

Council Tight rein on booster clubs

Local hockey clubs are going to have to keep a tight rein on the enthusiasm of their booster clubs if they want to keep using the Lion's Hall for their activities.

That's the message contained in a general committee recommendation approved by Town councillors recently.

Committee members had been reacting to a report from Town recreation director Larry Arbc saying he was generally satisfied with the way the booster clubs behaved when supporting their favorite team from the licenced facilities of the hall.

Developers must fight

Developers hoping to expand the urban area of Milton are going to have to fight their way through the long and costly process of an amendment to the Regional official plan.

Town councillors recently gave their approval to a package of comments on a proposed change to the Region's plan containing that provision.

The amendment being considered by Regional staff concerns the policies for the provision of water and sewer services.

Bob Zsadanyi, Milton planning director, told general committee members the policy would prohibit any future interconnections between urban systems without the extensive review required by an official plan amendment.

He explained that Milton's water and sewer plants currently have the capacity to support a population of 28,000. Any development which increases the urban area of the Town will require additions to that capacity.

McLeod heirs get their day

Henry McLeod's heirs will get their "day in court" April 6. That's when the Ontario Municipal Board will hear the details of their appeal against a decision by the Halton Land Division Committee to deny a severance which allow a point in Mr. McLeod's will to be fulfilled.

Region's councillors voted to continue the appeal because, as Oakville Coun. Terry Mannell stated, the considerations of good planning should take precedence over everything else.

Sidewalk for Ontario St. S.

When Town councillors get around to looking at this year's budget, one of the projects they'll be considering is a sidewalk for Ontario St. in front of three major institutions.

Councillors were recently presented with letters from Halton Board of Education trustee Bill Lawson, E.C. Drury High School principal Al Nicholls and Halton Centennial Manor administrator Richard Kaufman expressing concern over the lack of a sidewalk in that area.

Cancer Society canvassing

Volunteers for the Canadian Cancer Society will be out in full force between April first and third in their annual Daffodil Days campaign. Proceeds from the sale of the yellow plastic flowers are used for cancer research, education and service to patients.

In Milton, members of the Beta Sigma Phi sorority will handle the sales.

Rotary sponsors rides

Members of the Rotary Club of Milton will sponsor children's rides again this year at Milton Mall between May 31 and June 5. Rides will be available at half price for children on the Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Free rides and candy will be offered for crippled children on the Thursday afternoon.

The amusement will be located in the north-west corner of the Mall parking lot.

—Steve Arnold

Blind radio reading service loses grant

By STEVE ARNOLD
Champion News Editor

Canada's first radio reading service for the blind may be denied a grant by Halton Region this year.

Members of the administration and finance committee decided Wednesday to deny the group a \$10,000 grant.

That decision was one of several in which committee members voted to give away more than \$1.3 million to various cultural and agricultural organizations.

In addition to rejecting a grant for the Oakville based Radio Reading Service, committee members also rejected a grant to the Sheridan Symphony orchestra.

Gord Norman, director of the RRS, told the committee members he is currently negotiating with 26 cable companies in the Golden Horseshoe to have the reading service for the print handicapped transmitted that way.

It is currently transmitted as a sub-frequency by a Burlington radio station and is available only to

subscribers with a special receiver.

"It's hard to say which system will be the first to pick us up outside Halton," he said. "Some are saying they'll be ready by the first of April, but I think it will be more like June."

Mr. Norman explained that the service, which gives many blind people their only access to current newspapers and magazines, costs about \$10,000 a month to operate and that other regions in this area have rejected grants to the service because of the relatively low number of subscribers that live outside Halton.

Later, in making final decisions on the requests, Burlington Coun. Steve Toth said the grant given to the service by Halton last year was supposed to have been the only support the Region would provide.

He argued that similar services, on tape, are available from libraries in Halton and other areas and the RRS was simply duplicating those services, adding "there's a certain responsibility for the family to do this sort of thing."

"As far as I'm concerned," argued Burlington Coun. Jim Grieve, "This is a Cadillac service."

Oakville Coun. Peter Arch said the service deserved support from Halton because it started here and the majority of its subscribers are here.

Oakville councillors Ann Mulvaie and Carol Gooding also argued in support of a grant for the service, but with little success.

"There isn't another service like this," Mrs. Gooding said. "For many of these people it is the only way they have of keeping up with the world, short of having a neighbor read to them."

"What we are giving them" Mrs. Mulvaie said, "is a chance to appreciate the things that we take for granted because of our sight."

She added that a grant should be given by Halton for "one more year, but we should make it clear that we expect significant dollars to come from other regions next year."

The Sheridan Symphony is a youth orchestra formed in Oakville to provide a musical outlet for children who aren't satisfied by school programs.

Bud Riley, director of the group, said he thought 40 or 50 young musicians might be interested but has enrolled 100.

Halton's budget review committee had recommended a grant of \$2,000 but administration and finance committee members voted to reduce that by \$2,000.

"We gave them seed money last year so now they should be trying to find funds elsewhere," said Mr. Arch.

"These are your kids in the community," argued Mrs. Gooding. "They are doing a bang-up job and have no other recourse than to come to us for support."

Committee members also approved grants of \$155,435 for the Royal Botanical Gardens; \$10,886 for the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra; \$1 million for the Halton Region Conservation and amounts ranging from \$500 to \$6,400 for various agricultural organizations.

The grants will be confirmed by Regional council today.

Sider request for Sundays rejected

Regional councillors have supported a decision to reject full Sunday opening for a Milton grocery store.

Councillors decided recently against allowing Sider's Produce to open Sunday under an exemption to the Provincial Sunday closing law.

According to that law, local municipalities have the right to grant exemptions to the Blue Law to those businesses that are essential to the maintenance and development of tourism in an area.

Also approved were a set of guidelines to help in judging future applications under that law.

While the rejection of the Sider's application received little discussion or comment from councillors, some were concerned about the guidelines to be used in the future.

Burlington Coun. Joan Little wondered how the definition of a flea market used in the guidelines was arrived at.

She noted that a flea market would be defined as any business that sold less than 30 per cent new goods and said "I'd be happier if we could have some rationale for that. Given what we're trying to accomplish, I think 30 per cent seems like a very high figure."

Dave McCleary, Regional planner, said the 30 per cent was a completely arbitrary figure set by the planning department, "but we felt it was a reasonable level of total sales."

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz made a final effort to grant the Sider's exemption noting that similar requests from businesses in Acton and Georgetown have been approved.

"This has been done before and I'm saying that this should be the case now," he argued. "I think it is clearly a genuine application."

When the request had been made to the planning and public works committee, councillors had argued that having a large food store open on Sunday had little to do with developing or maintaining tourism in Milton.

Cable applies for \$2 increase

Halton Cable Systems, which serve Acton, Georgetown and Milton areas, has applied to the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) for a \$2 a month rate hike.

The firm applied to the CRTC for the rate increase November 17 and a hearing into the matter will be held April 27 at Hull, Quebec.

The proposed rate increase is from \$8 a month to \$10 a month.

Halton Cable applied for a \$1 a month rate increase on November 1980 and it was approved by the CRTC in August 1981.

If the current rate proposal is approved it won't go into effect until sometime between September and December of this year, general manager James Magee said. He pointed to increasing energy costs, wages and high interest rates as reasons for the rate hike request.

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