maley
Thomson News Service

Another great empire builder is stepping down as the shakeup of the Bell conglomerate continues.

A. Jean de Grandpre plans to resign as chairman Aug. 1. Mr. de Grandpre built Bell from a sleepy telephone company in 1983 to the biggest industrial corporation in the country. His resignation comes as no surprise.

Today, BCE Inc. is no longer just a regulated utility. Its telephone subsidiary, Bell Canada, is still regulated by the federal government. But its industrial arms - Northern Telecom, TransCanada PipeLines and BCE itself - are not.

Pa Bell, as de Grandpre is called, was inducted into the Canadian Business Hall of Fame recently. Earlier this year, he headed a government study of the effects of free trade on Canadian workers. A great visionary, he nevertheless came in for criticism toward the end of his reign as BCE's chief executive.

That title passed to Raymond Cyr last year. Bell-watchers do not know who will replace Mr. de Grandpre, age 67, but they say Mr. Cyr is a likely candidate.

POLICY ASSAILED

Speaking to shareholders at BCE's annual meeting in Vancouver, Mr. de Grandpre fired a parting shot at an aggressive competitor, Ted Rogers. Mr. Rogers, president of Rogers Communica-

tions Ltd., plans to give Bell a run for its money in the long-distance telephone business. Rogers' main business is cable television.

BCE will respond by setting up a parallel cable TV system, Mr. de Grandpre said. "What we're talking about is competing in Rogers' territory with a duplicate cable system. That's what he wants to do in long distance - duplicate the long-distance network."

Clearly, Bell is taking the competition from Rogers seriously. Bell's Northern Telecom subsidiary has also come under increased pressure in its key business of telephone switching systems.

The emergence of new, aggressive competition in North America, Europe and Japan is spelling an end to the old-style monopolies, with their assured profit stream. What this will mean for the Bell empire is a big question for shareholders.

Under Mr. de Grandpre, Bell expanded rapidly, but without rhyme or reason, some critics charge. Last year, it began reorganizing and restructuring its units. Its real estate arm has decided to dump its American property portfolio, but whether it will be at a profit or a loss remains to be seen.

NEW DIRECTION

What puzzles Bell-watchers most is the company's decision to buy

Montreal Trust, a big financial-services company. From what Mr. de Grandpre says, the company may have wanted to get into the money business in an even bigger way.

In his speech to shareholders, Mr. de Grandpre criticized the federal government for not allowing industrial companies to buy more than 10 per cent of a bank. Meanwhile, companies such as American Express can come into Canada and set up shop.

"We run the risk of sending our Canadian enterprises into battle on the international level with a severe, self-imposed handicap," he said. His statements conjure up the picture of us paying our telephone bills at the local Bank of Bell Canada.

His argument has some merit. Even so, the eagerness of industrial companies to get into the banking business is an uncomfortable reversal of the separation of risk-taking and deposit-taking businesses that took place in the 1930s.

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Exchange program needs families

Families are needed immediately for a cultural exchange program this summer. There are more than 60 students from France, ages 13 to 18, hoping to spend one month in Ontario living with area families.

NACEL, a French organization which co-ordinates cultural exchanges, knows that the host families are the heart of the cultural exchange. They open their homes to the student for four weeks providing room, board and hospitality. The students are encouraged to take part in all aspects of a family's summertime activities. Students bring their own spending money and medical and accident insurance is provided by the program.

The students arrive on August 2, and depart on August 30. A few of the many rewards for the Ontario family will be that they learn about France without leaving home; practise your own French; learn more about your own community by exploring it with a French guest.

A lengthy screening process is needed to match the French student up with a host family. NACEL will send you a brochure giving

background information, and families will then be asked to fill in an application giving three references which will be contacted for positive recommendation. A questionnaire is also required telling more about the family and its interests.

Wendy Bodsworth is co-ordinating the efforts of NACEL in Ontario. If you are interested in hosting a student or sending your teen to France, write to her at 20 Glenfield Crescent, Brampton, Ontario, L6S 1W2 or call her collect at (416) 458-8611.

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