

Coalition supports NEC transfer

Dear Editor:

Our group, the Niagara Escarpment Landowners Coalition (NELC), supports Regional Council's decision to defer their vote on the transfer of Niagara Escarpment Commission control to the Region. A recent letter to the paper indicated a number of misunderstandings which we would like to correct.

1. The Niagara Escarpment Commission was formed with the understanding that development control would be transferred to the Regions. The provincial government approached Halton Region in 1985 and again in 1989 to discuss the transfer. The Commission was never intended to be permanent and is not designed to function on a permanent basis.

2. When the Regions take over development control, they will be governed by the same Plan and the same Act as presently used by the Commission. The same rules would continue to apply the length of the Escarpment and provide consistent protection.

3. The Escarpment was designated as a Biosphere Reserve with the full knowledge that the legislation

was in place to permit the transfer of development control to the Regions. The Commission appears to be failing to meet the Biosphere Reserve criteria.

4. The transfer of development control to the Regions would reduce costs and duplication. The Region already circulates applications and evaluates proposals against Niagara Escarpment Plan criteria. Little, if any, additional costs would be incurred by the Region.

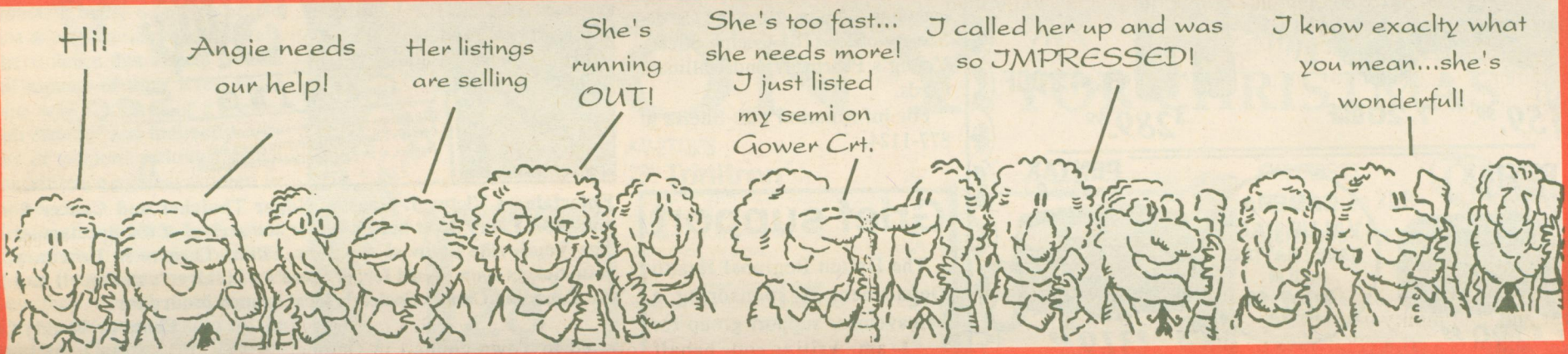
5. Having "one bunch of bureaucrats" manage the Escarpment is not better. The Niagara Escarpment Commission costs \$3-million in direct costs alone, and consists of Commissioners who have little knowledge of local matters. Many applications are just "packaged through".

Our Provincial Politicians have told us that we can no longer spend like "drunken sailors". We must make choices. Let's not continue to waste our environmental dollars on duplication and red tape.

Yours truly,
Lois McClure, Co-Chair
Niagara Escarpment
Landowners Coalition



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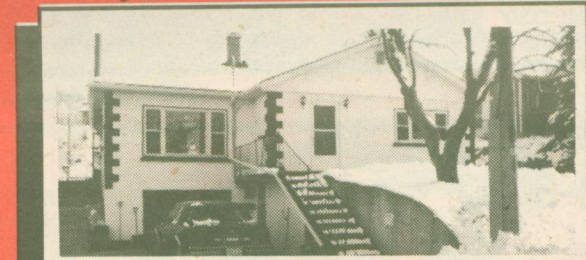
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