

Region supports shift in power

Aspects of the sewer and water services should not be handled at the regional level of government, Halton Regional Council agreed Wednesday afternoon.

Council passed a resolution indicating the timing, location, and installation of water mains and the timing, installation and location of sanitary sewers be returned to the four area councils.

According to the resolution, the region would retain control over water plants and pumping stations, as well as sewage plants and sewage pumping stations.

Burlington Mayor Mary Munro proposed the split in responsibility. She claims the split would be more efficient and would allow the municipalities to carry on with work they want to accomplish and yet leave the control for overall growth in the hands of the region.

Control over sewer and water facilities has been a controversial matter ever

since the implementation of regional government. Control over hard services is seen as control over development in any community.

The passing of that motion would indicate a desire of regional councillors to reduce the power that now rests with the region.

Following the meeting Public Works Chairman Jack Raftis said he doesn't feel splitting the power for sewer and water services is practical.

"It is all part of a system. You can't divorce the trunk lines from the water filtration plants and the pumping stations," he said.

But Mayor Munro said there was a great deal of duplication in planning and constructing hard services now. She felt the change would be a definite improvement.

Oakville Councillor Gord Reade said it is illogical to have the region charge municipalities for work done

but leave the municipalities without the authority to go ahead with the work.

"This will give accountability back to the areas," he said, noting that that area councils aren't accountable under the current system.

Regional Chairman Rick Morrow indicated to reporters after the meeting that the recommendation and the report of the Bill 151 Committee wouldn't be taken seriously by the powers that be at Queen's Park.

An hour after passing that recommendation, council agreed to take a second look at a move towards equalized assessment.

Following the meeting several councillors suggested the motions tend to be contradictory.

One recommendation implies greater authority at the region over water and sewer and the second would indicate a shift in power away from the region to the areas.



SAP FROM THE TREE is quite something for most children, but the best is yet to come when the same sap produces maple syrup for pancakes and maple sugar. Visitors to Mountsberg can sample all the maple products each weekend to April 9.

Region won't spray mosquitos

In spite of a plea by Halton Hills Councillor Roy Booth, Regional Council refused to offer any support for a mosquito abatement project in the region.

The region's Board of Health had rejected the program on a number of occasions before it went to council Wednesday.

Booth told council the matter should be referred back for yet more consideration at the Board of Health level. The council cannot overrule the Board.

Booth argued that no-one could tell whether or not there would be a problem and the program should be instituted, to be on the safe side.

He received support from Community and Social Services Committee Chairman Walter Mulkevic.

Mulkevic said the Board decision went against advice from the Medical Officer of Health, and was contrary to decisions made by other regions.

The program of spraying is promoted by the Ministry of Health as a means of controlling an outbreak of St. Louis encephalitis, a mosquito-borne disease. In 1975 there were 67 cases and five deaths reported due to SLE in Ontario. But in 1976 there were only four cases reported and in 1977 no cases were reported.

Most councillors suggested the program would be of little value and that the Board of

Health had made the proper decision in the first instance.

Milton Councillor Jim Watson said if the region spent 10 cents on the program it would be 10 cents too much.

Oakville Councillor Carl Eriksen said the argument in favor of spraying is an emotional and silly one. He said the program included only a small area of the region and shouldn't be looked upon as an insurance policy against SLE.

Oakville Councillor Laurie Mannell said the program had been voted down five times at the Board of Health. "I suggest if you really want to get them sprayed, send the mosquitoes to Peel and let them get sprayed there."

Transient traders' fees in Milton will be raised from \$200 to \$300, Milton Councillors agreed last week. The action follows complaints about out-of-town businessmen setting up short-term business ventures in Milton, without paying taxes or transient fees.

The fine for not having a transient fee will be raised from the present \$200 to a maximum of \$1,000.

—There are "big" bargains in "little" Champion ads.

Review complete

Seek change in region

Halton Regional Council will seek a number of changes to Bill 151, the bill implementing regional government in Halton.

The committee chaired by Milton Mayor Don Gordon has been studying ways to improve regional government legislation for about a year and finally reported to council last week.

Recommendation included those with far ranging implications and others of a more minor nature. One of the major recommendations would see responsibility for water and sewer lines returned to the four area councils. That work is now done by the region on a chargeback system, with each area picking up its own share of the cost.

The council will ask for a change in legislation that will make legal a secret ballot to elect a chairman. Stand up voting is now required for the election of a chairman and

the method is felt to be divisive for councillors.

Council will ask that the legislation setting out planning responsibilities be set out clearly in an effort to end the duplication between the region and area level.

Among the other resolutions passed were resolutions that would:

- + Ask the province to delegate the overall review function relating to official plan documents, subdivision draft plan approvals and zoning comments to the region and eliminate the third layer of bureaucracy at the province.
- + Call for legislation to eliminate the Land Division Committee and expand the area committees of adjustment to deal with land severances as well.
- + Amend the act to ensure that each of four areas has representation on the Board of Police Commissioners. Milton has never had a representative on that commission.

- + Give area municipalities control over location of regional services on road allowances under jurisdiction of area municipalities.
- + Have the Ninth Line declared a regional boundary road.
- + Council defeated a resolution that would have turned solid waste management back to the area councils.
- + Opponents to that scheme said the responsibility for waste management had to remain with the region, if resource recovery is ever to become a reality.
- + Flu and colds have been prevalent in town all winter.

Land division committee

Will consider allegations

Halton Regional Council will investigate allegations made by Dave Green when he announced his resignation from the Regional Land Division Committee.

At that time Green said the committee was controlled by a small number of councillors who excluded some committee members from some of the important aspects of the committee's work.

He said that he had come to feel that he is a third class

member.

Milton Mayor Don Gordon said the council should forget the investigation and simply reappoint a replacement.

Gordon said the council had no business conducting any investigation into the committee.

But Milton Councillor Jim Watson and a number of other councillors disagreed, noting it is the council's duty to investigate and determine if problems do exist.

Campbellville 4-H

Government studied

By Lenore Chisholm

On Feb. 27 the fourth meeting of the "Campbellville Get Up and Go Gang," was held at the home of Mrs. Postma.

This meeting was centered around our government. Questions were asked, such as the kinds of government we have, the levels, and also what the federal, provincial, and municipal governments are in charge of.

We also discussed the levels of government.

After this a game was played. There were nine pictures of people in the government. We had to decide on the names of each person. Could you recognize these men if you saw them?

1, Don Gordon; 2, James Snow; 3, Joe Clark; 4, Steven Lewis; 5, Ed Broadbent; 6, Julian Reed; 7, Jimmy Carter; 8, Prince Charles; 9, Pierre Trudeau.

The meeting was closed with juice and tarts, which were supplied by Angie Herensberger.

When + + + mining operations in the Klondike area finally ceased in 1966 total production was well in excess of \$200 million. The gold rush of 1896 was sparked by discovery of the metal at Bonanza Creek. Today's treasure hunters in the Yukon are searching for silver, lead, zinc, iron, copper and tungsten.

Region workers get increase

Halton Regional Council approved salary increases for non-union workers ranging from 4.42 per cent to 5.4 per cent.

The 5.4 per cent is awarded to those who did not receive merit increments in the calendar year and the 4.42 per cent is for those who did

receive increments earlier.

Personnel Director Dennis Camm said the cost of living had jumped by 9.5 per cent. Because of that he recommended council grant the maximum increase allowed under AIB guidelines. Even with the maximum increase, employees stand to lose buying power.

Part of the pension contribution paid by the region is included in the six per cent maximum under AIB rules.

The salary increase includes employees classified as office, clerical, technical employees, managers, supervisors, staff employees, public works foremen, registered nurses and Halton Centennial Manor employees.

Cabinet visits Halton

Three members of the federal cabinet and another three Liberal backbenchers will be in the Halton riding March 13 as part of the travelling caucus.

Minister of Small Business Tony Abbot will speak to Milton Chamber of Commerce at a luncheon that day.

MP Frank Philbrook suggested efforts were being made to have some members of the delegation take part in a session with high schools and possibly another session with area residents.

Minister of Multiculturalism Norm Cafik and President of the Treasury Board Bob Andras are the other cabinet ministers expected to be in the riding that day.

Acton's brief not dealt with

Requests by the Actonians for Action Committee to have Halton Region examine the internal boundaries in Halton Hills has fallen on deaf ears.

The committee expressed dissatisfaction with the current town boundaries and specifically the amalgamation of Acton with Georgetown in the town of Halton Hills.

Chairman of the Regional Bill 151 Committee, Don Gordon told council last week that his committee had turned the brief over to Halton Hills for comment. "We never heard back," Gordon explained.

Following the meeting Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill said Halton Hills council simply filed the brief.

"Yes, we got a copy of the report, but we didn't feel it concerned us. There is no action planned to be taken on that, as far as I'm aware," Mayor Hill explained.

When the Halton Hills Council failed to comment on the brief, the regional review committee let the matter drop. The contention of the Acton group—that Acton should serve as the core of a town separate from Georgetown—wasn't debated.

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