Norval land dilemma still not resolved

By Oksana Buhel

When Norval lands encompassing a historic cemetery were transferred from the registry system to the Land Titles System, two important documents were not taken into account, and Town of Halton Hills councillors are demanding, "why?"

Councillor Kathy Gastle announced at Tuesday's Town of Halton Hills council meeting, two deeds existed, dated in 1854 and 1857, which indicated a portion of the lands were registered as a cemetery. She added when the transfer process was taking place, only the past 40year history of the area was investigated, which com-

pletely neglected the two documents.

The lands in question, which belong to Julian and Deanna Reed, lie on Pinecrest Road in Norval. In 1991, an application was submitted to the town to establish a five lot plan of subdivision on the land, which includes the old McNab burial ground.

Mississauga Indians and children, who died as a result of a mid-1800's epidemic were reportedly buried on these lands, as well as several McNab settlers and members of the community. A number of graves and monuments were later moved to Hillcrest Cemetery, also in

Rick Bonnette mine what he meant by "the

whole proposal." Monahan

Monahan's other protest

was that Heaton was insinuat-

ing he was speaking for the

town by signing the comment

A number of councillors

agreed with Monahan.

Councilor Gerald Rennie

assured her "Mr. Heaton's

comments are worth noth-

Bonnette's notice of motion

was supported 9-3 in a

recorded vote. Gastle, who

admitted she had not.

sheet "councillor."

Bruce MacNabb, descendant of the original owners maintains the records of the transfers were stolen, but Julian Reed said they were lost in a fire. Either way, the possibility of remaining graves on the land is a concern.

Gastle admitted the required archeological research assessment study and a more detailed electromagnetic study had been conducted on the property, but pointed out the latter study had only been completed on a portion of Reed's lands.

"It (the electro-magnetic study) was only done on 625 square metres," Gastle said. "That's not even a quarter of the subject lands."

Municipal legal administrative coordinator, Stephen Thomson, suggested the company which conducted the archeological investigation - Mayer, Poulton and

Associates, "probably did the electro-magnetic study only in the area which was most likely to have graves."

Gastle was not appeased. Her concerns were echoed by Councillor Ron Chatten, who said, "It seems the information provided is incomplete." He suggested that before the subdivision agreement is granted, the entire area should be studied.

Councillor Norm Elliott suggested council seek legal advice.

Council voted to refer the matter to the Ontario Cemeteries Board for clarification of the 1855 and 1857 deeds and any other pertinent registry deeds. Council also agreed that if Reed's subdivision application is approved, a means of access must be provided from the town Line to the cemetery for the purpose of maintenance and public access.

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Councillors are on their own

Town of Halton Hills councillors jointly indicated that individual councillors who wish to express noncon-

By Oksana Buhel

formist views will be left to fend for themselves. At Tuesday's Town of Halton Hills council meeting, Councillor Rick Bonnette introduced a notice of motion stating council should emphasize that the view, "as

expressed by Councillor Rob Heaton regarding the Citizens' Committee on Property Tax Reform, are not reflective of the collective views of this council" and the three committee representatives of Halton Hills are informed of this.

In September, Heaton wrote on a public comment sheet distributed at a Citizens' Committee of Property Tax Reform meeting "the whole proposal is a total sham!!!"

Molly Monahan, member of the committee, complained to council Heaton was criticizing the committee and its report. Heaton argued he was criticizing the region's role in the market value assessment. study.

Councillor Kathy Gastle asked Monahan if she had spoken with Heaton when the incident occurred, to deter-

did not support the notice, along with Councillor Gail Rutherford and Ron Chatten, pointed out councillors often speak out at meetings and it is not assumed they are representing the views of the entire

~ Sixty Fifth of a Series ~

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