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Mowbray wants grant revoked

Town Council to be asked to reconsider \$100,000 grant for Mountsberg

By LEILA WILLS

Councillor Jan Mowbray will put a motion before Town Council on October 25 requesting that a large grant approved earlier be referred back to the Community Services Advisory Committee (CSAC) for their reconsideration.

Ms. Mowbray said many Milton residents have expressed concern about Town Council's decision to approve a \$100,000 grant for the Discovery Centre at Mountsberg Conservation Area. The money for the grant comes out of the Milton Community Fund, which gives \$50,000 annually to local groups and/or individuals.

Ms. Mowbray said people are worried that such a large grant could drain the fund and leave other groups empty handed. "They're just concerned that this big outfit is getting \$100,000 and this is supposed to be a Milton fund," she said.

Members of CSAC voted

**"THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE
 A MILTON FUND"**

unanimously to approve the large grant requested by Conservation Halton Foundation before it was presented to Town Council on September 27. Councillors voted 9-2 in favour of the \$100,000 grant at the last council meeting (with councillors Lee and Lunau opposing the motion), even though CSAC guidelines recommend a maximum of \$40,000 for this type of project.

Ms. Mowbray said she initially voted in favour of the grant but changed her mind after complaints from residents prompted her to do further research. "I voted for it and

then I found out that the Discovery Centre was not even in Milton."

She also said that although CSAC guidelines stipulated that 75 percent of the members of any group applying for money from the Milton Community Fund must be Miltonians, she can only identify two Milton residents on the board of Conservation Halton Foundation.

The cheque that was cut will be held pending the outcome of Monday's Town Council meeting. Ms. Mowbray said that she knows there will be more councillors opposing the grant than there were before,

but she doesn't know if it will pass.

The motion may not be popular with everyone. "I know it's going to incur the wrath of at least 3 people on council," Mowbray said.

If the motion to refer the \$100,000 grant back to CSAC is passed, CSAC will have the opportunity to bring the request back to town council in November when councillors will vote on it again.

Ms. Mowbray said that if her motion passes, the message will be clear. "If you have guidelines, how can you exceed them by \$60,000?"



Campbellville's Autumn beauty

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