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Rural subdivision's remote location comes under Milton Councillor's fire

By ROB KELLY

The approval of another estate-type subdivision for rural Milton at Milton council Monday night drew criticism from Councillor Colin Best, who warned that allowing such a development flies in the face of good municipal planning.

But Milton Mayor Gord Krantz said council is duty bound to honor "commitments" made by previous councils, which laid the groundwork for the rural development taking place.

The proposed subdivision, to be known as Stonegate, will be located on the west side of Fifth Line south of 20 Sideroad in northwestern Nassagaweya. The ambitious plan calls for 15 homes

on lots of varying sizes, with the smallest building lots hovering around three acres. Pockets of such development are sprinkled throughout Nassagaweya, from Campbellville north to Brookville.

That's one of the things that concerns Councillor Best. He said the proposed subdivision is at "the farthest point away" from Milton's rural fire station in the area. As well, he said public school board buses, as a matter of policy, will not enter the subdivision to pick up area children because they can't turn around in the cul-de-sac streets the builder will create as frontage for the homes.

On top of that, the 15-home development is "too small to be a

community" on its own and is not in the area of established rural hamlets, such as Brookville and Moffat Best pointed out. "We're getting a pattern (of development) I can't justify. We're going to so many different places that are so isolated. We have a pattern that in future we may not be able to service."

There is now a council-imposed freeze on rural residential development, pending the outcome of a hefty study on various concerns, such as the ability to supply municipal services and the availability of groundwater. But many subdivision applications were in the works prior to that freeze, including Stonegate.

The freeze on rural development is expected to last until at least late 1991, but in the meantime rural estate subdivisions have still been coming before council on a regular basis as developers who began preparations prior to the freeze take advantage of the grandfather clause for their subdivisions.

Although the subdivision was approved, a list of 25 conditions was attached. Noting the lengthy list of conditions, Councillor Art Melanson said, "this could drag out another two or three years anyway," before a shovel turns dirt.

No one injured in annual deer hunt

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) said the annual deer hunt in Halton went smoothly, with no hunting-related accidents and only one trespassing complaint lodged.

However, it will be weeks before an exact count on the number of deer harvested can be made.

Hunters are required to report their kills, and those reports are still coming in, said MNR biologist Dave Hamlin.

The ministry does set up voluntary checkpoints where hunters can bring in their deer. That allows it to survey the health and age of the deer harvested, thus getting a better idea of how the herd is faring.

At the Milton checkpoint (the Halton Sportsmen's Club), Hamlin said Halton hunters turned in 80 deer, which is above last year's count.

Throughout the district (which is basically bordered by Mount Forest to the north, Waterloo to the west, Ancaster to the south and Halton to the east) the three MNR checkpoints took in 280 deer this year, compared with 340 last year.

The controlled shotgun deer hunt ran Nov. 12-16 with 575 hunters eligible (through a lottery system) in Halton.

An archery season lasts quite a bit longer.

It began Oct. 15, was interrupted for the shotgun hunt and continues to year end.

Last year 402 archers participated, and Hamlin expects a similar turnout this year.

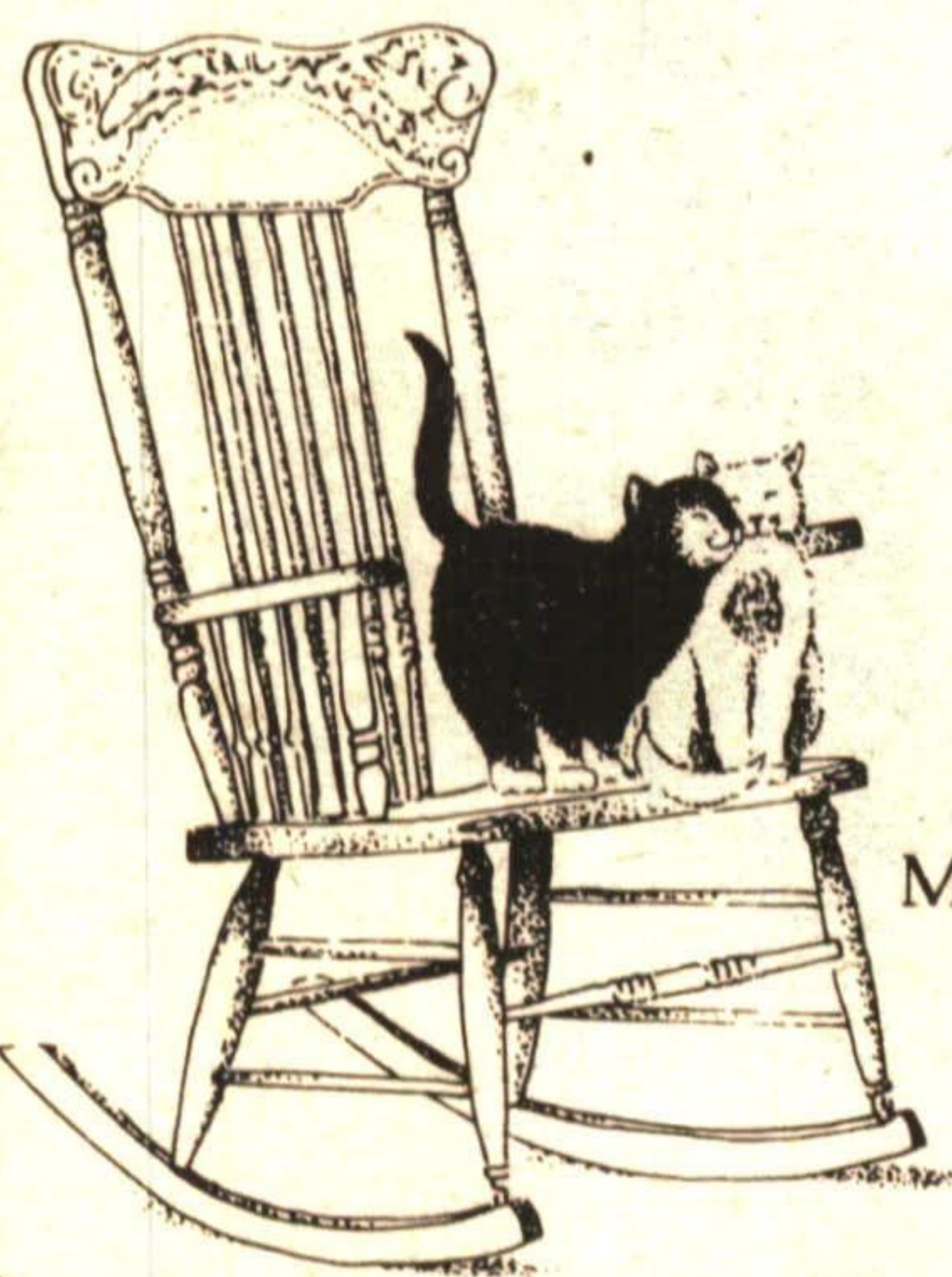
Counting the archery hunt, almost 500 deer were taken last year in the central region.

Farmers and landowners with more than 50 acres of property are automatically eligible for the hunt.

From what he saw of the deer brought in, Hamlin said the herd looks to be "very healthy."

The females, he added, were generally giving birth to twins, and the fawns seemed to be large for this time of year.

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