



PRETTY MARIE MURRAY is Halton's Dairy Princess this year. The 18-year-old Nassagaweya resident was crowned Saturday by Holly Hurren. Holly has served as dairy princess for the past two years. Marie is a grade 13 student at Acton High School and she will be on her first assignment this weekend when she attends the Acton Fall Fair.

Close vote could change

Council says fluoridate water

By Bob Burt
Regional Council has decided that Milton and Acton water supplies will be fluoridated. That decision was made contrary to wishes of all three Milton representatives on the council. The decision is also contrary to the expressed wishes of the people in Milton. The town voted overwhelmingly against installing fluoridation equipment in 1971.

But there is still a possibility—that of reversing council's decision when the matter comes before council in the form of a by-law.

The recorded vote carried Wednesday with 11 members voting to install fluoridation and nine members opposing it. Milton Councillor Jim

Watson and Burlington Councillor Tom Sutherland both missed the vote because they were out of the room. Both opposed fluoridation unless a plebiscite was called.

What's important about that is, assuming all members will be present to vote on the by-law there are 11 for it and 11 against it with two absent councillors who haven't declared how they would vote.

The three Milton councillors joined forces to oppose fluoridation without giving the people an opportunity to express their desires.

Milton Mayor Don Gordon said the town has pure water and wants to keep it pure. He said it would be unfortunate if the whole region was involved

in a plebiscite, but he did feel it should go to a vote of the people in Milton.

Councillor Jim Watson said he preferred to see the issue dealt with on an individual municipality basis, instead of as one system.

Acton councillor Pat McKenzie wondered if Acton could get it without having it put in the Milton system. "We don't want to be without it just because Milton doesn't have it. We don't want to get caught up in their problems."

Regional Solicitor Dennis Perlin said the region could, by by-law, put fluoridation into the Acton system without putting it into the Milton system. However if a plebiscite is called, it has to be region wide.

Milton Councillor Jim Kerr attacked that logic and wondered if there was a precedent for having a plebiscite in just one part of a regional municipality.

Perlin acknowledged that Peel Region had opted for a plebiscite in the Town of Bolton without going to a region-wide plebiscite. But they had done so without advice from their solicitor, Perlin explained.

That sounded good to Kerr. "Let's wait and see how they make out before we go ahead," he urged.

"Absolutely ludicrous," is the way Burlington Mayor Harry Munro saw the situation.

"Quite frankly, I don't care if Milton has fluoride in their water or not and I'm sure the people of Burlington or Oakville don't care. So why ask the whole region?"

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett sees the decision as one that should be made by the area municipalities and criticized the solicitor for trying to make a complex problem out of a simple issue.

But not all councillors saw the situation that way. Oakville Councillor Ron Planché pointed to statistics about the reduction in cavities and reminded council the water system is a regional responsibility, not a local one.

Burlington Councillor Walter Mulkevic cited the health advantages of having fluoride and wondered how any responsible body could do anything but recommend it.

Council will have to vote on the by-law at the next meeting or whenever the by-law is drafted.

Threaten court action

Seek delay in fluoride by-law

Hoping to stall an attempt by Halton Regional Council to fluoridate down our throats", Milton Councillors Monday decided to appeal to the Region to delay introduction of a by-law to fluoridate Milton's and Acton's water supplies.

Council decided it wants a second legal opinion on Regional Solicitor Dennis Perlin's ruling that Milton cannot have its own fluoride plebiscite and that it would have to be a region-wide referendum.

"It's not whether we should have fluoride put in our water or not, but the wheels of democracy have stopped," charged Councillor Anne MacArthur, who led the council move to delay the regional by-law. The preparation of a by-law was approved on a narrow vote at last Wednesday's regional council meeting.

Mrs. MacArthur also threatened a writ of mandamus, or a court order to force the region to delay passage of the final by-law until Milton Council has had a chance to study the fluoride issue more fully.

Mayor Don Gordon told councillors he and the other two Milton representatives on regional council had tried to get the region to hold up action on a fluoride by-law, until Milton has had a chance to test public opinion or hold a plebiscite. But the solicitor ruled any plebiscite would have to be held across the region, not just in Milton.

Gordon noted there are no funds available in the Halton budget to introduce fluoride this year anyway.

Mrs. MacArthur chided the mayor for an earlier statement he made, suggesting there isn't much Milton can do about it now. "I don't think we should roll over like June bugs and flap our legs in the air and say we can't do anything about it," she scolded.

"We will be in real trouble if we don't fight back," she said, warning one-tier regional government would be the next step.

She suggested Perlin had scared Oakville and Burlington councillors into thinking they might have to have a local plebiscite and might lose the fluoridated water they already have. She suggested a delegation from Milton Council should attend the next regional council meeting, to protest the action.

"It's high time the people knew this council is concerned," she added.

Councillor Jim Watson agreed it was "appalling" that the other regional councillors could shove something onto Milton because the town has such a low percentage of votes at the regional level (three of 24).

"Talk about controlling our own destiny — here's an example, we can't do it," he added.

Fluoride can't be introduced before the Nov. 13 municipal elections, pointed out Watson. He wondered if the town could hold a plebiscite anyway, and pass the results on to the region. Clerk Campbell Thompson said "we could put it on the ballot, but..."

"Fine, put it on, that's all I want to know," interrupted Councillor Watson, as the clerk finished his statement with a reminder that water is still a regional responsibility.

Councillor Kerr said the vote Wednesday at the region couldn't have been a fair one. On one hand, Acton councillors were in favor of fluoride for their water supply and didn't care about Milton; on the other hand, Oakville and Burlington councillors were afraid they might lose the fluoride they have now.

Kerr noted that a fluoride plebiscite is being held in Bolton, which is one community in the Region of Peel, and Milton should get the local by-law delayed until the

results of that experiment are known. He predicted the Bolton vote might have to go to the Ontario Municipal Board, or a court hearing, and it may be illegal for a town in a region to hold such a vote.

He also wondered, if fluoride is so good, why did the regional staff wait four and a half years (since the introduction of regional government) to force it on Milton.

"It is domination over the will and wish of the individual municipalities," charged Councillor Brian Penman.

Concurring in the delay was Councillor Art Melanson, who said he was amazed a simple letter from a local dentist had kicked off such a controversy. "It has just become a football," he said.

Councillor Rick Day also concurred. He said it was too bad the real merits of the issue — "our children's teeth and fluoride" — had to get bogged down in regional politics.

Councillor Watson wondered how the original letter got to the regional council table in the first place. Deputy Clerk Roy Main said a letter asking about fluoride had come to his desk last June and after consulting with the public works director of the town, they had passed it on to the regional Health Unit. From there it went to the regional committee, then on to regional council.

"You should have dropped it in the waste basket when it first came here," summed up Watson.

Later in the meeting the councillors, who had been meeting as a committee of the whole to pass recommendations on to the council, went into council and passed a motion confirming the committee's decision to ask the region for a delay in the by-law.

"It's nothing to do with fluoride, it's the principle of it all," concluded Councillor MacArthur.

Thwart garbage crisis hope to expand sites

Halton Regional Councillors believe they can stave off what once appeared to be a garbage crisis in Halton by expanding existing landfill sites in Oakville and Burlington.

Some councillors expressed doubts about whether a crisis situation ever existed, after reviewing consultants' reports.

Reports now suggest there is a lot more life left in the existing sites than was ever considered to be the case.

The landfill issue has been regarded as an urgent one for the past few years. Councillors, reporters and members of the Tremaine-Britannia Citizens Group have been continually told that there were only 18 months of capacity left. Had that been the case, all sites would have closed in 1976.

Even without expansions, consultants now claim existing landfill sites won't close until December of 1979. The region has bought some time by minor expansions, improving landfilling techniques and by refusing to accept some forms of garbage.

Oddly enough, consultants for the region went on record in January of 1976 as saying the expansion of landfill sites was not feasible.

In one of its first reports, M.M. Dillon said it had ruled out expansions on technical grounds. For years some regional councillors, staffers and consultants argued that there were no contingency plans or alternatives to a major landfill site at Tremaine and Britannia Rd.

in Milton... the controversial Site F.

It wasn't until earlier this summer when Burlington Mayor Mary Munro brought in specific directions for consultants to follow that serious consideration was given to expanding sites.

The cost of expanding the sites is set at \$794,000. Prior to the Oakville site being expanded, a rezoning will have to be passed.

There has been no citizen opposition to that site so far, but Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett insists that there will be opposition from Oakville residents, once the rezoning is applied for.

The recommendation to expand the two sites met with general approval when it was presented to council Wednesday.

However some councillors were critical of staff and consultants for taking so long to come up with the information.

Burlington Councillor Ben Ciprietti said he supported the recommendations but rapped both staffers and consultants from M.M. Dillon for taking so long to chart an acceptable course.

He charged they had not done their jobs in that regard.

Burlington Mayor Mary

Munro said, "I'm pleased the report has answers to some of the questions I and some others have been asking for years."

The mayor noted that the report suggested existing sites won't be full until 1980 and recalled consultants predicting the closing of sites much earlier than that. She questioned the accuracy of some forecasts concerning capacity.

Milton Mayor Don Gordon claimed the consultants had still not investigated the possibility of using abandoned quarries in the region and he wanted to know why.

M.M. Dillon representative Wally Wells defended the report, noting that his people had done seven and a half weeks of work in a five week period as it was.

Gordon will put a resolution before the council next Wednesday. If approved, the recommendation would direct Dillon to take a serious look at quarries.

Gordon hopes by finding a suitable quarry for garbage the region can forget plans to open Site F in Milton.

As it stands the region will continue plans to take its fight for Site F before the Ontario Municipal Board this January.

MacArthur for Mayor? announcement soon

Is former Milton Mayor Anne MacArthur girding up to challenge incumbent Mayor Don Gordon for the mayoralty in the Nov. 13 municipal election?

Mrs. MacArthur Monday refused to confirm widespread rumors that she will square off again for the town's top municipal seat, but promised an announcement "next week."

"I have not definitely made up my mind," she told The Champion, "but there has been a lot of pressure on me to run."

"It is still up in the air," she added.

Mrs. MacArthur was reeve of Nassagaweya when the township and town merged under regional government and had held the post for several years. She successfully ousted Milton Mayor Brian Best in the election campaign in late 1973, and served as the first Mayor of the "new" town 1974-76. But she lost the seat to former Oakville councillor Donald Gordon at the end of her first three-year term and he has held the post for the last year and eight months.

Mrs. MacArthur admitted she enjoyed her year and a half of rest from local

politics, although she kept quite busy with her work as a member of the Niagara Escarpment Commission. And she said she enjoyed the NEC work immensely.

She rejoined the council half-way through this year, appointed by councillors to fill the seat left vacant by Emmerson McCready's

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Town offers \$1

Buy or rent old court house

Halton Region wants too much — \$640,000 for the old court house and jail building and the old registry office on Brown St. and the parking lot on Hugh St. Milton Councillors agreed this week.

They came up with a lesser offer — \$1 for each of the three properties — during a committee meeting Monday.

General consensus was that the historic buildings, now vacant and declared surplus by the region, should be preserved and put into institutional or office use, but there was general agreement among local councillors that the price tag was too steep.

Regional evaluations suggest the court house-jail building is worth \$425,000 while the parking lot (presently leased to the town for \$1 a year) is worth \$150,000 and the old registry office (more recently a family court building) is worth \$90,000, Deputy Clerk Roy Main reported following a meeting with regional officials.

The prices were based on the square footage of the land and buildings, and assumes they would be rezoned for commercial use, he added.

But town planner Bob Zasadnyi pointed out the whole court house block is listed as residential in the town's of-

ficial plan. He said it would allow high density development, with 10 units to the acre, but councillors said a single family housing development would not be feasible on a parcel that size, and only a high-rise apartment building or townhouses would be viable.

"No more townhouses or apartments are needed," said Councillor Rick Day.

The local Legion branch has expressed interest in acquiring the court house-jail building for use as a Legion Hall, and Milton Senior Citizens want the old registry office for a drop-in centre and meeting hall.

Regional officials told town staffers the registry office will not be for sale, however, as the Health Services Branch wants to use the building as a branch office.

"Do we want the old jail? Is it a purchase priority?" wondered Councillor Jim Watson. He claimed council is "buy-happy" and tends to buy things and give them away.

"I am not interested in acquiring the jail or having the structure stand one day longer," announced Councillor Russ Powadiuk. But he said he considered the parking lot "very important" to the town.

After the jail is demolished, he felt the town should rent the land as a parking lot, and obtain first right of refusal if it is ever offered for sale.

Councillor Day agreed there is no point in preserving the jail. He felt the lands present a threat to the town's business core on Main St., as if it was ever allowed to be used for commercial purposes it would ruin the Main St.

The region will want top dollar and will have to sell it for commercial use in order to obtain it, Day added. "Our partner in local government is going to screw us," he predicted.

As for the prices quoted, Day called them "nuts".

Mayor Don Gordon said the region doesn't expect to get \$640,000 for the sites. "I wouldn't like to see the jail taken down, it's got a lot of possibilities," he said.

Council could also designate the buildings as historical, to guarantee preservation, the mayor added.

Councillor Rose Harrison said the town should carry on negotiations, at "a more reasonable price". She thought the old jail was an interesting old building and

should be scrapped and has said so in an official resolution sent to the Ontario Housing Authority.

The verdict on the 21-unit rent-gear-to-income proposal comes as no surprise.

Nearly one month ago, O.H.C. officials predicted the demise of Milton's first such rental assistance plan, after only 20 applications were received.

The decision to kill the plan comes after three months of advertising by the Halton Authority. According to O.H.C. officials, the agency also worked with other area organizations to determine the need for housing assistance.

Housing officials stated the "majority" or the applications did not qualify for rental assistance and that other alternatives are being considered.

In its report to the O.H.C., the local Authority has suggested townhouses be purchased in Milton, to be sublet to suitable applicants.

The Bronte St. proposal has been nearly 10 years in the making, including surveys and research into the need for the rental assistance project, and even the purchase of 1.8 acres on Bronte St.

A final decision to abandon the concept is yet to be reached by O.H.C. officials, but the provincial agency earlier indicated the site would be sold if the plan failed.

In an interview with The Champion last week, Oz Ledwith, a regional welfare worker claimed there is a definite need for housing assistance for low-income families. He claimed that for O.H.C. to say there isn't sufficient need is just "a cop-

out."

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ing out."

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Inside Today

FLUORIDE — PRO AND CON

Those favoring and those against fluoride in Milton's water supply fill the letters column this week, Pg. 5.

BACK TO SCHOOL AGAIN

Wednesday was the big day for Milton and area students, some of whom were there for their first day; others entering new schools for the first time. Picture feature, C1.



- ALSO INSIDE:**
- 2—Region planning
 - 3—Ambulance men want to go on strike
 - 4—Editorials, columns
 - 6—People column
 - 8—Nursery expands and hires second teacher
 - 12—Regional firefighters' school
 - B1-B5—Sports
 - B6—New minister at Kilbride and Carlisle
 - B7-B15—Classifieds, Who Does It and Real Estate Marketplace
 - B16—Tearing down and building up
 - C2—Columnists
 - C3—Family
 - C6—Farm news
 - C7—Auxiliary lawn party.

ECHO TAKES a bow, but Kim won the 25 silver dollars. See Farm news, Pg. C6.

Fluoride Opinion Poll

Halton Regional Council is preparing a by-law which, if approved, will mean the addition of fluoride to Milton's water supply. The Champion invites readers to express their opinions.

Please mail or deliver this form to reach The Champion, 191 Main St., Milton by Monday, Sept. 18, 1978.

1. Are you in favor of a fluoridated water supply for Milton? Yes No
2. Are you in favor of a plebiscite in Milton to decide on the fluoridation of the town's water supply. Yes No

Remarks (if any)

Signature(s)

Address