

Objection could slow OMB approval of asphalt plant

Mississauga's objection to a three-year temporary asphalt plant at Steeles Avenue and Winston Churchill Boulevard in Halton Hills could slow down approval of the plant at an Ontario Municipal Board hearing, Acton Councillor Norm Elliott says.

Mississauga council objected to a three-year asphalt plant approved for Bluecliff Holdings Inc. by the Town of Halton Hills this fall. The objection was sparked by what Mississauga Councillor Ted Southern said is an "eyesore" at the Dixie Road and Highway 401 industrial area.

Coun. Southern said that type of industry is unlike the "prestige industrial" area being developed south of Halton Hills in Meadowvale.

Mississauga councillors argued that three-year approval of the asphalt plant could lead to permanent approval of that industry.

Coun. Elliott said Mississauga's

two-year approval instead of three years could harm Halton Hills at a future OMB hearing. The appeal was launched by a Steeles Avenue resident.

"I'm personally upset by the objection," Coun. Elliott said of Mississauga council's stand on the asphalt plant. "It's going to cause some concern at the OMB hearing."

Several residents from the Steeles Avenue-Winston Churchill Boulevard area called Whaley Corners contacted Mississauga council to get support in their objection of the asphalt plant. Coun. Southern said.

But Halton Hills councillors say no official statement has been made by Mississauga outlining why the city objected to the asphalt plant.

"I think this town deserves an explanation," Coun. Elliott said. He recommended writing to Mississauga for an explanation.

Children's Aid Society needs money to keep programs

The Halton Children's Aid Society will have a tough time maintaining its current programs next year if it doesn't receive more than the expected three per cent increase in government funding, says the society's new assistant director in charge of finances, Glenn Miller.

The inflation rate, every-day expenses and normal salary increases will "eat up most of the three per cent," he said.

If programs aren't cut there is still a good possibility that some might be offered less often. Mr. Miller added.

The society's 1989 budget was just under \$5.8 million and Mr. Miller said the 1990 budget will probably increase to just over \$5.9 million. But the exact figure won't be known until February.

The provincial government funds 80 per cent of the CAS budget while Halton Region funds 20 per cent.

Mr. Miller said the Region has co-operated with CAS and it has always provided 20 per cent of the provincially approved budget.

Legislative changes to the Ontario Health Plan and increased insurance costs have also contributed to this time of "severe economic restraint" faced by the society, said Mr. Miller.

He explained the new legislation, effective 1990, concerning health insurance means the society's OHP payments will increase by \$15,000.

Mr. Miller also said that it is costing the society more to fulfil its normal insurance costs. It now costs more to insure volunteer drivers because agents are reluctant to insure people who are providing transportation to non-related people, he explained.

But Mr. Miller stressed the society is fulfilling all of its insurance requirements.

CAS has eliminated two senior management positions over the



Margaret Morrison and Glenn Miller will work closely together in their new positions as assistant directors for the Halton Children's Aid Society to ensure there is sufficient funding to maintain and improve the service provided by the agency. (Photo submitted)

past three years and it also appointed Mr. Miller and Margaret Morrison as assistant directors to try to provide the necessary programs and funding, a recent CAS press release says.

Ms. Morrison will oversee the society's various programs. But the two assistant directors will work closely together.

Mr. Miller said his and Ms. Morrison's job is to "marry what programs the society wants to run, with the cost of those services." These two areas are closely connected and therefore shouldn't operate as separate entities, said Mr. Miller.

Finding more foster parents is one of the goals of both Mr. Miller and Ms. Morrison. "Foster parents are cheaper than running a group home and for most kids they provide a better setting."

But to keep the existing foster parents and to increase their numbers "we have to make it worthwhile."

Mr. Miller was appreciative of the government when it provided the society with \$6.7 million to pay foster parents more and to hire a full-time person to support existing foster families and to look for new families.

Effective last October foster parents received \$17.36 per day, Mr. Miller said, while before that they received anywhere from \$11.09 to \$17.68 a day.

But Mr. Miller stressed the society will be unable to maintain the existing number of foster parents let alone attract new ones unless the provincial government provides the society with more money.

Shoppers Drug Mart charged after opening on Boxing Day

Halton Regional Police charged the Georgetown Shoppers Drug Mart under the province's Retail Business Holidays Act Tuesday afternoon for having more than the maximum allowed number of employees working in the store on a holiday.

No more than four people are allowed to work on a holiday, the act says.

"It's (the charge) one of the annoyances you have to put up with when you live in a police state," said the franchise owner, Al Fraser.

Mr. Fraser argued the charge is unjustified because the Retail Business Holidays Act is no longer applicable. The province nullified the act when it introduced legislation earlier this year requiring the municipalities to introduce their own legislation governing Sunday shopping, he said.

This legislation has to be introduced in the coming months and in the meantime merchants have to abide by interim legislation, said Mr. Fraser. And this legislation doesn't stipulate a maximum number of employees that can work on a holiday, he said.

The legal department of Shoppers Drug Mart will make this point when it talks to the crown prosecutor, said Mr. Fraser.

A Jan. 29 court date has been scheduled in connection with the charge.



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