

Rural issues are debated in Halton's official plan

Land use policies in the rural areas remain the main points of controversy in Halton Region's draft official plan.

Last week Halton Region's Planning Committee discussed the area municipalities' criticism of the plan. With the exception of two or three thorny areas that deal with residential development in rural areas and preservation of foodlands, the review

amounted more to crossing T's and dotting I's than the debate of opposing philosophies.

The committee endorsed a general statement encouraging governments at all levels and agencies to adopt policies and programs which will promote the economic viability of the agricultural industry.

But in the same breath the

committee removed from the draft plan a three-part clause urging the federal government to:

(a) Adopt a national food policy incorporating the production, processing, marketing, distributing and consumption of food so as to ensure an adequate supply at prices which are equitable for both the industry and the consumer.

(b) Enforce protective tariffs

and-or, quotas on imported agricultural products which compete with Canadian produce.

(c) Provide incentives to farmers through income stabilization, a pension program for retiring farmers, expanded farm credit and loans to farmers, and general relief from Federal taxes on the agricultural industry.

Planner Bob White defended the inclusion of the recommendations for the federal government. "We are saying this is what we want and this is your responsibility."

He argued that the region should go on record as endorsing a national food policy, incentives for farmers and tariffs to protect food grown or raised in Canada.

Oakville Councillor Ron Planche objected. "Whatever happened to free trade and have you considered what will happen to the price of food when it hits the counter? This sounds like welfare policies for farmers and looks like we are trying to bribe the farmer with the consumers' money," Planche told the committee.

Foodland designation lacked farm support

Lack of support from even the conservationist element within the Federation of Agriculture and the farm community in general for measures aimed at preserving foodland, is being touted as a major cause for failure to have those policies implemented in Halton's official plan.

Halton Regional Planning Director Ed Cumming said in an interview that there seemed to be an evolution of opinion among the conservationists in the Federation. "It seemed to come about after the government's green paper on agricultural land."

Regional planners had pushed for inclusion of strong measures that would have designated broad swaths of land as foodlands.

Cumming explained the regional planners wanted to point the way and set out broad designations of land with capacity to grow food

and leave the more restrictive designations to the local councils and planning departments—because that's where the local knowledge is greatest.

"They wouldn't buy that. The only way we could have got it through was on the urban conservationist lobby, but that isn't good enough. When we thought we had a faction of the Federation with us we might have been okay, but their opinion seemed to change."

Asked if he was disappointed by the lack of protection the plan now includes for agricultural lands, Cumming acknowledged he was.

"Yes, I think we are disappointed, but it is a plan for people—not for the planners. Sometimes we have our biases and preferences that the decision makers and the people just can't afford."

The committee not only sounded a complete retreat

on that score, but backed off on recommendations it had made to the federal government as well.

The staff had urged that the committee encourage all other government levels and agencies to adopt policies and programs which will promote the economic viability of the agricultural industry.

That much the committee accepted.

But the committee balked when staff recommended the federal government develop a national food policy, protective tariffs, pensions for farmers and general relief from federal taxes on the agricultural industry.

Committee members suggested neither the staff nor the committee understood the complexities of the problem and shouldn't encourage the federal government one way or the other.

Planner Rash Mohammed suggested the clause could be reworded to indicate the three recommendations were examples of things the region would like the federal government to look at.

Oakville Councillor Archie Donaghy and Committee Chairman Roy Booth agreed with that recommendation but a motion by Milton Mayor Don Gordon recommended taking the three-part clause right out of the draft. It passed.

The committee endorsed a Halton Hills recommendation

25 persons arrested seize \$24,000 in drugs

A major drug bust in Burlington and Oakville has resulted in the arrests of 25 persons charged with trafficking drugs.

Warrants are out for a remaining 12 persons facing similar charges, in what is described as a "crackdown on traffickers in the area," according to the Joint Forces Operation in Oakville.

The arrests resulted in the seizure of several different types of drugs estimated at a total street value of \$24,000.

The initial arrests were carried out Wednesday morning, July 5, following three months of intensive under-

cover work by the Joint Forces Operation. The operation is comprised of members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Ontario Provincial Police and Halton Regional Police.

Heading the project was Sergeant Wayne Graham, who contended that the bust represented the largest number of people involved in one project, although not the largest drug seizure, in the area.

Despite the fact that some of the charged persons knew one another, Graham stated the drug traffickers were not part of a drug ring.

"We have put a severe

damper on the trafficking capacities for that area, but there is no way we have done away with it all," he added.

Arrests and drugs seizures were made at individuals' homes, said police.

Seized in the raids were: Columbian marijuana, Thai sticks, hashish, hash oil, peyotti (a chemical drug similar to LSD), LSD, diethylpropion or "beans" and phenylcyclidine.

Police said marijuana represented the largest amount of any one drug seized, and expect to make more seizures with the final 12 arrests.

Forty police officers were involved in the arrests of the 25 persons. Working in teams of three officers, police were armed with both search warrants and warrants to arrest.

There were no incidents of violence during the arrests, said police, with the majority of the charged persons taken to Hamilton Jail.

Although there is no evidence to link the arrests with trafficking in North Halton, police said there is "definitely" trafficking in Milton, Georgetown and Acton.

Milton man arrested trafficking charged

A 26-year-old Milton man has been arrested and charged with possession of marijuana with the intent to traffic, following a drug raid at his Mill St. residence, according to Halton Regional Police.

Estimated at a street value of \$15,000, the Columbian-

grown marijuana was seized during the raid, made by Halton Regional Police Saturday night.

The raid followed one month of intensive detective work by police officers, according to Milton Precinct Staff Sergeant Eric Bullock.

The drug raid is considered a major seizure

Rabies warning

Avoid wild animals

Halton Regional Health Unit is warning all area residents to avoid contact with all wild animals, owing to the continuing presence of rabies in animals.

According to J. H. Chamberlain, medical officer for the Unit, there have been several reported recent cases of rabies in Halton region.

Dr. Chamberlain described rabies as a year-round problem and stated that during the summer, cases arise because more people are out in the bush area and in contact with wild animals.

He said there have been no reports of individuals receiving bites from rabid animals, but added that the Health Unit has received reports of farm animals with possible rabies.

There are no statistics at this time to determine how many proven cases there have been this far, he said, but the annual report for 1977 shows 31 proven rabies cases from more than 300 investigated cases.

Last year's figure is nearly double the number of proven cases for 1976. In 1976, 332 cases were investigated, with 17 animals found rabid.

Animals that were found rabid last year included 10 foxes, six cows, two cats, one horse and one bat.

Dr. Chamberlain said rabid

animals are usually found in the north Halton area, where a large amount of wildlife can be found.

Rabies is a disease which attacks the brain, and has varying effects on animals and humans. Dr. Chamberlain said an animal that becomes rabid may behave in either a furious, angry manner or else act very morose and quiet.

He includes the following advice for the protection for both humans and home pets:

(1) Do not touch or handle any dead animal of any species.

(2) Avoid contact with all wild animals. Do not attempt to pet or feed any fox, skunk, raccoon. In particular, avoid contact with, or handling of bats.

(3) If your pet is ill or behaving strangely, stay away from it until your veterinarian has made a diagnosis.

(4) Family pets, particularly cats and dogs, should be immunized against rabies.

(5) Remember that farm animals (cows as well as sheep, horses and goats) sometimes have rabies too.

(6) Bites by animals and cuts and abrasions of skin soiled by animal saliva should be immediately washed with soap and water. Any animal bite should receive prompt attention from your family physician.

(7) Animal bites should be reported to the Health Unit immediately.

Garbage crisis . . .

(Continued from page 1)

reference to Site F. His amendment failed.

"We have attempted to put divisions of the past behind us and make a sincere move to solve a serious problem and now the dogs are at the gate trying to change the motion until nothing is left and we would be back where we

started with no solution in sight," Mrs. Munro said.

Even the councillors themselves were surprised when the vote carried unanimously. The landfill question has torn and divided the council for three years now and even the most innocent of motions have been suspect in the eyes of one group of councillors or the other.

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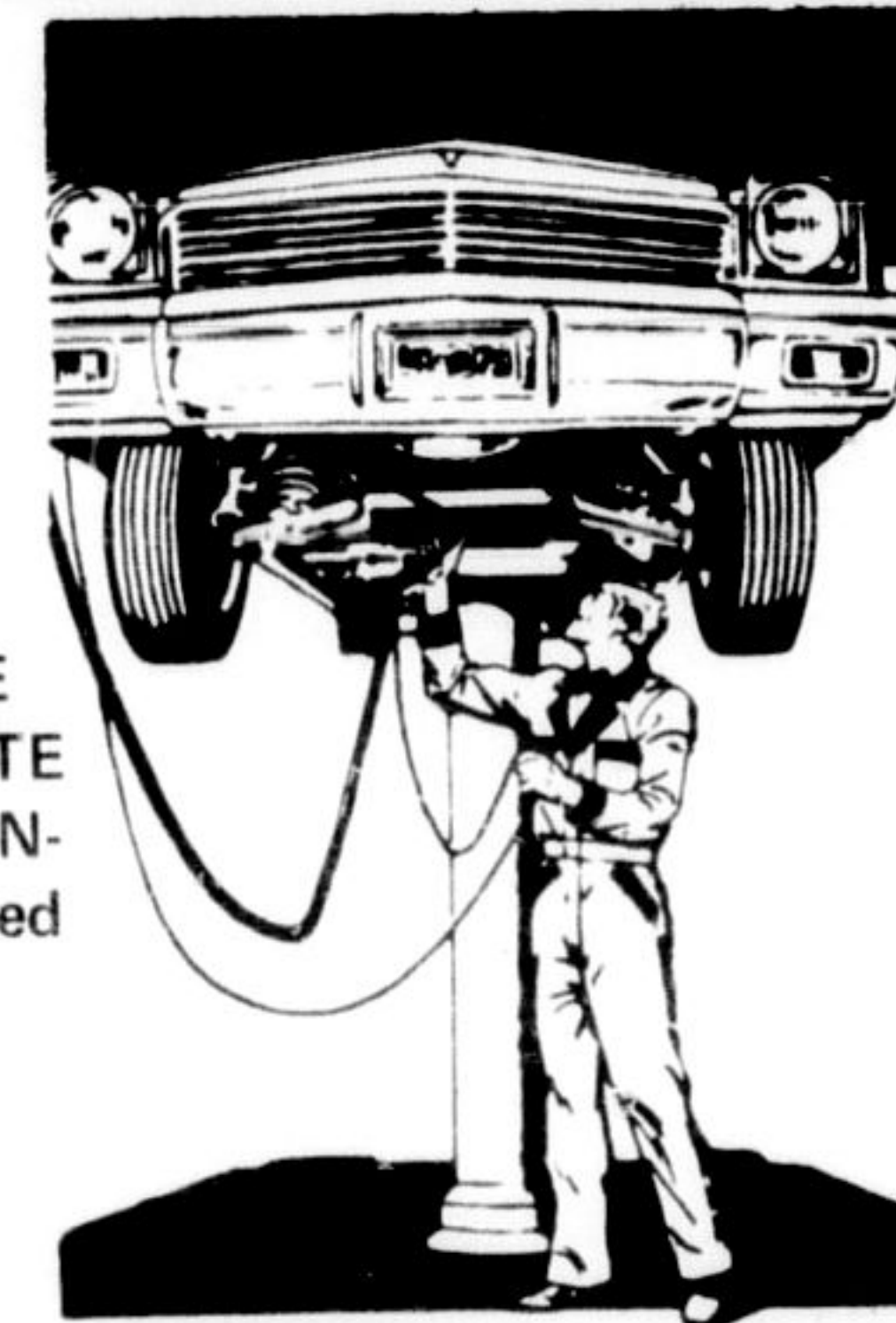
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