

Our Readers Write

Editorial inaccuracies

Dear Sir:
I trust you will allow me space in your columns to reply to your editorial of Wednesday March 18th "There's a limit".

Your editorial and the article on page three on which it was based are so full of inaccuracies that it is difficult to know where to start in correcting them.

Murray Wilson did indeed approach Council with his plans for a new auto dealership last May. Council at that time asked him to meet with local residents to resolve concerns which they had expressed. That Mr. Wilson's dealership has been delayed, is not primarily due to residents' objections, but rather, because he chose to withdraw his application for other reasons.

Only this month did Mr. Wilson reactivate his proposal and although local residents were given details of the new plans, still no meeting had been held to resolve their concerns.

On March 9 Council again asked Town staff to arrange a meeting. This was held on March 12th and at that time several assurances were given to the residents.

On the basis of these assurances and others given by Mr. Wilson and confirmed by Town staff; that the planned public address paging system would not be heard on the residents' property, and that the flood lighting would be located in accordance with existing zoning regulations and be directed away from private property. I advised Council at their meeting on March 16 that the

residents with whom I had been in contact would not object to the zoning amendment application.

Your writer appears to have completely missed this presentation to Council.

Apparently, he also has no understanding of zoning bylaws.

Existing zoning, which was already in effect when the residents purchased their homes, does not permit an auto dealership on this property.

A zoning amendment bylaw, which has to be approved by the Ontario Municipal Board, is first required. Owners of adjoining property have a legal right to present objections at this level if they so wish. Far from allowing "shop doors opening right at the property line" as you state, current zoning does not allow any structure within sixty feet of the residents' property line.

It was only at the meeting on March 12 that it was agreed that this restriction should still remain, particularly with regard to the proposed lighting standards.

Your allegation, that "the residents of the Cabot Trail area "doth protest too much with niggling objections", is not borne out by the facts.

If your writer had taken the trouble to check with us we could have saved you the embarrassment of printing such an erroneous editorial.

Yours truly,
J.C. Wood,
Cabot Trail,
Milton.

Record Board budget means \$43 Halton hike

By Eric Elstone
Halton Board of Education trustees passed a record budget Thursday at Burlington—after adding \$18,000 for text books.

If there was a Halton Region mill rate, according to board budget committee chairman Burlington trustee Noel Cooper, the mill rate increase would be 9.7 on an average house assessed at \$7,000. That translates into a \$43 to \$44 increase per house.

Average assessment in Acton last year was \$4,498, in Esquesing \$4,638 and \$5,638 in Georgetown.

Esquesing trustee Betty Walker proposed adding \$3 per student in Grades seven and eight for textbooks. The board expanded that to include all Grades six, seven and eight. That added \$18,000.

"I've had telephone calls from several parents with respect to Stewarttown school complaining there are not enough text or resource books in the library," she said.

Acton trustee Arlene Bruce said, in reference to McKenzie-Smith Middle School: "I think we are selling them a little short."

Other attempts to cut the budget at the last minute failed. As did one to add \$100,000 for lunch room supervision.

Former board chairman Bill Herd tried to drop about \$2½-million. "It seems to me, in education, the time has long passed when we can come and ask taxpayers to contribute mightily when about half or them have children in the system," said Herd.

The Oakville trustee said he did not want to delete what he terms

"add-ons" such as expansion of core French, special education, energy conservation, mini-computers or other items. He wanted to cut the budget by the "value of the add-ons".

There was some disension within the budget committee.

One member Bill Priestner told Mr. Herd "There's no place in that budget where we could find the \$2½-million." Another committee member, Len Crosier, challenged the administration to find the money.

"I'm sure they can find two per cent amongst the various items," Mr. Crosier also indicated he has no lack of confidence in the finance committee.

Board deputy chairman Elaine Rhiem described Mr. Herd's amendment to the budget as "well intended but mischievous".

Herd denied Rhiem's accusation that his amendment is a vote of non-confidence in the budget committee. Mr. Herd said taxpayers don't expect increases in cost in program in a system with a declining enrolment.

"One of the gauges in Halton as to whether we are running an astute show," said Budget Committee Chairman Cooper, "is the cost per pupil."

"We are running the board at a low cost per pupil."

"I don't think there is a taxpayer who doesn't believe he's getting his money's worth."

Campbellville resident James Cramer's letter was read in the budget

debate before the vote on Herd's bid to slash \$2½-million was taken. Mr. Cramer stated his recent really tax bill has jumped to a mill rate of 65 from 44.

"We are aware that costs are increasing and according to the rate of inflation we can expect at least a 10 per cent increase per annum, however, I'm sure that you must agree that 44 per cent is out of line," he said.

Milton trustee Ivan Armstrong voted in favor of decreasing the budget as did Herd, Crosier, Cam Jackson and Len Auger.

Mrs. Rhiem, Anne Fairfield, Mr. Cooper, Mrs. Walker, Marg Bullock, John Bradley, Garry Morton, Arlene Bruce, Janice Millman, Mr. Priestner and board chairman Bill Lawson voted to keep the budget

as it was presented. Burlington trustee Jackson urged the board to include another \$100,000 for lunch room supervision, a testy subject which the board has not yet voted on, just to make sure the money is in the budget in case the board agrees to spend it on the issue. That bid met failure.

No seconder was found for Rhiem's amendment to add \$9,000 for high school athletic trips.

Another amendment, from Crosier and seconded by Armstrong, to roll back the cost of French immersion—also went down to defeat.

The apportionment for Acton, Georgetown and Esquesing amounts to \$6,457,288. Burlington kicks in \$24,100,648 and Oakville \$19,327,267. The province has an \$835,994 share of apportionment.

General legislative grants for elementary schools are estimated at

\$27,286,366 which is an increase of \$3,492,137 over 1980 and represents 47.43 per cent of costs. Last year the grants amounted to 47.29 per cent of the costs.

At the high school level the general legislative grants are estimated to be \$29,313,505, which is an increase of \$2,095,093 from last year. It also represents 50.33 per cent of costs. In 1980, the grants represent 52.30 per cent of cost.

Roads disgusting

Dear Sir,
I have recently moved back to Milton which has been my home town for 15 years. I am living west of Appleby Line, and drive to work in Toronto daily along Derry Rd.

The most disgusting part of my drive is between the hospital and Ontario Street.

Why? It's all the rubbish from the construction sites along that bit of road. The garage has blown off the sites and now occupies the ditches and fences on the other side of the road.

This includes: pink bags for insulation, paper wrappers for shingles, coffee cups, and much more. The rest of

my drive is as clean as can be expected, if not cleaner.

This has been a problem in the past, and as I understood it, it wouldn't happen again.

The town has just spent thousands of dollars on beautifying the main street, let's see something done about this mess and other construction sites. Send the clean-up bill to the contractors, or levy a fine for littering.

Let's keep Milton's famous countryside beautiful.

Andrew Willoughby
4240 Derry Rd.
R.R. 2, Milton

'Heritage' recounted to Mountain Union

Mrs. Earla Brittain, Curator of the Halton Museum, spoke to the Mountain Union Women's Institute on "Our Heritage".

The meeting was held at the Museum in front of the blazing hearth with glistening artifacts all around.

She began by holding up an article that resembled a talc powder tin with two flaps and asking if anyone knew what it was.

It turned out that it was a flask for an artist to carry water for outdoor sketching and the flaps were for mixing the paint.

She explained the many services rendered to different schools and organizations and the loans made to other museums.

Mrs. Brittain told intriguing anecdotes about the side saddle ridden by a Mrs. Buck and in account of the Butle's Rangers including a fe-

cord, who was an ancestor of Mrs. Laura Dixon, Past President.

Mrs. Edna Waldie reported on the sale of Halton Atlases and Mrs. Laura Dixon on the Tweedsmuir History.

Board won't spare the rod

Ontario won't "spare the rod" if Halton educators have their way.

Halton Board of Education is advising the provincial minister of education "that it believes that the policy with respect to the use of corporal punishment in schools should be decided by local boards."

"The minister of education made comments about removing the strap," Milton trustee Ivan Armstrong told fellow trustees Thursday.

It was his initiative which urged the reinforcement of Halton's policy.

"I hope it's just a trial balloon (by the minister)," Armstrong said.

"There's got to be a deterrent for everybody," Armstrong said. He went on to say "The strap is a deterrent even if it's not used. The children know it's there."

"I want to keep the policy we have," said chairman Bill Lawson.

Better salaries women's subject

Women interested in learning how to get a better paying job in a skilled trade or technical occupation are invited to a new program sponsored by Sheridan College and Canada Employment Centres.

The eight-week program entitled INTO (Introduction to Non-Traditional Occupations) is designed to help women gain entry to jobs that pay well and offer career advancement.

Those interested in hearing more about INTO are invited to a get acquainted session which will take place at the Queen Elizabeth CamPus of Sheridan College in Oakville, South Service Rd., Tuesday March 31.

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