



Swing your partner

Town of Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller (left) kicked up his heels last Wednesday at the Civic Centre in Georgetown, with Pine Valley Square Dancers' president Cathy Hunt, and Roberta and John Wrigglesworth of Star Thru Squares of Acton, to officially doe-say-doe National Square Dancing Week starting Sept. 13.

photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

Landowners protest NEC report

By Oksana Buhel

Recommendations for a revised Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP), "Renewing the Vision" issued Monday by the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC), are being strongly protested by landowners in the area.

Lois McClure, co-chair of the Niagara Escarpment Landowners Commission (NELC), immediately listed seven purported discrepancies in NEC information regarding the recommendations and the manner in which material for the recommendations was gathered.

In 1990, the NEC was directed to review specific problems or less than specific issues which surfaced during a five-year-review of NEP. The review process included seven months of public hearings, conducted by hearing officers Mary Munro and John McClellan. A year after the final meeting was held, the hearing officers submitted their report to the NEC and

provincial Minister of Energy and the Environment, Bud Wildman.

The NEC was not satisfied with this information, and compiled its own recommendations, entitled "Renewing the Vision."

In a news release the NEC maintained Munro and McClellan strayed from terms of reference set out in 1990 by former Minister of the Environment Jim Bradley.

McClure produced a letter written by Bradley to the NEC, dated June 1990, stating "I will forward to you shortly the Terms of Reference which will include an initial list of issues to examine in the Review. Additional issues may be raised during the Review."

The release also stated Munro and McClellan proceeded with their own agenda, specifically Plan implementation and administrative issues. McClure argued the hearing officers were justi-

fied in doing so because of revised plans put out by the NEC in Feb. 1991,

or through public participation."

McClure argued against the NEC's accusation that Munro and McClellan failed to comply with their own standards for public participation, pointing out public meetings were held regularly. She also accused the NEC of meeting "in camera" for four days in June, to consider its response to the hearing officers' report. McClure added the NEC declined to hear from landowners in connection with the report, "Renewing the Vision."

She also said the NEC's comment that the hearing officers used the development-oriented Planning Act as their frame of reference was unjustified. The NEC has since stated the officers should have used the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, which

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Halton Hills This

WEEKEND

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Catholic board faces financial dilemma

By Oksana Buhel

The Halton Roman Catholic School Board (HRCSB) does not plan to sit by idly while the provincial government alternates tax hikes with grant freezes.

At Tuesday's HRCSB meeting, trustees decided to notify premier Bob Rae the \$160,000 taxation imposed on insurance premiums, is unacceptable and will erode the board's financial ability to provide for its student.

"This is another example of a transfer of costs from the province to the board," complained Joe Birett, superintendent of business services. He explained the increase in costs will not be accompanied by an increase in grants. Grants have been

frozen at 1992 levels, while board expenditures are now being taxed.

Student enrollment is also increasing, which puts an additional strain on HRCSB funds.

Birett said the board is left with three options. The first alternative is to pass the costs on to the ratepayers. "This is not a very feasible option," Birett admitted. "In these economic times, ratepayers are already paying a substantial amount in taxes."

The second course is to reduce services, which Birett added, is also a limited option. The provincial government has a strict set of educational standards to which school boards must

adhere.

The final alternative is for the board to keep discovering ways of servicing students in a more cost-efficient manner. "This may mean teachers and staff members will have to work longer hours and cover more subjects," Birett said.

Although he admitted the government will not be sidetracked from its taxation decision, Birett insisted it was "worthwhile...no necessary" to inform the government HRCSB fears the effect the decision will have on students.

DOWN
TOWNER.



When will we have a 'back to school' special for parents.



Hot to trot at Mohawk

Trainer Allan Waddell prepares to take Blue Jay Spirit out for a training run in preparation for Sunday's (tomorrow) opening of the fall harness racing season at Mohawk Raceway in Campbellville. Racing starts at 7:30 p.m. and as an opening-card special, there will be a \$1 General Admission charge and the program is free. For more on the Mohawk opening, see page 10.

photo by Colin Gibson/HHTW

Trial set for police veteran

A 27-year veteran of the Halton Regional Police Service will appear in court Sept. 29 to face seven charges of assault.

A seven-week investigation indicated two of the Staff Sergeant's children had been assaulted between January 1987 and June 1993. The assaults were allegedly for disciplinary reasons, and no injuries resulted from them.

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