

About many things...

WITH BRUCE HOOD

Can you believe that grown men can't agree on something that is so important in our lives? The lack of NHL hockey is causing a lot of problems for people who are having withdrawal symptoms... such as extra beer in the fridge as one doesn't run there as often when watching old movies; husbands finding time to talk to their wives and stuck for words with no hockey to talk about; wives upset at having to put up with husband pouting; people who have Leaf season tickets glad they don't have to be forced to (a) go to watch, or (b) pawn the tickets off on a paying friend, or (c) worst of all, have to give them to a client; and the list goes on and on.

You'd think that Gary Bettman, the NHL big boss and Bob Goodenough, the player's boss would be considerate enough to get together and toss a coin to decide who has the best deal and get on with it - rather than have a Mexican standoff type situation. Don't they realize they are taking money out of the pockets of many people, for instance the ticket scalpers in the various cities. Well, maybe not all the cities - the scalpers in some NHL cities have been drawing pogy for

quite a while now with not a lot of interest in by the folks in attending games there.

Take the city of Chicago for example, they used to put over 23,000 people in the old Stadium years back and now they have a beautiful new building and attendance is less than half that. When I was in the windy city a couple of weeks ago, it was if the Black Hawks didn't exist - but if you look at the standings in the past few years, it appears they haven't existed for a while!

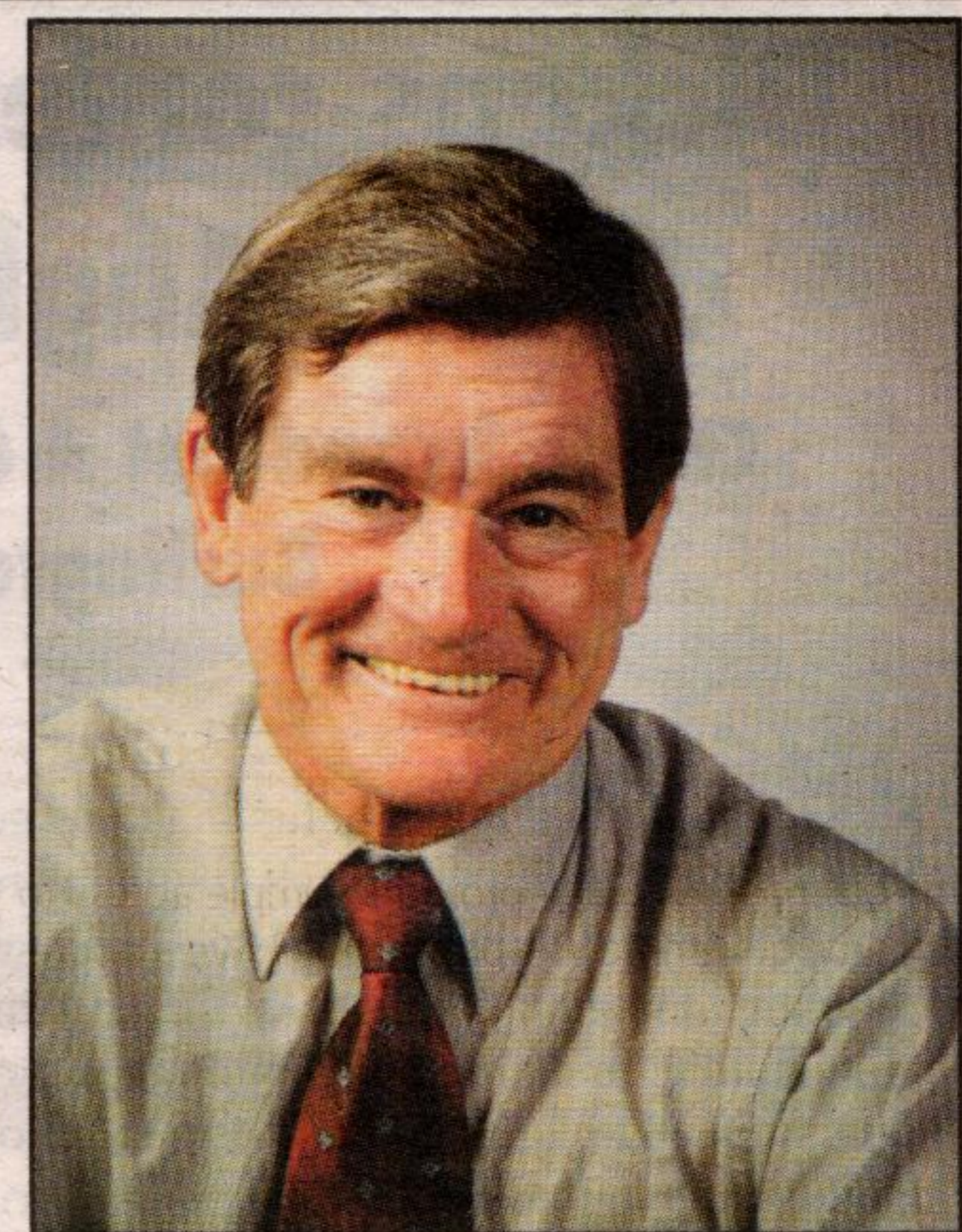
And speaking of Chicago - not to pick on them, but to use the situation as an example - it was said way back when, that when they were packing the 23,000 people in the building - even though the announced attendance was always 19,999 - that's the most the fire laws allowed - that 11% of the team income went to pay the players! That's when players like Bobby Hull, Stan Mikita, Glenn Hall and the like were being paid peanuts to play the game. So you can imagine what the owners of the teams were pocketing in those days. Look at the ridiculous salaries paid to so many greats on the other teams over the years - Gordie Howe in Detroit, Jean Beliveau in Montreal, and Bobby Orr

in Boston. Along came the formation of the NHL Player's Association (read 'union!') and see now that the percentage has gone a little bit to the players' side - about another 50% worth!

People keep asking me what I think about the situation of no NHL hockey. Well, it's like this - I like the way things are now. The reason? My mom called me the other night and said you're on TV: - I said what am I doing - she said refereeing a hockey game, so I tuned into TSN and sure enough it was a Canada Cup game from 1981 between Team Canada and Team Sweden. So I watched the game and enjoyed it. Jeez, I was a good ref! Only foolin'...

This is what is happening - they are showing lots and lots of games from the old days - pretty darned good hockey - every day or two I get a call or an email, or run into someone that saw me doing a game.

There is another side to this no live NHL hockey these days too - there are a lot of people out there who tell me they are realizing there is life without NHL hockey. If even some of the people here in Ontario think that way, how do you think



the folks in the US cities must feel. There will be a big debt when all of this is over.

Last but not least, the on ice product needs work to bring excitement to the game so when they come back it will not be the same old, same old, - 'C' players bringing 'A' players down to their level, with hooking, holding, interfering in every which way. Plus running people through the boards at 50 miles an hour, or cross checking them from behind in front of the net, but all of that is a story for another day.

Hamilton hires aggregate planning advisor to study quarry application

BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

The City of Hamilton has hired an aggregate planning advisor to assist municipal staff as they study a controversial quarry application in Flamborough.

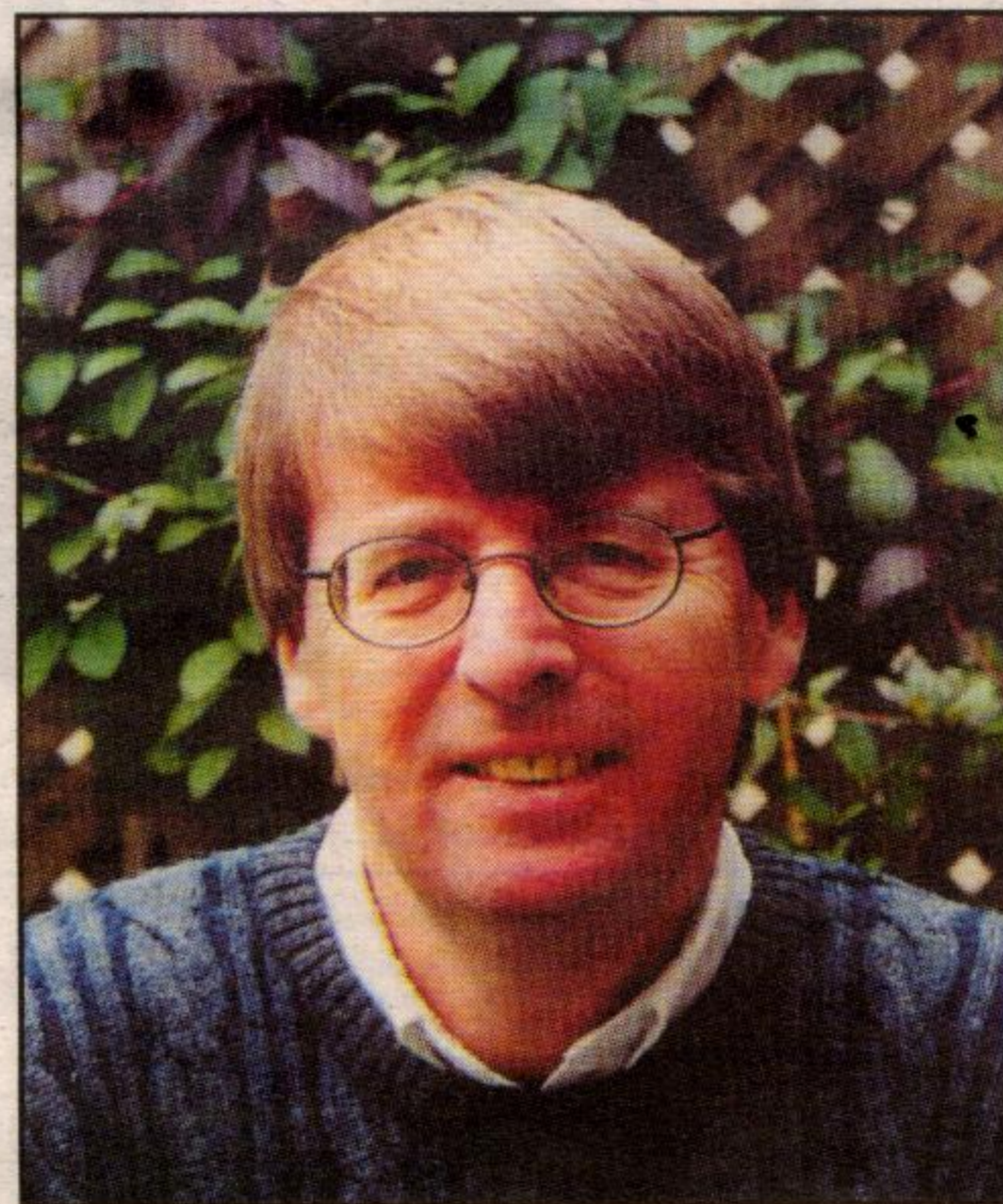
In June, David Lowndes Holdings Corp. announced a proposal to develop a limestone quarry near 11th Concession Road East and Milborough Line, a decision that's generated a lot of debate in the community. Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment (FORCE), a citizen-based advocacy group, has opposed the project from the beginning.

Last month, the company's application was accepted for review by the City of Hamilton, and this month the City hired Steven Rowe to examine the application.

Stan Holiday, a senior planner with the City of Hamilton, says Mr. Rowe is a registered professional planner with expertise in handling these types of applications. "He has substantial experience working for municipalities and providing an advisory role on planning matters."

Mr. Rowe is a member of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI), an organization that represents 2,400 practising planners across the province.

If approved, the quarry application would require an amendment to the Flamborough Official Plan from rural to extractive industrial. A change would also be required to the zoning bylaw



Steve Rowe

from agricultural and conservation management to extractive industrial.

Over the next few months, the City will conduct a review of the supporting studies prepared by Lowndes Holdings Inc. And there will also be a series of public meetings on the proposal in 2005.

To contact the City of Hamilton, call Stan Holiday at 905-546-2424, ext. 4280. The fax number is 905-546-4202. The email address is sholiday@hamilton.ca.

FORCE can be reached at 905-659-5417. The website is www.StopTheQuarry.ca. To contact Lowndes Holdings Corp., call 905-659-5524.

Lowndes Holdings Corp. holds an open house every Thursday from 2 pm to 8 pm to answer questions about the company's application.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF COUNCIL

On Monday, December 6, 2004 the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Milton will hold a statutory public meeting, pursuant to Section 150 of the Municipal Act, Part XII of the Municipal Act, Section 69 of the Planning Act and Bill 124, Building Code Act to present and obtain public input on the Town's proposed User Fee By-law. All interested individuals are invited to attend this Public Meeting of Council and make representations relating to the proposed by-law. The meeting is to be held as follows:

Date: Monday, December 6, 2004
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall
43 Brown Street, Milton, ON

In order that sufficient information is made available to the public, copies of the proposed by-law are being made available as of Friday, December 3, 2004 from the Corporate Services Department at Town Hall, 43 Brown Street, and will also be available on-line at www.milton.ca under "User Fees" in the Optional Search Box.

Interested persons may express their comments at the Public Meeting or in writing, addressed to: Sheryl Hill, Manager, Finance, Town Hall, 43 Brown Street, Milton, ON L9T 5H2 prior to Monday, December 13, 2004.

The Town of Milton and
Oakville Humane Society are holding
a **Microchipping Clinic**
Sunday, November 28, 2004
Seniors' Centre
500 Childs Drive, Milton
1:00 - 6:00 PM

Have your pet microchipped by a veterinarian for \$29.95.
Purchase the Town of Milton Lifetime **Microchip tag**.
No more annual tags to purchase!
Cats are welcome too.
By-law 90-2004 requires all dogs to have a licence (tag)
Dog tag fee is **\$52.00 in addition to Microchipping fee.
** Rates are under review and are subject to change.