

Who Does It

Developer takes wrinkle in his stride

For more than 14 years, Georgetown land developer George Thomas has been fighting an uphill battle against bureaucracy. Every time he gets a little closer to having a small, 16-lot subdivision approved, some new law or regulation comes along to frustrate his hopes. But to his credit, George Thomas doesn't rant and rave. He somehow manages to accept it all in his stride. And he did it again last week as a request to be exempted from a new \$100 per lot sewage surcharge was rejected by the Halton Regional Administration and Finance Committee. Mr. Thomas said he has been trying to bring his Southfield Holdings subdivision on stream for almost 15 years. Each time it has been an environment hearing, or a zoning bylaw hearing, or whatever. Just when he thought everything was settled in August of this year, the Region came along with an imposed \$100 per lot fee to help subsidize the sewer surcharge system. George Thomas thought it was not fair to hit him with it, because his holdings have been ready for years prior to any surcharge. And agreeing with him was committee member and Halton Hills Mayor Peter Pomeroy who said as far as he is concerned, Mr. Thomas is "being treated unfairly." Mayor Pomeroy said it would be "politically astute" to reject Mr. Thomas, but it would be frustrating to a person trying to do it on his own for all this time. In the final event, it was decided by the committee that making an exception for Mr. Thomas would be setting a precedent. With rejections yet again, Mr. Thomas rose to leave but he didn't make any nasty remarks. "If you want to develop here, you've got to start as a real young fellow," he said, smiled, and waved goodbye.

Who runs dump

A "political decision" will have to be made on which of two firms will operate the Georgetown Waste Transfer station. Currently Monarch Disposal is using the site and has put money into it to bring it up to better standard. In the meantime, Leferink Disposals has been negotiating with Halton Public Works Department to take over the site Nov. 1. The change in companies has put Monarch in a strange position as Monarch had decided it does not want to move out by the Nov. 1 date. Councillor Russ Miller, at Public Works Committee, asked solicitor Dennis Perlin why Leferink was being held up from moving its garbage compactor to the site and getting into business. Mr. Perlin said the compactor is in fact "being illegally operated" and Leferink is "looking for a place to operate it legally." Even though certain promises have been made to Leferink, Monarch has sunk money into the Georgetown transfer site and now does not want to leave. Mr. Perlin said the decision on who gets to operate the transfer station must be made by the elected officials, as it is political in nature.

Counselling is studied

The Oakville Family Service Bureau has proposed it should become the sole regional family service agency in 1981 offering family help to Halton's four municipalities. The Family Counselling Study report has been submitted to the Regional Health and Social Services Committee and suggests the one agency approach would take four years to implement. Primary funding would come from a purchase of service contract to cover clients qualifying as "in need" with supplementary funding from charitable sources and client fees. In order for the proposal to work, Halton Region would be asked to phase out all current grants to family counselling agencies. The Region would also be asked to phase out its own family counselling division. This would be followed by a purchase of service agreement with an initial annual budget of \$30,000 to rise to \$120,000 by 1984-1985. The report also suggested the region "should take steps to aid the establishment of either a Halton Regional United Way or otherwise aid the creation of an effective local United Way in Burlington and North Halton.

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