

Morrow speech

Change region to suit citizens, not province

In his nomination speech Ric Morrow told council that if elected regional chairman he would take on a low profile, would reduce some of the status and authority in the chairman's office and the region itself. The following is the complete text of the remarks he made before being elected Wednesday.

I am sure that as elected representatives of the citizens of Halton we are all aware of the serious nature of the business before us this afternoon.

When you finally select your chairman you will, at the same time, be making a major determination of the office itself. As a result of the recent election, there appears to be a major change of attitude within this council, and it reflects our citizens' concern about the rapid growth and the powers of regional government and of the office of chairman itself.

If council wishes to embark on a program of redefining regional government to suit the needs of our citizens and not necessarily the needs of the province, then, on this basis, I offer myself as a candidate for regional chairman.

As your chairman it will be my responsibility to provide an informed and civilized environment in which to make your decisions. I do not intend to preside over a three-ring circus as so many of us have witnessed during the last three years. I do not believe the chairman should have a vote in committee and should have a vote in council only to break a tie. It is the representatives directly elected by the people who should have decision-making powers.

If required to cast a deciding vote, I would vote to maintain the present status on the question as new policies should only be implemented by a majority of directly elected councillors. On council procedure, I would appoint, subject to council's approval, a permanent chairman of the committee of the whole to provide continuity in the application of the role. In future, at all times within the council chambers, the four mayors will at all times be addressed by their appropriate title and not as regional councillors.

In an effort to remove any vestiges of parochialism and to broaden each member's understanding of this region, I would ask that councillors consider sitting on more than one committee or alternately changing committees at some point during their term of office.

Staff, council seminars would be conducted on a regular basis in order to increase communications and understanding. To improve these areas, I would further suggest that the first 15 minutes of each council meeting be allotted to depart-

ment heads on a rotational basis, to detail the operation and role of their department as it affects the region.

As your chairman, I would have a very low public profile and would rarely attend public functions unless they happen to be of a specific regional nature.

If you want the regional chairman's office to be that of a super-mayor, then I urge you not to vote for me. My major responsibility, in addition to effecting a sense of sanity in the conduct of our meetings, would be to act as your main liaison with staff and assist you as individuals with fulfilling the demands of your respective offices. There have been mistakes made during the first three years and now that the citizens have spoken, we should reflect on what has taken place and make sure changes are made where they are warranted.

As I stated in my letter our citizens are concerned by the centralization of former local government powers at the regional level, and that the duplication of some of these areas can be eliminated.

First, I would have council investigate the possibility of disbanding the regional roads department and as an alternative have the area municipalities maintain the regional roads within their boundaries on a chargeback basis. It does not make any practical sense to have a sander or snow-plow travel substantial distances to maintain a single regional road where area works departments are maintaining roads on either side.

Secondly, because we already know the province will not return authority for sanitary sewers to the local level, I would ask the area mayors to consider transferring storm sewer responsibility to the regional level. Since so often both services are placed in the same trench, it seems only logical that control should be placed under one authority. In reflecting this new approach to the region we would in the future meet with area councils and staff as equal partners on behalf of our local government. It would be my responsibility to ensure that regional staff reflects this attitude.

You are aware, as individuals, that I have not asked for your vote because in return I offer nothing to you as individuals—but rather a promise to abide by and have respect for your majority views expressed in council.

Finally, you are the elected people who must decide the future role of this region. Consider the option that is before you now and if you feel it would better reflect the needs and desires of the people you represent, then I would be most pleased to accept the challenge of being your chairman.

Thank you.



SKIING SEASON is in full swing on the local Glen Eden slopes in Kelso Conservation Area. Western parts of the continent have had a poor snow-fall so far but Ontario has been hit with a heavy fall since late November, making this year one of the best in the past decade for skiing.

Former county solicitor swears in new council

Judge William Sharpe concluded that things were pretty much the same as when he served as a solicitor for Halton County. He made that remark after watching councillors harangue and agonize over the selection of a new chairman, Wednesday. Judge Sharpe conducted the swearing in ceremony for the new chairman and the 24 elected councillors. He spoke briefly to the councillors and guests and recalled his days as county solicitor while he was in private practice.

"I'm looking back over the years, I am of the opinion that the County of Halton and more recently the Regional Municipality of Halton has been a leader in making democracy work."

"I know from personal experience, when I was the solicitor for the county, the county was involved in two applications for private bills to the Ontario Legislature."

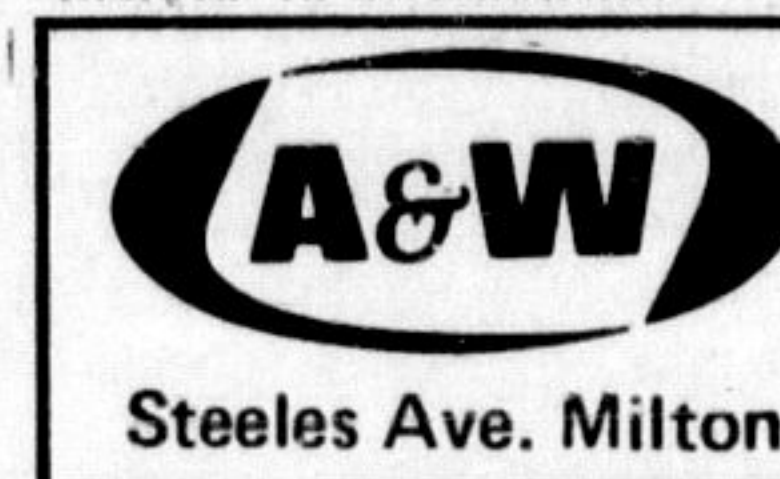
"One of the bills applied for was a bill to protect and secure the assets of the people in the home for the aged. This application ended in a tie vote before the committee of the house and a great debate ensued as to who would break the tie or whether the application was lost. The application was

shelved but the next year the Ontario Government passed regulations which incorporated the content of the County of Halton's proposed bill.

"The other application was, of course, the bill to provide for weighted voting by councillors according to the population of their region. This bill was successful and eased the tensions between the more densely populated south and the rural north of the county. Perhaps this bill, which was copied by other counties, was an indication to the province of the need for Regional Government."

"As you can see, important things have happened in Halton and I am confident that the people of Halton, under the leadership and initiative of this future council, will continue to be in the forefront of participatory grass roots democracy," the judge said.

Rev. G. B. Johnston offered an opening prayer and a prayer of invocation.



The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Applications are requested for appointment to the following board:

Sheridan College Board of Governors

— 1 Required —

Term Jan. 1, 1977 - Dec. 31, 1980

All applications must be in writing, preferably setting out your qualifications for the particular board.

Applications must be received on or before January 28th, 1977.

C. Thompson, Clerk.

Name Burlington man fire prevention head

Captain Robert Gray, Fire Prevention Officer with the Burlington Fire Department, was re-elected chairman of Halton Region Fire Prevention Committee Wednesday.

He was returned to his second year as chairman during the group's January meeting, held in Georgetown. The Fire Prevention Committee, comprising fire-

fighters and fire prevention personnel from the four Halton fire departments, meets monthly to co-ordinate fire prevention activities across Halton.

Capt. Peter Campbell of Oakville was returned as treasurer for 1977 and Roy Downs of Milton was again named secretary and public relations officer.

Set budget
A 1977 budget of \$2,000 was set by the Committee. It is funded by Halton Regional Council. The group reported a \$300 surplus from 1976 and that money with \$300 in the 1977 budget, will be placed in a sinking fund for a new display trailer.

The trailer will be stocked with fire prevention materials and outfitted with special displays, and will be used for shopping mall and fall fair promotions. The trailer is expected to cost around \$1,000 and the Committee hopes to have it in operation by 1978, the chairman said.

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Delays action on suit

A lawyer engaged to bring a lawsuit against Halton Board of Education over its motion of censure against Halton Renaissance and Renaissance founder Ken Campbell, has been instructed to delay action on the suit.

Mr. Campbell, in an an-

Low profile . . .

(Continued from page C9)
Prior to the election he had acknowledged that he didn't feel he had even an outside chance of winning "But I have something I want to say."

As it happened, Morrow was chosen before he even got a chance to say what it was he had wanted to say. There were no speeches during the informal caucus Wednesday.

Morrow was among the most surprised people at the outcome. "It must be fairly obvious that I have no acceptance speech prepared," he said, smiling somewhat sheepishly, as he took the chair for the first time.

ouncement Friday, said he has told the lawyer to hold up the case "until we have thoroughly explored with the new board all possibilities for honorably resolving the dispute, without the necessity of court action."

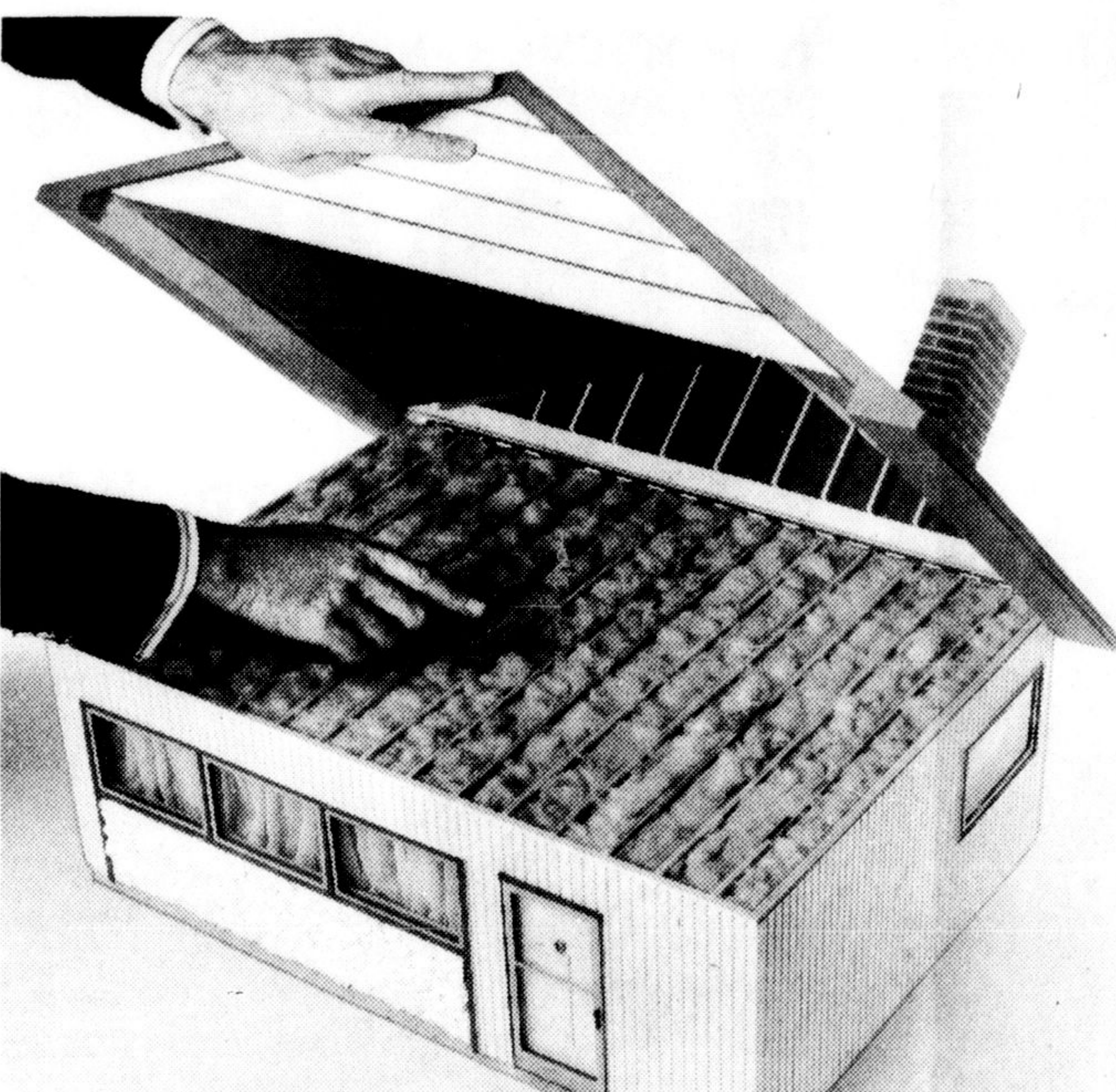
The Board censured Campbell and Renaissance in December of 1975. Its motion rebuked the man and the organization for "persistent dishonesty and personal abuse in the deliberate misinformation of the public." Campbell denies he has ever been "dishonest" or "malicious".

No support
Last month retiring trustee Dick Goodin tried to have the board withdraw its motion, but he was the lone supporter of the move.

Last Week Campbell met with Rev. Gary Morton, the new chairman of the Halton Board. Morton is a Presbyterian minister, Campbell a Baptist evangelist.

Tensions and controversies have dominated Renaissance's dealings with the board for the past three

years. At last week's meeting the two leaders discussed Campbell's request for a re-opening of communications between Renaissance and the board.



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The Corporation of the
Town of Milton

Special Notice

Please be advised that Milton Council, at a Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for January 31st, 1977, will be discussing the action to be taken with regard to a second ice surface to service the Town of Milton.

The meeting will be held at the Town Hall, 251 Main St. E., Milton, at 7:30 p.m.

C. Thompson,
Clerk.