



MILTON CHANSONETTES presented a delightful spring musicale, their fourth annual musical ode to spring, at St. Paul's United Church Sunday afternoon and a large crowd almost filled the church for the concert. Below, the Chansonettes sing to the crowd. — (Photos by R. Downs) Above, conductor Judy Hunter chats with

Brief protest planners' plan for North Burlington

About 60 North Burlington landowners assembled in the library of Fairview school in Lowville on Tuesday, April 11, to present their briefs concerning a new land use program for the area being proposed by the Burlington Planning Board.

Also attending the meeting were members of the Burlington Planning Board Don Mathews, Dick Millar, Gordon Gallagher, Mrs. Brenda Tyerman, Roly Bird and Mrs. Ella Foote. Bird and Mrs. Foote are also Burlington Councillors. The members were hoping to obtain opinions and suggestions from area citizens.

The land use program as put forth by Burlington planners would divide the north into six areas — settlement, residential estate type, residential, rural residential, rural, natural resource and extractive industrial.

Impede urban sprawl

Planners hope the program will develop the northern portion of Burlington, yet at the same time impede urban sprawl. Area landowners learned of the plan through two public meetings, held in Lowville and Kilbride last month. Residents of the area were given until the middle of April to prepare briefs, expressing their suggestions and opinions or opposition.

Of the seven or eight briefs presented during the course of Tuesday's meeting, the most elaborate in-depth one appeared to be presented by Ralph Sherwood of Kilbride. Sherwood presented board members with a thick booklet compiled by a Burlington engineering firm, Philips Planning and Engineering.

The consensus of the report was a plea by Sherwood to expand the area of Kilbride into a larger settlement area. Sherwood explained to the board members he and his son farmed lands in the area of Twiss Rd. and 10 Sideroad. Under the proposed land use program, his farm would be divided into two categories, some residential and some agricultural.

"We have about 107 acres, but under your plan only 40 or 50 acres could be farmed," said Sherwood. "I can't make a viable farm if it's cut into two."

What's "rural"?

A second landowner presenting a brief, told the board he failed to understand the use of the word

"rural" in the plan, "when you intend to increase the population of the north by six times", roared Tom Patience of Kilbride.

Patience knocked the six different land classifications. He said the lot sizes in the settlement areas are "under question", said the residential category was too large, and called the rural, rural residential and natural resource divisions, "a mixed bag of all kinds of duplicated assortments and in most cases not practical for anyone to carry out its function."

As for the sixth land area, extractive industrial, its use should be more fully explained, stated Patience. The speaker urged the planning board to study the feasibility of turning inactive quarries into park areas by working with the parks board. He also advocated that, "land unfit for agricultural or residential be purchased by the municipality for reforestation."

14,000 eventually

A plan to allow 14,000 people, under the guidelines of the program, into North Burlington would put a severe strain on the water and sewage facilities in the area, Patience exclaimed. Board members explained the 14,000 figure meant the number of people who eventually could live in the area. Perhaps in 20 years there might be that many there, but they wouldn't all come at once.

One of the most detailed and aggressive briefs presented at the Tuesday night meeting was given by Ron Hackett of R.R. 6, Milton. Hackett, who was speaking on behalf of about 10 landowners in the Rattlesnake Point area, made his pitch with the use of a written brief, a large pointed mural of the area, and picture slides which he loaned the board for their use.

The delegate said he represented landowners in the area between Bell School Line and Appleby Line, south of the Niagara Escarpment and north

of 10 Sideroad.

By the guidelines of the proposed land use program, the area would be classified rural residential, but the vicinity is more conducive to residential zoning, suggested Hackett.

Better use

Some of the reasons for a residential classification were outlined by the speaker: "Acreages from 2.5 and up should be available, enabling landowners to take better care of their properties. Higher density would not destroy the character of the area. Under the present zoning, only an estimated 23 additional lots would be available. The bluffs of the escarpment in the background rise from 75 - 100 feet above the slopes on which we propose residential zoning and we feel that attractive homes attractively scattered on the slopes would enhance the area."

In addition Hackett outlined the availability of water, the thickness of overburden, and the possibility the area would become part of Milton, with the formation of regional government.

A proposed increase in recreational lands came under close scrutiny by Hackett, who said caution was needed because increased recreational facilities could bring an influx of tourists. This would, in Hackett's words, create unsightly recreational competition, call for extra taxes for improved roads, and increase vandalism.

Pollution feared

Board members cited a danger of pollution from the disposal units of any homes located on the escarpment. The board also questioned the figure of a 30 to 40 foot overburden in the area. The planners' maps show a smaller figure.

A farmer, Keith Miller, who owns farm lands on the Second Sideroad between the Guelph Line and Cedar Springs Rd.,

asked the board to consider the economic status of farmers, when dealing with the plan. Land separations are restricted under the plan.

"In order for a person to keep farming, he's forced to sell the odd lot". The farmer explained that a smaller land separation limit would help him to keep his farm intact.

Board members said they could understand his plight and would study the situation. Less than 10 people appeared before the board during the two hour meeting, although several of the landowners queried board members in post-meeting talks.

Concerned North Burlington residents still have the opportunity to voice their opinions on the program, at a regular planning board meeting in the Burlington Town Hall on April 20. Delegations should be by appointment only, according to Burlington officials.

Reeve raps boat races

Esquering Reeve Tom Hill has voiced his dissatisfaction with the operation of Saturday's crazy boat races on the Credit River, near Glen Williams.

Hill is most upset that some roads in the Glen were completely plugged by traffic during Saturday's races.

Fire danger

"If there'd have been a fire in the upper end of the Glen Saturday, the truck wouldn't have made it through, unless it ran somebody over," he charged.

Hill said in future council should be notified by organizers beforehand of plans for the races. He suggested a letter be sent to the Georgetown Jaycees, who sponsor the event.

According to clerk-treasurer Delmar French, traffic was also backed up in Norval for some time Saturday afternoon.

Race accident

The reeve said he knows of one case, in which a seven year old girl had to be thrown to safety on the river banks, when the rubber dinghy she was riding in turned over.

Spectators said water flow in the river was the fastest they've seen in years.

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Campbell Lodge marks its 50th anniversary

Campbell Lodge No. 603 celebrated its 50th anniversary on April 4. It was a successful and memorable occasion.

In the Lodge room Worshipful Brother John Readhead relinquished the master's chair which was assumed by Very Worshipful Brother George Readhead who with his team of past masters conferred a fellow craft degree.

Over 100 sat down to a banquet served by the Campbell brethren.

Visitors

Brethren were present from many Lodges in the district and included visitors from Guelph, Fergus, Gravenhurst and Georgetown.

The brethren of Campbell Lodge were honored to have with them two distinguished brethren, Very Worshipful Brother Ted Snyder who was the first master of Campbell Lodge, and Brother Hart Crawford who was the first initiate.

Speech

Following the dinner an interesting talk was given by Right Worshipful Brother Dave Miller, Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Lodge of Canada, in the Province of Ontario.

Also in the banquet room the brethren received a special treat when they heard the beautiful voices of Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson.

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