

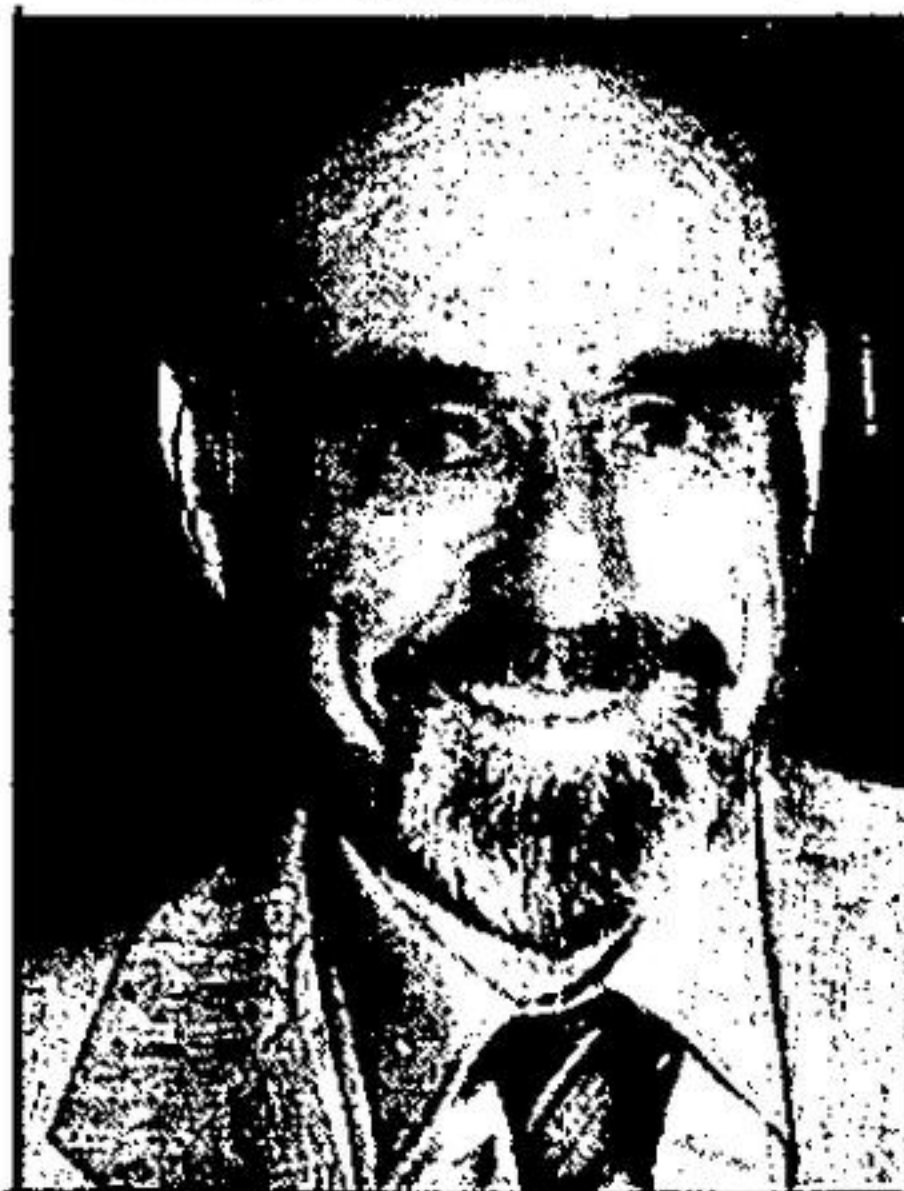
News at a Glance

Wild Bill leaves with barrels blazing

True to past form, retiring Milton Regional Councillor Bill Johnson departed from his last Halton Planning and Public Works Committee meeting Wednesday in typical firebrand fashion.

Disgusted with comments made during the meeting on the issue of illegal dumping, Coun. Johnson stormed out of the meeting with this departing shot: "I've never seen such crap."

Coun. Johnson made the comment after Burlington Regional Coun. Pat McLaughlin said the Region should focus on the illegal dumping of hazardous waste rather than simple littering.



BILL JOHNSON

Coun. McLaughlin made the statement in reference to Halton Region pressuring the provincial government to implement legislation empowering the courts to have the right to impound the vehicle of anyone found guilty of illegally dumping hazardous or non-hazardous waste.

Coun. McLaughlin took the position the province wouldn't implement this type of legislation before consulting a number of municipal governments and other agencies.

In that sense, the exact wording the Region uses in its resolution urging the province to implement the necessary legislation is not vitally important as long as the general intent is clear, he explained.

However, Coun. Johnson was upset because he considers illegal dumping of hazardous and non-hazardous waste equal in seriousness.

Committee members eventually recommended a resolution calling for the province to implement the appropriate legislation while recognizing not all illegal dumping offences may necessitate impounding the guilty party's vehicle.

A hefty fine may be a more just and effective punishment, a majority of committee members agreed.

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

Salaries considered

Halton Region Administration and Finance Committee members recommended Wednesday the newly-elected Regional Council should decide on its pay raise for next year.

The new Regional Council has its inaugural meeting Dec. 4.

In accordance with Halton Regional policy, staff recommended Regional councillors and members of the Halton Regional Police Services Board receive a 5.26 per cent increase for next year.

The pay hike will see a councillor's salary increasing from \$18,337 to \$19,300, the Regional chairman's salary increasing from \$68,023 to \$73,500, and a Police Services Board member salary increases from \$9,000 to \$9,470.

Speaking in support of the deferral, Oakville Regional Coun. Liz Behrens said she supports the Regional council salary policy, however it may not reflect the

current tough economic times.

Regional council policy calls for the wage increase to be calculated on a pre-determined formula.

According to the formula, the salary increase represents the average of three yearly price index averages. They include the All Canada Consumer Price Index, the average of 12 Regional job classifications and the Ontario Consumer Price Index.

Coun. Behrens noted the 5.26 increase is higher than the percentage wage increase Regional staff has been receiving.

Burlington Regional Coun. Joyce Savoline questioned why the increase should be deferred since the formula was created to prevent haggling among councillors trying to determine what they are worth.

"I don't see why we (regional councillors) have to be beaten up for taking money for what we do," said Coun. Savoline.

Study on budget

The current \$3.1 million Halton Urban Area Structure Review Study price tag is expected to stay within budget. Halton Planner Rash Mohammed assured Regional council members Wednesday.

The innovative study is an attempt to determine where long-term growth should happen in Halton by considering environmental and planning issues in conjunction with one another.

Halton is the only Region in the Greater Toronto Area to attempt such a planning method. Normal practice calls for environmental and planning issues to be studied separate of each other.

The study is being cost-shared by the Region, which is paying \$1.7 and the province, which is responsible for \$1.4 million.

The Region expects to finance their share through development levies and not taxes.

Mr. Mohammed said he had received letters from the Ministry of Environment indicating the province had no problem with how the study was being carried out.

Provincial support for the study probably means the province won't require the Region to do extra work down the road. Meaning costs to the Region shouldn't exceed the budgeted amount, explained Mr. Mohammed.

Mr. Mohammed did say the province wants the Region to ensure the public has been permitted to comment on all steps taken during the study.

Proposal supported

Halton Region Planning and Public Works recommended Wednesday an Ontario Soft Drink Association proposal to reduce municipalities recycling cost be endorsed.

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

According to a staff report, the proposal calls for the association to provide a "top up fee" to municipalities covering the difference between the cost of recycling soft drink containers and the revenue received from the recycled material.

Currently the cost to municipalities to recycle soft drink containers, as well as most other materials, is greater than the revenue municipalities generate from the recycled materials.

Art Leitch, Halton's Public Works Commissioner, said other industry groups should be encouraged to follow the soft drink association's lead and initiate similar programs.

"This would assist in developing more equity, by sharing recycling costs among a larger number of industrial and commercial waste generators," said Mr. Leitch.



Halton Hills members of Amnesty International (AI) were shown the results of the organization's efforts Tuesday, Nov. 19 when political prisoner Adongo Ogony (left) addressed the group at the monthly meeting at St. Francis of Assisi School in

Georgetown. Mr. Ogony was released after 22 months in prison through the efforts of AI. He is pictured here with Halton Hills AI co-ordinator Cheryl Broughten (right). (Herald Photo)

Amnesty International

Freedom cannot be denied

Members of Amnesty International's Halton Hills chapter had the opportunity Tuesday to meet a former Kenyan political prisoner.

During the group's meeting at St. Francis of Assisi School, Adongo Ogony spoke about the 22 months of imprisonment he spent in Kenya and Amnesty International's (AI) efforts which led to his release.

During the mid 1980s, Adongo was first imprisoned for seven months for being a student leader and speaking out against the imprisonment of other individuals in the country. Shortly after his release he was imprisoned again for similar reasons.

He was released four years ago due to pressure placed on the Kenyan government from Amnesty International, through letters and

petitions and later moved to Canada.

After Mr. Ogony's address, Halton Hills chapter of Amnesty International's co-ordinator, Cheryl Broughten, spoke to those present about what Amnesty International does in the area of human rights and how the public can become involved, either by becoming a member or supporting the organization during fundraisers or special events.

1991 is the 30th anniversary of the establishment of Amnesty International, an organization with over one million members worldwide.

Amnesty International's Halton Hills chapter group was formed this past spring and consists of 25 members. Ms. Broughten explains the group is distinct from an official

branch of AI, which will take on the cause of specific individuals who are wrongfully imprisoned.

The Halton Hills chapter has had displays at the Georgetown Fall Fair and other local events.

In addition to working towards the release of all those believed to be wrongfully imprisoned throughout the world through letters and petitions, the AI Halton Hills group supports the the main organization's continuing effort to abolish the death penalty in all areas of the world.

The group's next meeting will be held Tuesday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi School. Newcomers are welcome to come early and talk with group members. For more information concerning AI Halton Hills chapter, contact Cheryl Broughten at 877-0331 or Jeff Duncan at 877-8754.

Lioness Food Drive gearing up for Christmas

It's that time of year again when the Georgetown Lionesses gear up for their annual Good Neighbors food drive which provides needy families with a Christmas hamper.

Last year, the Lionesses collected enough food to make 160 hampers and are expecting even bigger donations this year, said Madeline Collier who's coordinating the event along with Billie Idzi.

Hampers are filled with turkey, potatoes, carrots, turnips, canned vegetables, soup, fruit and toys said Mrs. Collier. Food is collected from drop-off points at all elementary schools in Georgetown as well as many churches.

Then, all the food is collected and brought to the Old Home Hardware building on Dec. 20 and 21 where the Lionesses and volunteers sort and distribute the food.

Toys for the hampers are provided by the local Kinsmen club.

The Lionesses distribute the filled hampers to families based on submissions from Health and Welfare, the Salvation Army, various churches and people who have signed up

to become recipients.

For those who would rather donate money to help the Lionesses purchase meats for the hampers, please send a cheque to Madeline

Collier at 11 Orchard Boulevard, Georgetown, L7G 2Y7.

All the leftover foodstuffs are given to the Love in Christ Food Bank.



MADELAINE COLLIER



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