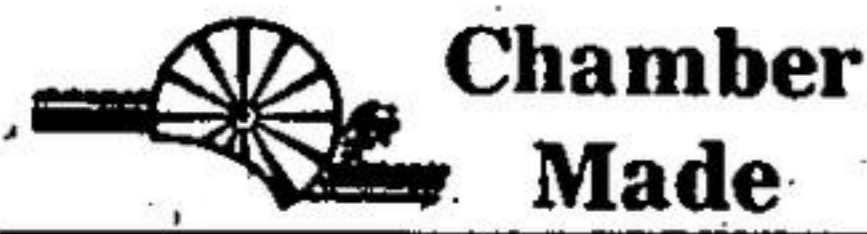


Business Page

Democracy at council



Chamber Made

By DOUG PENRICE
Herald Special

One of the roles of the Chamber is to monitor all local council meetings on behalf of the business community. This is done to insure our interests are addressed. Local council is made up of four Regional councillors, eight local councillors and the mayor. They meet every week, one week it is a committee meeting, the next week a regular council meeting. Sometimes they are very boring, other times they are quite exciting and controversial. It all depends on what is being discussed.

Council meetings in our society are the purest form of democracy. It is the only forum that ordinary people can address our elected officials. At the provincial and federal level we can make our views known to our elected officials. We may address committees but the legislative chambers are off limits to the general public. At council, taxpayers are welcome to address the meeting and this leads to all types of groups appearing discussing all sorts of issues.

Most of the time these delegations are opposing something and it is interesting to listen to their presentations. Many times no facts are given to support their positions, just their opinions, which in many cases are very biased. It is probably the only time that we expect decisions to be made on "gut

feelings" only. This attitude on both sides of issues can and does become quite emotional, making the job of councillors tougher.

It seems that for almost anything that is proposed someone is against it. It is surprising that anything gets done. I have from memory come up with a list of items, which strong opinions were expressed about. They are shown below. I point out I offer no opinion on them.

People are or were opposed to the following: Acton Quarry Dump; a park on the abandoned CN Rail Line north of Georgetown; a walkway between Dawson Crescent and Irwin Crescent; war games on the Eighth Line; retail sales in the arenas; trucks on rural roads; rezoning of land on Armstrong Ave. to allow a salvage yard; rezoning of land at the corner of Armstrong Avenue and Hwy. 7 to allow a car wash; paying for slope stabilization on their properties; closing of a laneway in Stewarttown; new housing at Moore Park and two many land severances and second farm dwellings to list.

All the people who were either for or against these applications were given the opportunity to address council to express their point of view. Our councillors must then decide on what position to take leaving someone upset. If you want to see democracy working the way it probably was first envisioned attend a local council meeting.

The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce exists to promote both business and the community. For further information please call 877-7119.

Get ready for the Big Chill

Dance organizers are asking Big Chill goers to make arrangements to be dropped off at the Memorial Arena Dance as there will not be sufficient parking June 3. The "Jack Baker Express" shuttlebus service will be leaving the arena at 11 p.m., 12 p.m. and 1 a.m. and will loop Georgetown so Big Chill goers can be dropped off close to home.

The bus will leave the arena and travel along Mill St. to Main St., Georgetown; travelling south along Main St. to Maple Ave. to Delrex Blvd. It will travel the entire length of Delrex to Guelph St.

(Hwy 7), then travel along Guelph to the Zellers parking lot. From there it will go along Mountainview Road, travelling north to Glen Williams. It will come along Wildwood Road, back to Hwy. 7, to Moore Park Plaza, and back to the Memorial Arena.

Anticipation makes them wait



Your Business
Diane Maley
Thomson News Service

Anticipation is keeping North American policy-makers waiting for growth and dollars that are neither too strong nor too weak.

The goal is proving elusive. The strong Canadian dollar is hurting Canadian exports to the United States, by far our largest market.

Now, the American dollar has taken off again internationally, threatening the recent gains made in U.S. exports to Europe and the Far East. Last month, the American trade deficit was roughly \$1 billion (U.S.) lower than anticipated, thanks to surging exports. Balanced trade is deemed crucial to world economic stability.

When the greenback soars against European currencies and the yen, it tends to pull the Canuck with it. Thus, while the Canadian dollar is strong relative to its American counterpart, it is also rising against major world currencies. One Canadian dollar currently buys more than 83 U.S. cents on the wholesale market.

Raising exchange rates make North American goods more expensive in world markets, hurting exports and thus gross national product.

DOLLAR SOARS

Early this week, the American dollar rebounded to a 2½-year high against the mark, sending shudders through central bankers in Britain and Japan. Both countries fear they may have to raise interest rates to keep their currencies from sagging against the dollar.

With the North American consumer and housing sectors continuing to weaken, inflation seems to have been checked by rising interest rates. This is good news.

Anticipating slow growth, market players are buying fixed-income securities such as bonds and bills, causing North American interest rates to fall. But even lower rates have not curbed demand for dollars.

The reason, it seems, is that market players are beginning to anticipate a rebound in the stock market, too. The recession, if it

comes, will be brief, they reason. In the meantime, falling interest rates will help corporate profits.

The propensity of financial markets to anticipate every twist and turn poses a big problem for policy-makers. Investors' hopes and fears tend to become self-fulfilling prophecies. The result is big swings in stock, bond and foreign-exchange markets.

The U.S. dollar is climbing because exports are booming; but a rising U.S. dollar soon will put an end to strong export growth. Similarly, interest rates are falling because the economy appears to be headed for a soft landing; but falling interest rates could add new fuel to the inflationary fire, causing a swift rate reversal.

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