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NEC planner comes under heavy fire at meeting

By BEN DUMMETT
 The Herald

Niagara Escarpment Commission Senior Planner Marion Plaunt, came under heavy questioning from Milton-based Reclamations Systems Incorporated lawyer Richard Hazard during a hearing in Georgetown over a proposed NEC amendment to ban waste disposal sites on the Escarpment.

RSI is behind the Acton landfill proposal.

Mr. Hazard asked Ms. Plaunt to explain why the NEC wants the amendment, when the province's Environmental Assessment Act is the legislation recognized by many ensuring landfills are not approved if deemed detrimental to the environment.

If the amendment is approved, applicants wanting to establish a

waste disposal facility on the escarpment would first be required to obtain an amendment to the Niagara Escarpment Plan. Currently an amendment isn't always required.

Ms. Plaunt suggested the Environmental Assessment Act "doesn't adequately require private companies to consider alternatives when deciding what to do with a property. This is a significant factor because the NEC believes landfills, in principle, are harmful to the escarpment, she said.

Under the Environmental Assessment Act, municipalities and private companies wanting to establish a landfill must show that the land under consideration couldn't be used in an alternative way.

Ms. Plaunt said in practice

however, for private companies the aspect of alternatives isn't as stringently enforced under the act as it is for municipalities.

Ms. Plaunt went on to argue the focus of the Environmental Assessment Act is to ensure landfill proponents submit the proper studies proving to the MOE the landfill won't be detrimental to the environment.

To this explanation, Mr. Hazard responded by asking "do you mean the legislation only requires the proponent to submit a list of the studies it has done?"

To clarify her explanation, Ms. Plaunt said the Environmental Assessment Act doesn't consider the principle of whether a landfill should be located at a certain location. Comparatively the proposed amendment asks this question, she said.

In response, Mr. Hazard said the Environmental Assessment Act requires landfill proponents to show there is a need for a dump before approval will be considered.

Ms. Plaunt pointed out the question of need is not addressed in the Act itself. It is only highlighted in the Environmental Assessment guidelines that accompany the act.

As well, said Ms. Plaunt, the idea of need is only considered at the end of the environmental process instead of at the beginning.

The Niagara Escarpment Commission amendment calls for landfill proponents to establish need from the outset, she stressed.

The hearing continues for the next eight week days.

This Monday, the public will have an opportunity to speak in favor or against the proposed amendment. Those who want to speak should appear at the Halton Civic Centre for 10 a.m.



Camping out

Doug Perrin, Akeli from the 2nd Georgetown Cub Troop, just needed a stick and some marshmallows and he would have been ready to hit the trail. Mr. Perrin, representing his troop, was one of the many taking part in the Town Lifestyles show at Georgetown District High School Saturday. (Herald photo)

Obituary

Bill McNally

Respected businessman, charitable citizen and dedicated family man, William McNally of McNally Construction in Georgetown, died of an apparent heart attack at his home Wednesday morning.

Mr. McNally spent his life supporting the Georgetown community not only in business, but in social and recreational areas for the past 71 years.

"He was a very supportive community member and was known for getting behind most community charities," said Arlene Bruce of the United Way.

"People who knew him knew they could count on him for a helping hand," she said.

The United Way, the Halton Hills Cancer Society and Red Cross Society were organizations he supported. Mr. McNally was also President of the North Halton Golf and Country Club for close to two decades.

Perhaps he was best known for his role in the business community.

As owner of McNally Construction, his company built many of Georgetown's businesses and schools, including Curwood Packaging, Mold Masters, Gage Stationary, Neilson's Dairy, T.D. Williamson, Varian, Centennial Middle School, Kennedy Public School, Park Public School and additions to Georgetown District High School.

"He was a very good supporter of business in Halton Hills and the Chamber of Commerce," said Doug Penrice, general manager of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce. The chamber named McNally Construction business of the year in 1982.

His son David McNally, who worked with his father and other brother John, in the family business, recalls his father's early days when he worked at Provincial Papers as an assistant manager.

"He had a good job there but he saw how other people lived and decided he wanted his family to live like that," remembers David.

Bill McNally decided to leave his job and start his own wood-working business in a chicken



Bill McNally

coop behind the family's home on the corner of Market and Williams Streets.

At first, Mr. McNally made wooden toys, like wagons and hobby horses. "Everyone pitched in to help him," said David.

Soon, he was being asked to renovate people's homes and by the 1950's he was building homes for people.

As his name became known, he ventured into bigger projects.

For almost 50 years, Mr. McNally built up the reputation of his company. It's now a general contracting construction business.

But David said it wasn't business that was most important to Mr. McNally. Rather, his family was the focus of his life. Mr. McNally was married to the former Floria Feller, and they had three children, David, John and Janet.

Mr. McNally was also very supportive of St. George's Anglican Church in Georgetown. He served as warden for the church and was working to raise funds for the church at the time of his death.

Friends of the family were received at the J.S. Jones Funeral Home, Thursday, from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. until noon Friday. The funeral service was held Friday at St. George's Anglican Church. Interment at Greenwood Cemetery in Georgetown.

In respect, contributions to the Canadian Cancer Society or a charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family, said a family member.

Education board decision facing OMB hearing

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT
 The Herald

In a rare move, the Ontario Municipal Board has announced it will hold a public hearing some time this summer surrounding the decision of the Halton Board of Education to relocate Oakville Trafalgar High School.

"The OMB deals with school board applications on a regular basis but they rarely go to a hearing," said the OMB's manager of planning and municipal finance, Carolyn Fenn. "We can order a hearing if we feel the criteria the board has to address under the Ontario Municipal Board Act are raised as issues by the objectors."

Apparently, such issues were raised by groups as the Taxpayers O.M.B. Fund (TOMB) which says the proposed new high school in South East Oakville isn't needed.

To understand the issue, we have to go back to 1986 when the Halton Board of Education realized the existing Oakville Trafalgar High School needed to be improved (i.e. new roof and more space), which would require a substantive amount of

dollars.

Chairman of the Board, Bill Harrison said board administration commissioned an architect to report on the structure of the school. They also hired a well-known educator to determine what educational shortfalls the school had. Lastly, the board called for a demographic study of the region.

After reviewing the results of all these studies, the board decided it would be more feasible to build a new school rather than renovate the existing one. Mr. Harrison said the board estimates renovations for approximately 40 per cent of the building would cost about \$13 million, while the new building would cost approximately \$22 million.

Meanwhile, the school board had applied for a capital fund grant which was approved by the Ministry of Education in April 1990. The grant was \$17.7 million.

To meet the estimated expense of a new school, the board also applied for a \$5.9 million debenture which is subject to approval from the OMB. The hearing will determine whether the board's

debenture is approved or rejected.

Mr. Harrison said, "I'm confident that all the decisions the board has made are correct and that the OMB will find in our favor." He said the fact the Ministry of Education approved the board's plans and financing for a new school by giving them a grant is an indication of support for the school board's decision.

But TOMB members don't support the plan. In a press release issued Monday, the group noted that "residential, farm and commercial property taxpayers can no longer afford the cost of rampant yuppie-driven consumerism in our municipal spending. Nor can we afford school board trustees who cater to the wants of special interest groups for any crass political advantage."

An Inside Look

Police Beat 2	Editorial 10
Features 3 & 11	Entertainment . . . 13
Environment 4	Youth Page 14
Seniors 6	Sports 15-17
Religion 8 & 12	Classified 18-24