

Region Severance is denied

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who have continually farmed the land on which the severance would be located for 10 years and need the severance to retire.

This definition implies that the farmer could turn around and sell the severed lot, an act which would not be in the interest of Halton's mandate to protect farmland, argued Mr. Ortlieb.

Regional Staff argued in its

Acton couple supported

Halton Region's Planning and Public Works Committee recommended Wednesday that Regional staff stop trying to prevent an Acton couple, Pamela and Werner Heutschi, from creating a non-farm related residential lot located on the north side of Sideroad 17 west of the First Line in Halton Hills.

The recommendation will go before Halton Regional Council, Wednesday for final approval.

The committee supported a decision by the Region's Land Division Committee (LDC), to allow the creation of the lot. The LDC supported the severance because the proposed lot is of "no agricultural value", according to the LDC's written decision.

The Region's planning staff wanted the planning and public works committee to recommend that staff appeal the decision because the distance between the proposed lot and the neighboring houses on the same side of Sideroad 17 is greater than 100 metres. According to the Halton Regional Official Plan non-farm dwellings in the rural area must be no more than 100 metres from each other. The distance between houses as it pertains to this proposal is approximately 136 metres, according to the staff report.

But the Regional Planning and Public Works Chairman and Halton Hills Regional Councillor Marilyn Serjeanston said the committee members felt the six metre didn't represent "enough of a deviation" to warrant opposition to the severance.

The Region's planning staff argued that allowing the severance to go ahead would contribute to the strip development that already exists in the area, thus further adding to a situation that contradicts the Region's objective - to avoid future strip development along rural roads in Halton.

Coun. Serjeanston acknowledged that the committee members share staff's concern, but they decided in this case an exception was warranted.

According to the Region's Official Plan non-farm dwellings can only be established in a hamlet or rural cluster area, staff pointed out in its report.

The Town of Halton Hills had recommended that the severance be denied, because it didn't conform with the Halton Hills Official Plan, according to a report written by Arvin Prasad a planner with the Town of Halton Hills.

report that Mr. Ortlieb isn't a bona fide farmer so his land severance application cannot be judged under the applicable criteria. The only other way Mr. Ortlieb could be granted a land severance is if his property was located in a hamlet or cluster area, the report indicates. But Mr. Ortlieb's property is located in neither of these types of areas, the report states.

Mr. Ortlieb argued his severance should be judged according to the criteria of being a bona fide farmer because he will resident on the pro-

perty instead of selling it.

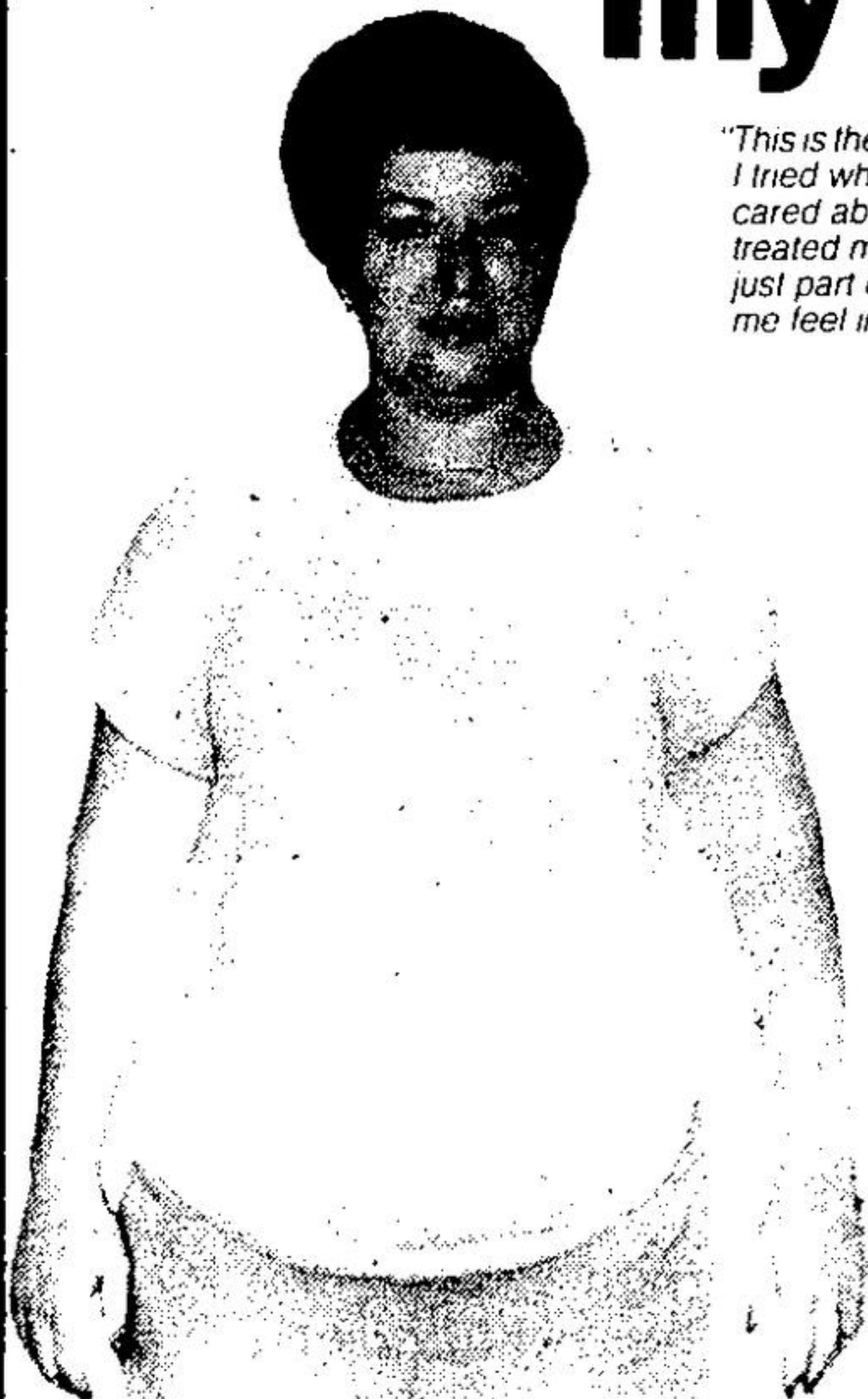
The Committee chairman and Halton Hills Regional Councillor Marilyn Serjeanston said committee members have no jurisdiction to prevent someone from selling a lot once a severance has been granted.

But Mr. Ortlieb argued measures should be put in place to ensure severed farm lots are not allowed to be sold. The intent of the Regional Official Plan is to preserve agricultural lands and "not create lots for sale," he said.



Scouts across Canada were out in force last weekend as the Scouting Movement held its annual Apple Day fundraising project. The Scouting Movement has held Apple Days for over 50 years in Canada. Helping to raise money on behalf of Georgetown Scouts, pictured above, left to right, were David White and Wesley Blight. (Herald photo)

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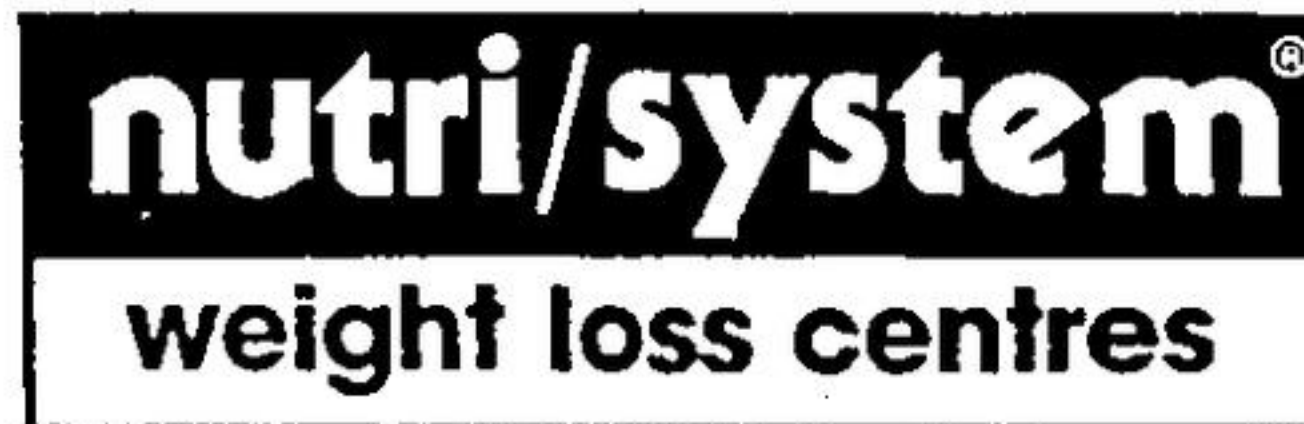
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Historical Society to meet

The Esqueing Historical Society will meet Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. This meeting will be held in the gallery at the Georgetown Cultural Centre.

Ian Bowring will speak about the History of Brewing in Ontario. The event is co-sponsored by the society and the Canada Council.