

North Oakville continues airport opposition

Ward One Oakville Ratepayers are continuing their heated protests against the proposed Burlington-Oakville airport and its selected site at Omagh.

For over an hour Wednesday evening two Burl-Oak airport committeemen faced a "firing squad" of 32 area residents who loudly criticized the site, cost, restrictions and apparent lack of need for the airport.

Town councillor William Reaume and Oakville lawyer John Ham, members of the committee supporting the airport venture, were questioned at length on various aspects of the airport project. The ratepayers had earlier voiced objections to Oakville Council, then at a planning board hearing which approved rezoning of the lands for an airport, and then again at a council meeting two weeks ago.

Needless to say, none of the residents came away from the Wednesday meeting with changed minds.

In fact, most favored a public plebiscite on Oakville's share of the costs, and claimed taxpayers in the rest of the town don't know how expensive the project will be. Oakville is scheduling \$75,000 this year towards the cost of buying the necessary land (half the original estimate of \$150,000 which ratepayers claim is an unrealistic figure) and annual maintenance costs are expected to be around 10 cents per capita for both Oakville and Burlington residents (although supporters claim the airport will be self-supporting within five years).

The airport committeemen, in answer to questions, said the need for an airport was shown by a survey conducted in the area, which showed 38 firms and individuals would use such a local airport. The site is ideal, they said, and could be expanded in a south, east or west direction at a later date if necessary. They said only well water services would be needed for flush toilets and "a bit of water for planes". The airport could handle small freight planes but was mainly needed for executive planes for local industries.

They pointed out the Federal Department of Transport has given the venture a high priority and the D.O.T. would construct the runways and buildings if the two towns purchase the land and handle the maintenance costs. The buildings would produce some taxes, they said, and neighboring properties would be worth more because of their proximity to the airport. They suggested the airport should not mean rezoning of neighboring farm lands to industrial usage.

But the ratepayers had retorts to all the answers the two men offered. Malcolm (Mac) McKinnon, who was later in the evening elected president of Ward One Ratepayers Association and is a commercial airline pilot himself, led the questioners.

He charged if the airport extended south the planes would be running into a 125 foot high power line, and "I don't think a ravine at the end of a runway is good planning." Mr. McKinnon said the airport would be a noise nuisance, especially on weekends, and the airport would end up as a charter service and a rental agency for weekend flyers rather than an aid to industrial firms whose executives fly.

"You are bringing in something to this area the people do not want," he added, suggesting land prices would plummet rather than go up.

Other ratepayers charged their property values would depreciate and none would want

to buy land near an airstrip. One, Hank Peacock, said the ratepayers should get some assurance their lands would not be frozen by new zoning restrictions for two to three miles away from the airport.

Mr. Peacock said farmers should not be prohibited from selling off frontages for homes, adding, "If I have to put up with all the noise of an airport, surely I should be able to sell a lot to help pay my taxes. Please treat us so we can survive, not sit here and farm for the rest of our lives."

Some worried about building in the district being too high for airport standards. The complex scale of building heights in relation to runways was explained, and committee representatives assured the ratepayers no barns or silos would have to come down, and should ever be forbidden in the future.

Land prices were another

"Rather fight than switch" (to three-year council term)

Oakville Council's proposal to have council elected for a three year term, beginning in 1968, hit a snafu Wednesday evening.

Over 30 ratepayers attending a meeting of Ward One Oakville Ratepayers Association voted unanimously in favor of a public plebiscite before

years ago, and the farmers were still able to retain their land. They said farm land should be worth \$1,200 an acre today, and cited farms recently sold for that amount.

Jack Henry presented a list of 13 questions on behalf of the Oakville and District Labor Council. He was asked to submit them in writing to the committee.

the council can institute the three-year term. Only four citizens attending the meeting indicated they favored the longer term of office, but all were definitely in favor of letting the people make the choice — not council.

Retiring president Len Buckler brought the subject to the

floor, noting council has already given one reading to the by-law instituting a three-year term. Councillor Geoff Drew-Brook reported the council has the right to start the system without a public vote. He noted Oakville elections cost \$15,000 to operate and the town would have this much money every six years by switching to a three-year term.

But the ratepayers indicated they would "rather fight than switch." They protested that notices of a public meeting last week on the subject were not placed in The Champion, and claimed all residents of North Oakville don't read the Oakville papers or listen to the radio station where the meeting was advertised.

Councillor Don Gordon said the advantage of a three-year term would be in saving money on costly debentures. Now the two-year term allows the council to spread large capital expenditures over two years and save the high interest rate on debentures. A three-year term would be even more beneficial as projects could be paid from current revenue over a three-year term.

"On an issue of this kind, the council should be willing to permit a voice of the people," said ratepayer Ken Giles.

But another ratepayer, Sam Finnie recalled there was once a vote on a site for the new administration building. "The people voted and they (council) didn't carry it out the way we voted for it," he said.

In a "straw vote", all but four persons were against the longer term of office and all favored a public plebiscite. The executive will plan a protest at its next meeting.

Delivers fiery "pep talk" at Halton P.C. nomination

A 20-minute "pep talk" to the Progressive Conservative Party philosophy in Ontario, drew loud applause from the close to 400 delegates and supporters at the Tory nomination convention in Milton on Friday night.

Small in size but big in voice, Provincial Secretary and Minister of Citizenship Robert Welch excited the crowd with his dynamic approach to politics.

"A person is a Conservative because he wants to maintain the institutions of our country — you might say he wishes to conserve our heritage — and he is Progressive because he wants to raise the condition of people by means of programs of national development and social justice," the speaker said.

"Our representation in the Ontario Legislature is certainly not maintained on any narrowly based support, in fact we have 50 members who have

a clear majority in their seats," he noted.

Stressing the importance of selling party policies, he said that in the upcoming election campaigning through poll organizations is the key to success.

In closing he told the delegates, "work to keep Halton Progressive and Conservative. Work to keep Halton on the Government team."

Earlier Mr. Welch had praised the efforts of Halton MPP George Kerr, describing him as a "quality member and a man of high calibre."

Mr. Kerr also spoke briefly and predicted a Progressive Conservative victory in the new riding of Halton East in 1967. He explained the "Go transit" program that is going into effect in the south portion of Halton and described the Ontario School for the Deaf in Milton as one of the finest in the continent.

In closing he said, "The Roberts government has served you well. Get behind him and his team when the election comes."

Both Mr. Welch and Mr. Kerr hinted the election would be "soon", and added, "probably this year".

OBITUARY

Peter F. Quinn

A resident of Acton for the past nine years, Peter Forest Quinn of 36 Roseford Terrace passed away March 13 in Guelph General Hospital after a lengthy illness. He was 54 years of age.

He is survived by his wife, Dalia Quinn, daughters and sons James, Anne-Marie, Lawrence, Catherine and Anthony, all at home.

Mr. Quinn came to Canada from Scotland in 1928. He was married in Milton in 1942 and came to Acton after living in Milton.

Rev. V. J. Morgan conducted the funeral service Thursday, March 16, and interment was in Evergreen cemetery, Milton. Pallbearers were Clarence McCann, Roy Brownridge, brother-in-law Joe McCann, Jim Peruscello, Toleo Peruscello and Elio Polion.

OBITUARY

Mrs. G. Fisher

A lifelong resident of Esqueping Township, Mary Ann Campbell, wife of the late George A. Fisher, passed away at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital on Saturday, March 11, in her 84th year.

Born on January 21, 1884, Mrs. Fisher was the daughter of the late Robert and Lillian Campbell of Mansewood and Acton. She attended Ligny school and was a member of Boston Presbyterian church.

She is survived by three sons and two daughters, William C. at home, R. Gordon of R.R. 5, Milton, Jean A. who teaches at Shaw Street school in Toronto, Irene L. (Mrs. James Rae) of Brantford and George W. of R.R. 5, Milton. Her seven grandchildren are Robert, Paul, John and Elizabeth Fisher, David and Mary Fisher and Suzanne Rae.

The pallbearers were James Fisher, Lloyd Fisher, Robert Lawson, Neilson Stark, Gordon McDonald and Douglas Currie.

The flower bearers were her four grandsons, Robert, Paul, John and David Fisher and Leslie Fisher and Clifford McDonald.

Rev. Stanley E. Smith of Boston Presbyterian church conducted the funeral service at the Harold C. McClure funeral home on Monday, March 13, with interment in Greenwood cemetery, Georgetown.

OBITUARY

Alfred J. Desand

The father of two Milton district ladies and a resident of the Halton Centennial Manor for the past three years, Alfred J. Desand died on March 12.

Mr. Desand, born in Middlesex county on October 11, 1885, was an electrical contractor in St. Catharines for 43 years. He was active on the St. Catharines' Apprenticeship Board and the Niagara District Electrical Contractors' Association.

On October 5, 1909, Mr. Desand married Edna Estelle Desand. She died in 1960. He is survived by four daughters, Mrs. Fred Edwards (Dorothy) of Campbellville, Mrs. William Cochran (Vera) of Campbellville, Mrs. George Voisard (Elva) of St. Catharines, and Mrs. Walter Head (Phyllis) of St. Catharines; and one sister Mrs. Ernest Bates (Anne) of London.

Funeral service was held from the First United Church, St. Catharines, on March 14, with Rev. G. C. Quigley officiating. Interment was at Victoria Lawn cemetery, St. Catharines.

Pallbearers were Lawrence Bunting, Gordon Gregory, Keith Jackling, Jack Cornelius and Harold Tufford, all of St. Catharines and former employees, and friend D. A. Wendover of Palermo.

H. Harley honorary chairman for Skuce's provincial contest

Dr. Harry Harley, Liberal M.P. for Halton, will be honorary campaign chairman for Robin Skuce, Liberal candidate for the provincial riding of Halton East.

In a message to Skuce's campaign committee, Dr. Harley said that while he was in Ottawa most of the week, "I

intend to be quite active in Mr. Skuce's campaign. "I am usually home on weekends and I'm going to make a point of spending other days as well campaigning for Mr. Skuce," Dr. Harley said.

Skuce, head of the French department at Appleby College, Oakville, was nominated at a convention in February to run as the Liberal candidate in the next provincial election.

—Florists in the town and area are expecting the usual rush on Easter lilies and they are prepared.

—Halton County Roads Department workmen improved the Campbellville Sideroad considerably last week. Many of the pot holes which developed during the winter were filled in.

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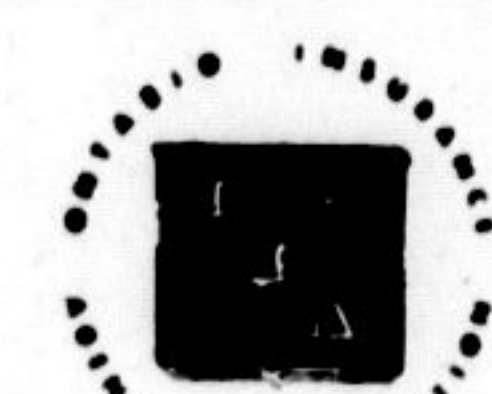
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