

Halton Region roads still under staffing study

Although we have many regional roads in Halton, we still don't have a definition of what a regional road is and where they are.

If that sounds confusing, consider the plight of the regional public works committee which met in a special session Wednesday to try to come up with the definitions that have been lacking since regionalization.

When the region took form, most roads not directly within an urban area were dubbed regional roads—which is the situation today.

In August of 1978, however, a staff committee at the region was struck to rationalize regional

roads in terms of responsibility and maintenance. The result of this was expected to be submitted to committee last week, but such was not the case.

Public works director Bob Moore said staff members had done much work but it was his opinion the final designation would have to come from elected officials and the residents of Halton.

Mr. Moore, under questions from a committee expecting routes would be submitted for discussion, said he thought the best definition would be "Any road handling inter-municipal traffic."

Most of the roads currently considered regional "are predominantly rural," Mr. Moore said. There are no regional roads connecting between Oakville and Burlington and this has been where the most problems on selection have surfaced.

He noted both municipalities are jealously guarding streets within their respective borders and not anxious to give up the responsibility to the region.

On the other side of the coin, some roads considered regional in North Halton may be given back to Milton or Halton Hills under the rationalization study, but

both towns may not want them.

In Milton Main St.—which cuts through the centre of town—is now regional road. Mr. Moore said he could not see how this classification would continue with Main St. proposed to be permanently closed and turned into a pedestrian mall.

But Milton Councillor Bill Johnson said he and his council aren't prepared to "take back any of these roads, unless they are brought up to acceptable conditions."

He said the roads were surrendered under regionalization and during the past six years "they have been allowed to deteriorate... just

look at Main St. and you'll see what I mean."

Although no firm decisions were made, Mr. Moore indicated the number of regional roads may be reduced to "five, possibly six."

He said Britannia Rd., for instance, does not carry what could be termed inter-municipal traffic and therefore should not qualify as a regional road.

On the other hand, Tremaine Rd. will probably remain a regional road as it will not handle inter-municipal traffic but a large number of trucks which will eventually need a major road to haul garbage to the Site F landfill area.

Some roads mentioned

included Trafalgar Rd., Tremaine Rd., Steeles Ave., and the Ninth Line-Winston Churchill Blvd. boundary between Halton and Peel Regions.

Region review planned

Halton Regional Council has set a Feb. 1, 1980 deadline for suggested changes and recommendations to amend Bill 151 which established regional government.

The recommendations will come after a full review of the benefits and the liabilities of regionalism by councillors on the Administration and Finance Committee.

A move for a regional review was prompted by Milton Mayor Don Gordon who petitioned recently for a fourth member on council based on population growth.

There are also a number of divisions which have deepened between the four area municipalities over 1979.

Submissions and recommendations will be dealt with by the committee and then will go to council before they are discussed, voted on, and sent to the Ontario Government for inclusion in Bill 151.

People

Milton Fire Department hosted its annual Christmas dinner for firefighters, former firefighters and various helpers, at the Central Fire Hall Friday evening, Dec. 21. Over 60 enjoyed the roast beef dinner prepared by the social committee under the chairmanship of firefighter Jim Finn.

A special guest, Bill McKeown representing Milton Lions Club, was given a big hand for earlier in the day the Lions had contributed \$2,164 to put the fire department's rescue tool fund over the top.

Fire Chief Jim Coulson was emcee for a brief program, during which he thanked the firefighters and helpers for another successful year. Others speaking included Deputy Chief Harold Coulson and two retired fire chiefs, Bill Randell and Babe Clement.

Draws were held for a dozen turkeys, operated by Gord Krantz and Glenn

Stringer and for a couple of bottles of "milk" operated by Bob Kerr and Pat Ryan.

Halton Regional Police constables in Milton have been taking an extra passenger with them during their shifts.

He is 19-year-old Grant McLay of Norwich. Grant is the son of Norwich Township ex-chief Ken McLay, and is a second year student in the Law and Security course at Sheridan College in Oakville. Part of the law program entails practical experience in some field of law enforcement.

Grant was assigned to the Milton division and says he has enjoyed the experience.

Firefighters get their 1980 "baby"



MILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT took delivery of its new pumper last week as Acting Mayor Brian Penman received the keys from Howard MacKay (right), sales representative from King Seagrave Ltd. The firm that made the pumper. Fire Chief Jim Coulson sits in the truck. The pumper, with equipment, cost the town close to \$84,000.

Milton Fire Department took delivery last week of its new 1979 pumper.

The truck arrived at the Central Fire Station Tuesday morning from the Woodstock plant of King Seagrave Ltd., manufacturers of the vehicle.

Other accessory equipment, such as hose nozzles, came with the truck. Total cost, according to Fire Chief Jim Coulson, is around \$84,000.

The truck can pump 840 gallons of water per minute from a hydrant and contains a 500 gallon water tank. The pump operator's control panel is in the truck, between the cab and tank, for reasons of safety.

Howard MacKay, a sales representative of King Seagrave, handed the keys to the truck over to Acting Mayor Brian Penman.

School board chairman waits on new contract negotiator

A 'wait and see attitude' is being adopted by Halton Board of Education Chairman Bill Herd in response to the addition of professional negotiators to the high school teachers' team.

"The only thing I can say is we will wait and see what that means," Herd said in a telephone interview.

Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation District 9, the local group, ask the provincial organization to "take over" the negotiations with the school board as of December 19. Bringing to the negot-

iation table will be the support of the 36,000 member provincial group plus finances and a professional negotiator, said Neil Munro chairman of the new negotiating team.

OSSTF made the announcement to the press prior to officially informing the school board. Herd acknowledged he had been informed verbally of the change. "I find that way of doing business objectionable," he said.

Herd said he did not consider the switch of negotiators on the teachers side a major

change. The board has changed its negotiators in this round of talks.

Halton's 1,165 high school teachers have been working without a contract since September. This is the second year in a row in which the school year has commenced without a contract being signed. Last year's contract was agreed to in January, but only after a mediator was appointed to help bring the sides together.

Negotiations were going well, according to board officials. Both sides were at the conference table until 4 a.m. Thursday morning. "I

thought we were not too far from an agreement. We were down to major issues," Herd said. He went on to say he interpreted that as "a healthy sign."

"That view of the talks was not shared by local OSSTF president Ron Ness who said the "talks last week led us to believe we couldn't go on our own." The decision to ask the provincial group for help came from no one thing, said Ness. "It's been a long time," he said.

The talks were to continue the following Monday. However, some board officials acted surprised when teachers

failed to make the appointment. Outgoing Superintendent of Instruction John Boich said: "teachers did not show up on Monday. They called. We were pretty miffed at that."

Teachers contend they informed a school board official late the previous Saturday afternoon. "I think we gave them enough notice," OSSTF local president Ron Ness said at the press conference.

"I've been involved rather directly since the teachers didn't show up Monday. I knew they were not coming. I wrote a letter to the president of OSSTF District 9 of our concerns," said Herd. In the letter he said he hoped the change of mind by the teachers concerning the Monday meeting did not indicate a shift in position by the federation. "I've no reply from his (Ness) and no official notice of the take over," said Herd Friday.

He was speaking from his office in Oakville, and acknowledged that official notice from the teachers may be at the board office in Burlington.

Herd said that the supposition on his part is that there has been some interruption within the union to cause the request for the provincial body to take over the negotiations.

Herd stressed that both sides in the talks have behaved well and responsibly. The danger at the moment is upsetting the apple cart by making statements, he said. He went on to say he hoped the change by the teachers will not result in a loss of trust at the negotiating table.

Herd underlined that no final offer had been made by the board to the teachers.

For the teachers part, the change in negotiators is a step in the right direction, according to the press conference at the headquarters in Burlington. Negotiating team chairman Neil Munro indicated a hope talks with the board would resume early in January.

"We expect things to be gained from this positive step, a step that had to be taken at this time," Ness said to the press. The decision to go to the prov-

incial body for help was made Dec. 18. "It's the next step the local group has to take. It's a step-up," said Munro.

Both the board and teachers will go back in January feeling a little better about things. We're using the mandate they gave us," Ness said. He went on to say: "Being the second year in a row, four months without a contract, our perception of the members feelings is—it's unsettling."

Teachers gave permission in November for the provincial OSSTF takeover of the talks for the teachers. More than 90 per cent of the teachers voted, and of that number 95.1 per cent voted for takeover, said Ness.

Key issues remaining to be negotiated to conclusion, according to OSSTF are compensation, benefits, staffing and working conditions. Teachers have done all that can be done, according to an OSSTF press release, to reach a fair and equitable settlement.

Teachers are asking for eight per cent increase in wages plus a cost of living clause, according to OSSTF. The board, according to Ness, is offering more money to the less experienced teachers than to the senior teachers. "Most teachers would be getting less than five per cent increase," he said. A teacher with no experience, at the lowest category, on the other hand would receive a 7.9 per cent increase. The teachers are also asking for an increase in the board's contribution to benefits.

The two sides remain free to chart the path of negotiations in a variety of directions. They may continue or call in a mediator, ask for final offer selection or go to a strike situation.

Sixty days after the fact finder's report is made public (the term will be up January 13) the board may change the conditions of the collective agreement, according to Boich.

By January 31 teachers have to make a statement about the 1980-81 talks, said the former superintendent of instruction. "Negotiations are piling up on negotiations," he said.



BROOKVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS Dean McKeown, 12, and Frances Chisholm, 12, were among a group of grade five individuals who spent many long hours putting together a nativity scene for the school. The plywood figures were designed, cut and painted by the students.



STUDENTS DANCE at J.M. Denyes School during their Christmas concert. The students put on a show for their parents, including a skit, choir singing, dancing, and a sing-along involving the teachers and members of the audience.

Water-sewer committee set

Regional Council has created a five-member, ad hoc committee to deal with rate water-sewer bill ratepayers and the committee could be sitting for a long time.

Under the equalized water and sewer rate system, council expects some people are going to receive higher bills than they have been accustomed to despite a \$1.8 million Ontario grant to help offset the immediate rise.

Equalization was brought in by council in order to establish one set of rates common to all the region.

However, the extent of the water and sewer works in each municipality plus the comparative newness of each means some fiscal inequities were bound to surface.

Regional Treasurer Don Farmer told council last Wednesday he would like the committee to go to work as soon as possible in the new year as bills have already gone out and some people are already upset.

Regional Chairman Jack Raffis said he has been told by Mr. Farmer the committee could be meeting as many as 20 times in the new year. Because of this, members of the committee met briefly after

last Wednesday's council meeting to set time frames and start preliminary discussion on perimeters for appeal.

Committee members are: chairman Jack Raffis; Milton, Bill Johnson with Gus Goutouski as alternate; Halton Hills, Ed Wood with Peter Pomeroy as alternate; Oakville,

Laurie Mannell with Terry Mannell as alternate; and Burlington, Joan Allingham, with Dave LaCombe as alternate.

Alternates were selected because there was a feeling members could not be expected to attend every meeting if there are to be as many as 20, held once each week.

In addition, council was reticent about retaining the technical advice of R. M. Loudon, the consultant who drew up the bylaw on equalization.

Council was told his fee is \$240 per day. Mr. Farmer said Mr. Loudon could be brought in on a meeting where a number of more complex issues were being appealed.



SHOPPING SPREE WINNER Barbara Rankin (right) is handed her voucher enabling her to go to any or all of the stores in the Miltowne Centre Downtown Business Improvement Area and buy a total of \$500 worth of merchandise. Giving her the voucher are DBIA chairman Barney Henderson (left) and DBIA member Paul Borland.

Town treasury worker wins \$500 shopping spree

It was somehow fitting that a person who lives on Main St. and says she does most of her shopping on Main St. should win a \$500 shopping spree from Main St. merchants.

Barbara Rankin, an employee of the Treasury Department at Milton's

town hall, won the shopping spree when her ticket was pulled out of a drum Thursday afternoon.

The draw was held at the office of Barney Henderson, chairman of the Downtown Business Improvement Area, sponsors of the draw. Mrs. Rankin said she hasn't yet decided where

she will collect the \$500 worth of merchandise. She said she was considering spending it all in one place, but will likely spread it around Main St.

Merchants within the DBIA area had taken part in the promotion by offering the free draw to customers. Customers filled out a ballot, and the

ballots were collected Thursday morning.

DBIA member Paul Borland said he had collected enough ballots to fill a large, green plastic garbage bag.

Mrs. Rankin said she didn't remember at which store she filled out her winning ballot.