

TOWN NOW CONSIDERS MATTER CLOSED

Continued from front

update will be undertaken by the Halton Regional Police Service," Duraiappah stated in the letter.

Council received the information and passed an amended motion to direct town staff to obtain a copy of the police report and it, too, now considers this matter closed.

But not everyone was thrilled about moving on without viewing the full report.

Coun. Rick Malboeuf called it "premature and irresponsible" for council or any member of it to discuss it without knowing the details, as well as the OPP's

reasoning for the result.

"For us to make any comments is simply based on speculation and conjecture," said Malboeuf. "I believe it is irresponsible for us not to question why this was even on the agenda tonight without that report accompanying it."

He asked McHarg when council could get a copy of the report, but the town clerk didn't know.

Councillors Rick Di Lorenzo and John Pollard had some strong words, as well, in defence of Huffman and about the length of the investigation.

Di Lorenzo said he felt the inquiry was more of a personal motivation and

called the investigation a "bad chapter" in the council's history.

"I think it cost the taxpayers money. I think it cost a particular councillor damage to his reputation. (Those) are my comments," said Di Lorenzo.

Pollard believed the investigation was a waste of time for the councillors, public, town clerk and staff, regional and provincial police services, as well as any cost to them for their involvement.

"Frankly, I'm hoping this stops here. We've listened to claims of wrongdoing and illegal activity for years now by the mover and second (mover) of the original motion," said Pollard.

He said he has yet to see any concrete proof of wrongdoing on Huffman's part, a claim that "apparently the OPP agrees (with)."

"In both public and private, conversations of claims remain, to this day, completely unfounded and unfair to Coun. Huffman and the rest of council,"

said Pollard.

Malboeuf disagreed with much of Pollard's statements.

"He's making a number of assumptions of what is in that police report and we have no idea what is in that report," said Malboeuf.

After a back-and-forth discussion on whether or not the matter should be closed before councillors read the report, Coun. Colin Best and Mayor Gordon Krantz said the public can judge the merits of the inquiry, if released, come the October municipal election.

While Huffman did not speak to the item at Monday's meeting, he told the Champion in a phone interview that the auditing and investigative process has been "very hard" for him, his family and friends.

"I know I didn't do anything wrong from the first place," he said. "(The OPP) did this complete investigation. It has come back and I've been cleared of it. It's gone now to council. It's



Arnold Huffman photo

See HUFFMAN, page 37

Arnold Huffman

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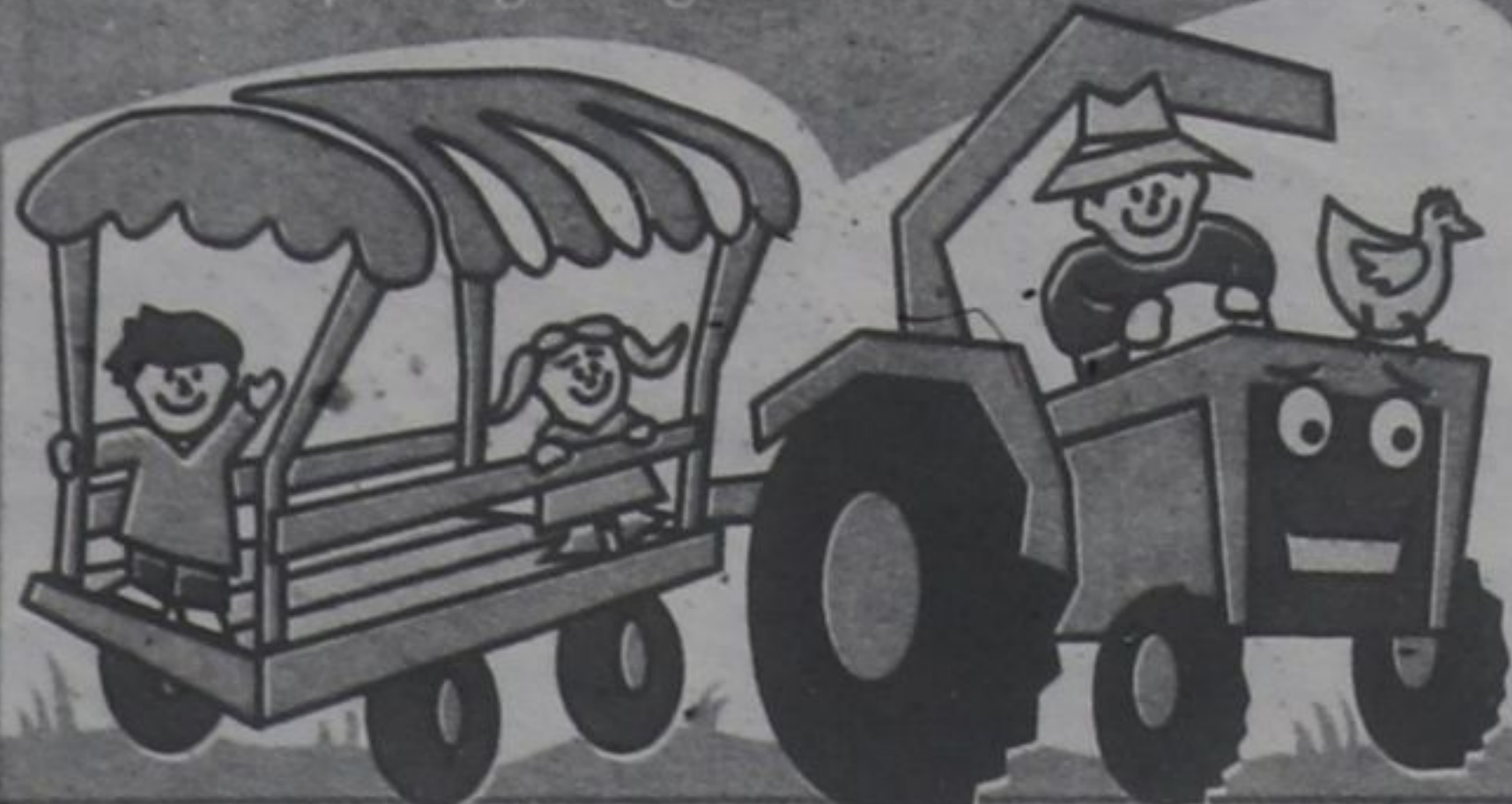
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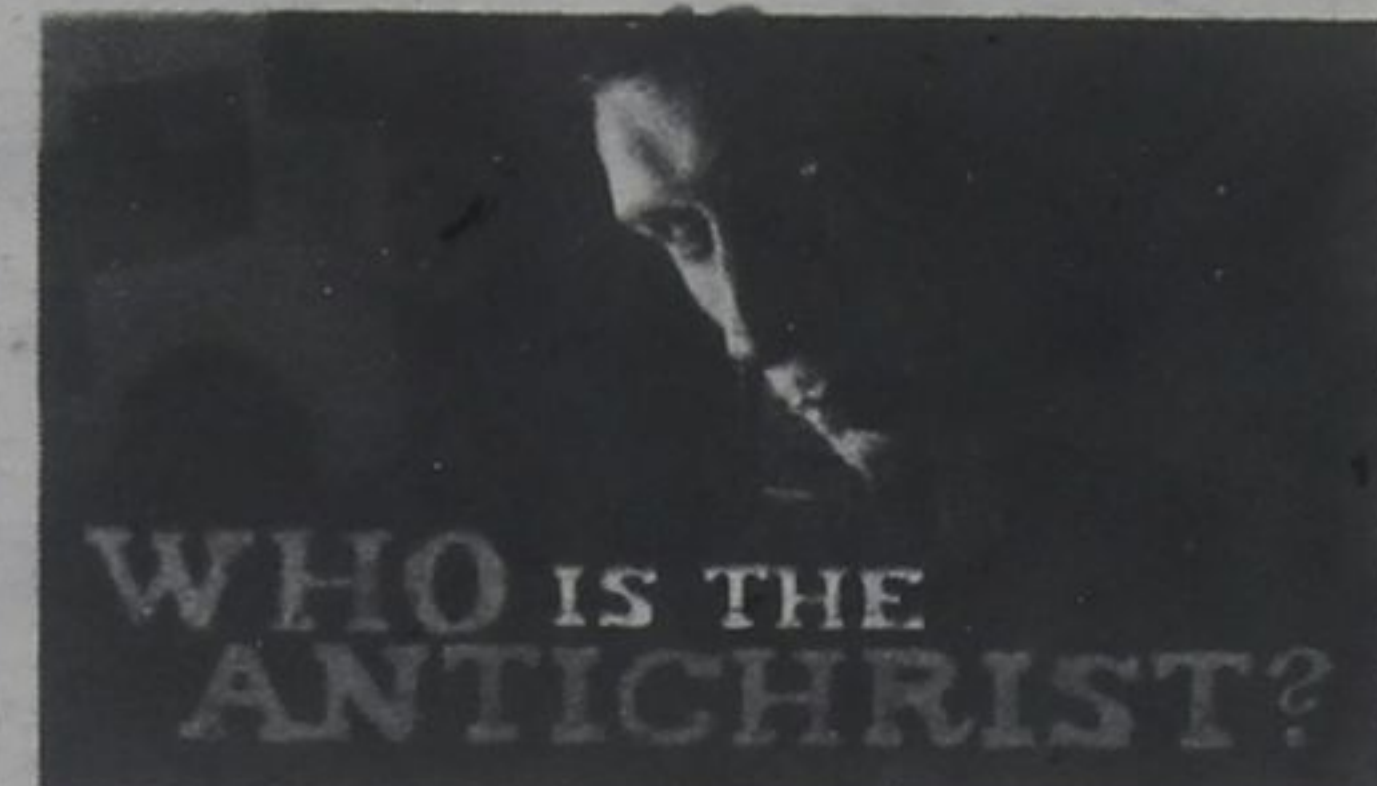


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