



"You're all wet"

Despite a little wet weather, a benefit car wash behind Guelph Street Wendy's restaurant raised \$269.75 for the local Cancer Society branch, Saturday. However, it seemed some of the Wendy's employees were more soaked than the car they were washing. (Herald photo)

Ontario Municipal Board jackhammers plant

The Town of Halton Hills may have to reassess its official plan because of the Ontario Municipal Board's (OMB) recent decision denying Ontario Paving Company Limited the right to establish an asphalt plant at Steeles Avenue and Winston Churchill Boulevard, said Glen Wellings, a planner with the town.

"We'll have to look at the Official Plan because of the issues raised in the OMB decision," he said.

Mr. Wellings was referring to the temporary use bylaw that Halton Hills council had passed that initially gave the paving company approval to establish an asphalt plant for three years at Whaley's Corners, without first amending the town's Official Plan.

The site is designated rural, meaning under normal circumstances the Official Plan would have to be amended designating the area industrial.

But the town used a notwithstanding clause in the Official Plan to issue the temporary use permit and therefore avoid amending the Official Plan.

OMB Chairman Ted Yao ruled in his decision the town could only use the notwithstanding clause if all other aspects of the Official Plan were excluded. But Mr. Yao wrote, "it is clear it (the town) did not act as if the rest of the plan, for example, the policies on separation of industrial and residential areas, site plan control and holding bylaws

were to be ignored."

He also said "A development proposal should not escape all scrutiny simply because it is temporary."

Mr. Wellings said previous decisions made by the town using the notwithstanding clause will not be affected by the OMB decision because the related bylaws are now in place. He wouldn't comment further on the OMB decision saying the town's solicitor is reviewing the case.

But Mayor Russ Miller considers the asphalt plant a "dead issue."

Mayor Miller said of the decision, he's not really surprised. The residents too were not surprised at the outcome. "We (the resident group), were confident we'd win," said association member, Marg Teggart.

"We are going to throw a party and we won't be inviting Mayor Miller or (the area's Regional representative) Joe Hewitt," said Ms. Taggart. Their shortsightedness on the issue of planning cost the group a lot of work and money, she said. The local councillor for the area, Robert Heaton, was the only town councillor who gave us support, said Ms. Teggart.

The residents, said Ms. Teggart, agree Whaley's Corners is an area

in transition. That means the area is suited to gradually change from rural to prestige industrial, she said. "There is no way an asphalt plant comes under this category," said Ms. Taggart. "We don't agree with heavy industry in the rural area," she emphasized.

The President of the Ontario Paving Company Uly Alfano said of the issue, "we're not finished yet." The company's lawyer is currently reviewing the decision, said Mr. Alfano, to determine if there is a legal aspect of the decision that can be challenged.

He said the decision was disappointing especially since it was based on a technicality and not on the issue of land use. Mr. Alfano called the decision "Hogwash."

The company proved that the asphalt plant was compatible with the surrounding land uses, said Mr. Alfano.

Mr. Yao agreed, writing in his decision, "We are satisfied that the use is fully compatible with this rapidly developing, mixed commercial, residential and small scale industrial area."

Seniors for the Future

When You Get On

When you get "on" and you've lived a long time
And the walk up the stairs is a mighty high climb,
Though your eyes are dimmer than what they were

And the page of a book has a misty blur
Strange as the case may seem to be,
Then is the time you will clearly see.

You'll see yourself as you really are,
When you've lived a lot and travelled far,
When your strength gives out and your muscles tire
You'll see the folly of ambition's desire:

You'll see what now to your sight is hid,
The numberless trivial things you did.

Often the blindest are youthful eyes.

For age must come ere a man grows wise,
And youth makes much of the mountain peaks,

And the strife for fame and the goal it seeks.

But age sits down with the setting sun

And smiles at the boastful deeds it's done.

You'll sigh for the friends that

were turned aside
By a hasty word or a show of pride,
You'll laugh at medals that now you prize.

For you'll look at them now through clearer eyes
And see how little they really meant

For which so much of your strength was spent.

You'll see, as always an old man sees,

That the waves die down with the fading breeze.

That the pomps of life never last for long,
And the great sink back to the common throng,

And you'll understand when the struggle ends,
That the finest gifts of this life are friends.

Author unknown.

(Quoted from page VIII of a fiftieth anniversary history book called Rolling Hills in Retrospect).

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