

Plunkett Hearings . . .

(Continued from Page One)

by the Ontario Water Resources Commission.

Under a revitalized county regional government Mr. Best suggested police, fire, ambulance, main roads, assessment, education, welfare, planning, industrial development and a housing authority should be included.

Under the local government secondary roads, parking, parks and recreation, local planning, water, sewer and hydro services should be retained.

Town of Oakville

Oakville Mayor Maclean Anderson introduced the town's brief, noting it was a composite one with all local groups favoring the broad principles set forth. He noted Oakville had proven a variety of land uses can be accomplished under a single government.

The brief proposed an area bounded on the south west by the Spencer watershed, on the west by the Grand river basin, on the north by the watershed to Georgian Bay, and on the east by the present Metropolitan Region Conservation Authority.

Town planner E. Cumming suggested the Oakville plan was based on the area under municipal planning jurisdiction coinciding with the area of municipal administration. It was also suggested the geographic area which accommodates the most practical system of municipal services was more significant than a unit which enjoyed social and economic cohesion.

Watershed Basis
The brief also submitted that the watershed or group of watersheds should provide the basis for a new municipal unit to permit municipalities downstream to participate in the development upstream that could result in pollution.

The inclusion in the proposed unit of extensive agricultural areas "is based not only on the need to control and direct urban expansion, but also on the acknowledgement of a role for continuing and even permanent agricultural uses and the need to afford rural communities some of the benefits of urban taxable resources", Mr. Cumming pointed out.

Oakville Manager K. Needham suggested Oakville feels the county system has not met the challenges of this area. He pointed to representation which he felt was unfair since it was not by population. He suggested fewer municipal units in the province would make co-ordination easier.

Power "Eroded"
The municipality proposed by Oakville would have 10 councillors selected on a ward basis, with a mayor elected from the total area. A Board of Education similarly constituted and a Public Utilities Commission of five men were also proposed. He noted the power of the local council was seriously eroded by the introduction of a number of special purpose boards and committees. He suggested there would be no need for a Conservation Authority and this function could be handled by the council.

In questioning on the brief, Mr. Cumming noted it would be necessary to limit expansion of northern communities based on the services now available to them. "The brief has focused on many ideas which we will have to resolve", the Commissioner noted.

Information

Information briefs were also submitted to the Commissioner by the Halton County Health Unit, the Halton County Museum

Association, the Halton County personnel committee and the Halton County Planning Association.

Milton Planning Board

A brief by the Milton Planning Board called for two levels of government and the division of the present county into three areas. It was proposed that taxation should be transferred to the county to level out the location of industry in one community, while the others provide the housing.

Board chairman Murray Kernighan noted the central Halton area proposed including the full width of Halton from the Lower Base Line to the line between lots 7 and 8 in Esquising and Nassagaweya was the area currently included in the fire area and high school area.

Mr. Kernighan explained the desirability of retaining a local school board, and controlling development on good farm land.

Bruce Trail

At the opening of the hearings on Thursday David Powell of the Bruce Trail Association called for the preservation of the natural beauty of the Niagara Escarpment. He also asked that unopened road allowances that currently serve as part of the Bruce Trail, be retained by the municipalities.

Federation of Agriculture

Denzil Lawrence, president of the Halton County Federation of Agriculture presented the joint Peel-Halton Federation brief. The brief pointed out the trend in urban growth to overlook the best use of land. It suggested water control should remain with the OWR, and water conservation and land use should have top priority in the review area.

The Federation pointed out the farmer holds a majority of the land in the area, but urban growth diminishes his representation. "The farmer feels that under our present system of taxation he is being called upon to pay taxes for some services not required by farmers but that are demanded by suburbia. . . We believe that people should pay for services to people, and land should pay for services to land".

Suitable Areas
The brief proposed that a larger share of educational costs should be borne by senior levels of government, and recreation areas should be located in places suitable for that land use.

"If . . . society deems it necessary to preserve good farm land, society must be prepared to take a good look at the problem and be prepared to pay accordingly so the owner of farm land is not financially penalized", the brief concluded.

In subsequent questioning and clarification, Mr. Lawrence noted agricultural land should be preserved, but not at the expense of the individual. He explained if land had a high speculative value it should not be the owner who is penalized by not being permitted to sell, but the land should be retained for agricultural use through some system of compensation.

O.M.E. System

Representatives of the Ontario Municipal Electrical system in their brief defended the election of commissions to handle utilities within a municipality. The brief

maintained the tax-supported and revenue-supported services should be retained as separate.

Representatives suggested a commissioner was less subject to pressure than a councillor. Commissioner Plunkett observed it is the function of a councillor to be subject to pressure. "It's up to him to sort out the conflicting demands made on him", he suggested. Noting the suggestion the commission is not subject to pressure indicates the work can be conducted in a vacuum, he suggested. Representatives stressed they had attempted to illustrate the pressures were different, since most commissions are elected from across the municipality rather than by wards, as councillors often are.

Development

Representatives of the Urban Development Institute headed by Angus McCaskey, president of Don Mills Developments, noted subdivision agreements vary between municipalities and, even with municipalities, The Institute suggested some form of regional government is necessary to handle the major projects, leaving the others to the local government.

The brief suggested the province should assume a greater share of education costs to keep the tax load on the homeowner within tolerable limits.

It was pointed out the review area of Halton and Peel was about three times as large as Metropolitan Toronto.

Port Credit, Bramalea

John G. Reid, O.C., presented a brief for Port Credit calling for retention of a measure of local autonomy. He suggested Port Credit would like to see Peel remain as the regional government area and he would favor a regional planning board with local zoning handled by a local board.

Bramalea Consolidated Development Ltd. attacked the position of Brampton in calling for annexation of Bramalea to the town of Brampton. Richard Romer stressed Bramalea was a new town with a well balanced assessment. "The possible shift in administration scares us to death, Brampton is in a financial mess", he suggested.

McWilliams

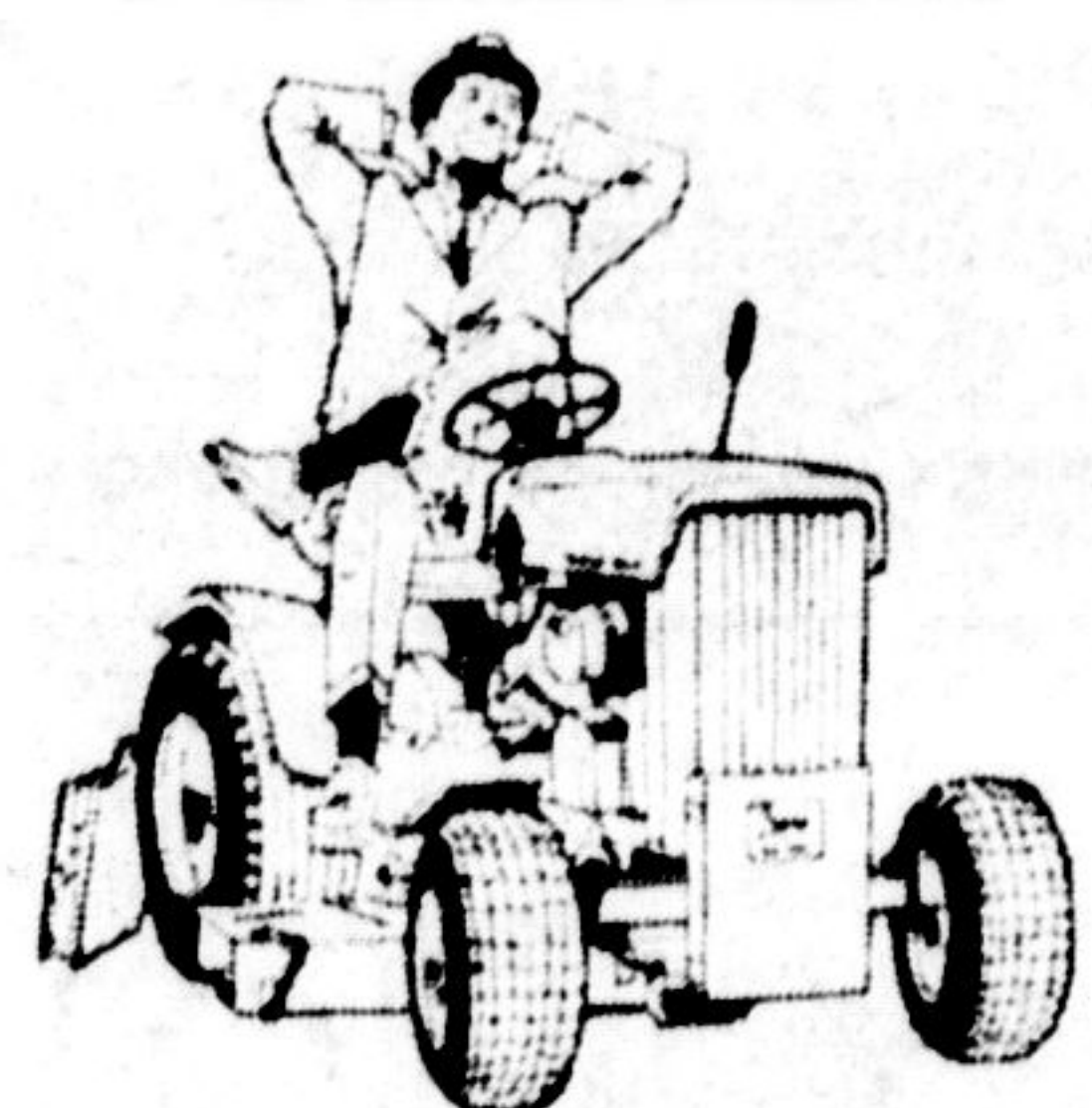
P. K. McWilliams, appearing as a private citizen, expressed his concern that the benefit of the

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Landscaping Talk, Rose Slides Enjoyed by Horticulturalists

The Milton and District Horticultural Society held their March meeting in the Milton Senior Public School on Monday evening, March 21, with a large crowd attending.

The president A. T. Woodley was in the chair and introduced the speaker, W. E. Hartnoll from Eaton's Garden Grove in Toronto.

lake front was not available to citizens in general. He noted Shell and Cities Service had agreed to contribute lake front parks to the town of Oakville, but the town had not yet picked up the offers. The commissioner suggested his terms of reference did not include sitting in judgment on the actions of councils. Mr. McWilliams suggested it was not considered as an example that local governments were not as efficient as desirable.

Mr. McWilliams also filed the brief of the Halton County Law Association, without comment. The brief expressed the lawyers' anxiety that any study of regional government not overlook or impair the administration of justice. The brief set out some of the relevant statutes and a brief description of the present situation and some comments.

The commissioner concluded the hearings, noting it would now be necessary to make the final assessments, not only of the briefs but the research that has gone on for the past eight months. The report will be filed with the government about September, he suggested.

Mr. Hartnoll spoke on landscaping and showed some very delightful slides of roses.

The monthly flower show had quite a large number of entries and was judged by Stanley Turner of Streetsville.

Flower Prizes

The following were the prize winners:

Class 1, "Top O' the Morning" St. Patrick's table arrangement, 1. Mrs. G. Bailey; 2. Mrs. A. Britton; 3. Mrs. S. May.

Class 2, Forced branches with Commercial or House plant, 1. Mrs. H. Powys; 2. Mrs. H. Rutherford; 3. Mrs. C. Wigglesworth.

Class 3, Vase of forced branches, 1. Mrs. A. Clement; 2. Mrs. J. Adam; 3. Mrs. C. Wigglesworth.

Class 4, Shamrock or Baby Tears, 1. Mrs. J. Adam; 2. Mrs. R. Drede; 3. Mrs. H. Rutherford.

The lunch conveners were Mrs. D. Downs and Mrs. C. Wigglesworth and a social half hour was enjoyed.

—Has Spring sprung yet? Cool weather this week belies the fact, but the calendar says it is.

—North Halton Music Festival will be held at the public school in Acton next Tuesday and Wednesday. Local students are practicing in preparation for the annual festival of songs.

Principles of Two-Church Union Outlined by Committee Member

"I believe in one church, and I believe the Holy Ghost is leading the way", Rev. Richard N. Davidson, a member of the committee that prepared the Principles of Union for the Anglican and United Churches, told a group in a meeting Tuesday of last week.

Dr. Davidson was addressing members of Grace Anglican Church and St. Paul's United Church in a special meeting to hear details of the proposed union.

He reviewed discussions between the two denominations that began in 1943 when the Anglican Church invited discussion with any other group to discuss Union. The difficulty of discussions and the agreement of the United Church General Council in 1950 to accept the Episcopacy, were reviewed.

Drew Picture
The present document on the principles of union resulted following a retreat of 10 representa-

tives of the two denominations at Ancaster, when they undertook to draw a picture of the one true, holy catholic church. He pointed out the document was not a plan, and he pleaded for the members not to let small points of posture and tradition to place difficulties in the way.

Dr. Davidson noted the two denominations had decided that theologically there was nothing to divide the Anglican and United Church. The United Church had accepted the need for Bishops in some constitutional form, but it had not been set out item by item in the principles.

Consider in Fall
The Anglican church has accepted the document for discussion and the subject will be considered by the United Church General Council when it meets in September this year. "If the United Church does not accept the principles by an overwhelming majority, it will not be true to itself", he suggested.

A brief question and answer period followed the address. Dr. T. M. Dusan of Grace Anglican Church conducted a brief service of worship.

Guide Tea, Bazaar

Small Turnout Disappointing

The Milton Central District Girl Guide Association held their annual tea and bazaar on Saturday afternoon at the Scout Hall. Rangers, Guides and Brownies and their leaders combined their best efforts to make the affair a success and were rather disappointed by a light turnout. Tea tables were set up and items for sale included baked goods, candy,

preserves and used children's clothing. There were also white elephant and touch and take tables.

The bazaar earned \$57 which will help to pay off this District's pledge to Camp Wyoka, the White Oaks Area Girl Guide camp, which is attended by many of the girls from Milton companies and packs.



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Young Says United Kingdom Trip Is "Flagrant Waste of Money"

"It's a flagrant waste of money", Georgetown Deputy-Reeve J. L. Young charged on Friday afternoon when he opposed Halton County Council's plan to have three representatives attend the Ontario Municipal Association's study tour of the United Kingdom.

Deputy-Reeve Young didn't attend the last County Council meeting when a motion was passed which approved the sending of three representatives on the September 5 to September 29 tour. The first year County Council members did, however, stand up and speak against the tour when a motion naming Warden H. H. Hinton of Acton, Deputy-Reeve Frank Rogers of Burlington and Clerk - Administrator Garfield Brown as the representatives was introduced at the meeting on Friday.

Total Cost \$3,000
The motion naming the three men also specified that they each receive \$250 for expenses and \$750 for basic.

Mr. Young contended that if anyone should represent the county on the tour, it should be members of the County Planning Association because the information received on the tour would probably be of more benefit to them.

On a recorded vote, the motion was passed 20-9 with Deputy-Reeve R. R. Parker of Acton, Deputy-Reeve Young, Deputy-

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