

Petition for Halton regional government

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Councillors "willing" urge Minister proceed

With little debate and surprising unanimity Halton County Council moved Tuesday to indicate a desire for regional government. Council petitioned the Minister of Municipal Affairs to proceed with the transition to regional government in the county.

An Oakville-sponsored resolution noted the Select Committee studying the Smith Report on taxation had indicated a willingness toward regional government. Deputy-Reeve W. Gillies emphasized it was not the intent of the resolution to go into methods, boundaries or representation. "I feel the county should stand up and be heard on this matter. If we indicate our willingness to go ahead we may get some action, rather than more talk", he concluded.

Reeve A. Day, a sponsor of the motion, observed that Burlington had approved a resolution to seek city status and it was felt this is not the answer. He admitted Oakville might well pass a similar resolution Tuesday night.

Reeve W. Coulter inquired if this county resolution meant forming the county as it is in a regional government, and Deputy Reeve Gillies noted the Select Committee set out a procedure for determining these things.

The Select Committee proposed local meetings within existing municipalities and the creation of a special branch within the Prime Minister's office to initiate such discussions. Meetings would then develop between municipalities followed by provincial-municipal conferences and finally the implementation of regional government.

In a recorded vote, the move was unanimously approved.

Bill Hoey runs for reeve's seat

Deputy-Reeve of Nassagaweya William A. N. Hoey announced this week he will be seeking election as reeve of the township in the December elections.

The door to the number one seat on the township council was opened two weeks ago when Reeve William Coulter announced he would not seek re-election. Mr. Coulter's announcement came after eight years of service on council.

Mr. Hoey made his first bid in township politics in December of 1964 when he was defeated by Mr. Coulter in their race for the reeve's seat.

In December 1965 he ousted Dr. B. D. Young from the deputy-reeve's seat and he was acclaimed to the same position

the following year for a two year term.

Mr. Hoey came to Nassagaweya from Oakville in 1957 after he retired from 25 years of service at Procter and Gamble in Hamilton. He holds the rank of Lieutenant Commander on the retired list from the Royal Canadian Navy. He served in World War II as a torpedo officer.

He is presently occupied on his sheep farm near Moffat.

CLOCKS BACK

—Turn your clocks and watches back one hour before going to bed Saturday night. Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. this Sunday, Oct. 27.

Record 1,332 appeals on Halton assessments

A record 1,332 appeals against 1968 assessments have been registered in Halton County—340 of them by farmers who saw a major increase in their land values as a result of the county-wide re-assessment program.

Usually less than 1,000 appeals are launched in Halton. Assessors in each Halton municipality completed a two-year re-assessing program this year in an effort to bring land values more in line with one-third the market value. Some farm land assessments were doubled, others tripled.

Many Halton County farmers attended information meetings sponsored by the Halton Federation of Agriculture earlier this year, where they were urged to launch appeals against the increases.

Most of the appeals came from the two lakeshore towns, Burlington and Oakville, the

assessors report. There were 591 in Burlington and 410 in Oakville alone. Few farmers in the two northern townships appealed, and there were no appeals entered in Acton.

Georgetown had 160, Esquesing 107, Nassagaweya 47 and Milton 17.

Halton County Assessor Robert Beach noted there were 340 farm appeals but the figure did not mean a majority of Halton farmers were dissatisfied. For instance 50 of the 107 Esquesing appeals were from farmers, yet there are 972 farm properties in the township. Milton did a re-assessment on residential land values this year but he noted only 11 of the town's 17 appeals dealt with property values—and there are 2,600 properties in Milton.

"A good number of the appeals are on statistical information," the county assessor noted. More than 300 of

the county's total appeals deal with ownership changes, clerical errors or changes in school support.

Mr. Beach felt the assessors' public relations program helped pave the way for the re-assessment this year, and helped to cut down on the number of appeals. Assessors held open houses and were available for ratepayers to discuss their assessments. "I think it is an indication the assessors have done a good job on the assessing."

The county court of revision which will hear the appeals starts its work with a hearing Oct. 30 in Milton. Thirty-three working days have been set aside for hearing the appeals and the court of revision will continue until mid-December. Last year, a "normal" year with no major re-assessing program, the court sat 27 days.



OUT TO LUNCH . . . a 45-lb. black bear cub proves he's just a baby by climbing up the tree after a piece of bread. Normally shy with strangers, the bear paid no heed to the photo-

grapher when Mountsberg Game Farm's manager Frank Timmermans offered the refreshments. He's one of two the farm acquired last week from Bowmanville Zoo. (Staff Photo)

County promises to review Rotary senior housing site

At the request of the Rotary Club of Milton, Halton County Council Tuesday referred back to the property committee the subject of the club's request to purchase a site adjacent to Halton Manor for a senior citizens' housing project.

The action came following a presentation to County Council by David Thompson and a spirited defense of the committee's earlier rejection by Reeve H. Hinton.

Mr. Thompson reviewed the club had discussed the proposal to erect a senior citizen housing project on a half acre of land at Halton Manor, merging that land with another adjacent area. Negotiations had proceeded with the Manor Committee of Management where approval in principle was received. When it was referred to the property committee, the proposal was rejected.

The Rotary representative asked that if the matter could be referred back, a Rotary representative be invited to the committee meeting.

He stressed the project was not limited to the town of Milton but would serve the town and adjacent municipalities. Rotary would be responsible for the fund raising. He stressed it was entirely a service project and there was no possibility of profit because rentals were controlled.

The club had offered \$5,000 for the half acre of land, which it considered reasonable in relation to the local market.

Reeve H. Hinton suggested the project was a worthy one but the club should not involve the

county. He charged there was a lack of the concept of this type of project and the last place it should be is near a home for the aged. "If the Rotary Club did the right thing it would be turning inward to sites in their own community." He stressed he would oppose any attempt to obtain county land for the housing project. He charged there were a lot of things the club hadn't taken the trouble to look into. The view from a site on the Manor grounds would be on the Manor special care wing which is for senile patients.

Mr. Hinton explained he had offered several suggestions to the club for sites such as Rotary Park and an area on Millside Drive.

Turning to Acton, he noted the municipality was handling a similar project itself with Ontario Housing Corporation. Where a site was not available at a reasonable price tenders were being called for a contractor who would also provide the site. The difference in the cost of land over the minimum would be covered in the single contract and the project could proceed.

"Milton should be standing on its own feet. I will oppose any infringement on county areas in Milton," the reeve concluded.

Oakville Reeve Alan Day observed the club was simply asking the sale of a piece of property at market value.

Deputy Reeve W. Gillies reported his opposition, noting the county might have to buy more land later.

Reeve W. Coulter pointed out the land in question was not

usable for an extension of the Manor. "This area is held as a green belt."

Reeve G. Gallagher recalled he supported the project at the Manor Committee. "It is doing for people, and that's what municipal government is all about", he stressed.

A vote later in the meeting unanimously referred the matter back to the property committee for discussions with a Rotary representative.

Carelessness blamed in fire death

Jury recommends cooking safety

Although ruling a 20-year-old man died by fire through his own carelessness, a five-man coroner's jury made several recommendations concerning cooking utensils and homemakers' safety knowledge at an inquest into the death of Alexander McCormack, held at Halton County court house Tuesday.

Evidence indicated McCormack, who was a boarder at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Patterson of 145 Bowes St., returned home from a party in town about 4 a.m. August 11, and after setting some French fried potatoes on the electric range, apparently went to sleep.

Milton Fire Brigade was summoned by a neighbor Mrs. E. Gullis who heard strange noises and observed the house on fire at 5.12 a.m.

Fire Chief A. E. Clement testified he and the brigade arrived at the scene around seven minutes later, to find volunteer firefighter Sherwood Hume who lives nearby on Bell St. had already arrived and discovered a body just inside the front door, so close to the door it prevented him from opening it to rescue the man. With assistance, Mr. Hume retrieved the body about three minutes later.

Dr. P. R. Garrod, pathologist at Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital said there were third degree burns to almost the

whole body. Tests indicated a blood alcohol content of .21 per cent, or the equivalent of seven drinks.

There was also a 58 per cent content of carbon monoxide in the bloodstream, indicating the fire was probably raging for a short time before McCormack's death.

The remains of a light aluminum cooking pot, part of which had melted into the cooking element of the stove, were found in front of the stove. A chemical engineer in the Attorney-General's Department,

H. E. Jordan stated the "start" position on the stove gave the highest degree of heat possible, and could have raised the heat of the lard to the point where it ignited—or expanded it to the overflow point where it would run onto the element and be ignited electrically.

J. D. Porteous, assistant chief chemist for J. M. Schneider and Co. in Kitchener, testified that tests made in his laboratory indicated the lard would ignite at 700 degrees Fahrenheit, and at even lower temperatures if the

lard was used a second time as it was in this case.

It is estimated the heat generated by the element in "start" position would be around 1,400 degrees Fahrenheit.

Mrs. J. Patterson, owner of the home, testified she had found it necessary to speak to the boarder on two previous occasions when he had fallen asleep while cooking something on the stove.

The jury, after retiring for one and a half hours, returned to Coroner Dr. Ray Nessim and

Halton Crown Attorney Ronald Thomas, recommendations that publicity be given homemakers on the dangers of deep fat frying in the home . . . possibly through the stove manufacturers; the importance should be stressed of using a controlled low heat in deep fat frying; and the type of lightweight aluminum pot used in the fatal fire should be labelled as unsuitable for connection with a deep fat fryer basket.

Members of the jury including foreman John W. Charlton, Douglas Currie, Oliver Hull, Neil Loomis and Gerald Chase, praised Const. William Patterson of Milton Police for his efficient investigation of the case.

"Frustrating experience"

Industrial committee resigns

Four members of the Milton Industrial Commission submitted their resignations to Milton Council Monday, while one sought further information on the town's plans for the Commission.

Chairman S. W. Gazley in his letter of resignation described his term on the Commission a "most frustrating and at times exasperating experience. Up until recently we had little or no land available for the accommodation of new industries within the municipality. Reluctance of the town to supply water to firms interested in locating on land adjacent to the town proved to be a big handicap in some cases."

Mr. Gazley suggested the town acquire land for an industrial park, completely served for industry. He also proposed that at an early date the town engage a competent Industrial Commissioner. "In my opinion little or no progress will be made towards the industrial growth of Milton without establishing an office of Industrial Developer or Commissioner."

Resignations were also received from O. L. Hadley, the secretary of the Commission, and members S. A. Fay and J. M. Ledwith. A. J. Nichols asked that additional information be provided "as to the nature of the enlargement of the committee

and the meaning of the phrase "having a much broader area to work in."

Councillor G. Krantz suggested council was looking for the Industrial Committee to get out and get some industry. "That's what we mean by a much broader area to work in."

Councillor C. Fay objected. "Where are you going to put it? There is no serviced land yet and there won't be at the first of the year. You've lost a good bunch

of fellows who worked hard. You won't set the world on fire", he charged.

Deputy Reeve R. Harris expressed regret that all the members saw fit to resign.

The clerk was despatched to obtain a copy of the letter directed to the members asking if they wanted to continue on the Commission.

"If I got that letter I'd think you wanted my resignation", Councillor Colin Smillie

Bites farmer's dog

Rabid fox is shot at Burlington farm

Rabid foxes have been reported along the lakeshore area in Burlington during recent weeks, and on Saturday one was seen and shot at a north Burlington farmhouse.

Bob Buck, who lives on No. Four Sideroad a mile from Appleby Line, lost a good farm dog when it was bitten by the sick fox, but he managed to kill the fox before it could attack anything else.

"The fox just came walking in our lane, it wasn't afraid of anything," Mr. Buck reported.

Mr. Buck's dog ran into its kennel and the fox followed it in and bit the dog. The owner grabbed his gun and shot the fox, then had to destroy his dog too.

A veterinarian was called and he reported the fox was probably rabid. Both carcasses were buried.

The dog was just a mongrel but it was a good watchdog and good with the children, Mr. Buck said. He felt it was "like losing one of the family" to see it go

Halton film wins second major award

Just fresh from winning a "Cindy" award from the Information Film Producers of America, Halton County's industrial promotion film has been acclaimed a second time.

Producer Robert Meyer of Dundas was in New York last week to accept a silver medal for his film "Halton County—The Man and the Boy." It won a second place in the publicity films category of the International Film and TV Festival of New York. The film will be entered in other film competitions in the near future, a county spokesman said.

Councillor Krantz refused to accept that. He noted Mr. Gazley had attended an administrative committee meeting early this year when the matters were reviewed.

It was reported J. M. Ledwith had earlier indicated his desire to resign from the committee and council accepted that resignation. Members concluded if there was any confusion in the original letter another letter should be directed to Mr. Fay, Mr. Hadley and Mr. Gazley. Mr. Nichols was to be advised of the areas considered for the committee.

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No pedestrian deaths wins award for town

During the recent ninth annual Pedestrian Appraisal Awards luncheon at the Sheraton-Connaught Hotel in Hamilton, Milton was given a Seven-Year Achievement Award for its record of no pedestrian deaths.

Receiving the Award was Mayor Brian Best, Judge T. L. McCombs, President of the Hamilton Automobile Club, presented the plaque.



THE CHILDREN GATHERED AROUND a working model of Kelso Conservation Area, which was a featured display at the Halton County industrial promotion tent at the International

Plowing Match. A group of school children visiting the tent crowd around while the county's host Jack Armstrong of Georgetown explains the display. (Staff Photo)