

OMB hearing

# Taxes favored over tower

By STEVE ARNOLD  
Champion News Editor

At least one Milton resident would sooner pay another \$1,000 a year in taxes than see a 200 foot high cable television tower erected near her home.

Lydia Hayne-Jenkins was one of several Nassagaweya residents who turned out to an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing held in Milton last week.

The hearing was called to hear the objections of the residents to a bylaw passed by Milton council allowing Maclean-Hunter Cable, of Guelph, to erect a 200 foot high microwave relay tower next to the 325 foot high tower currently used by the Halton Cablesystem at Speyside.

The Guelph company wants to build the tower to improve the reception available to city residents of four Buffalo, New York television stations which are currently "fuzzy and unstable" in the city because the signal is blocked by the Niagara Escarpment.

If approved by the OMB, and later by the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), the new tower would support three microwave relay dishes to beam signals from the Buffalo stations to cable receivers in Guelph, Fergus and parts of Toronto.

Neighbors in the area objected to the proposal because of possible health effects from the microwaves and the possibility of damage to their property values.

The proposed tower would sit on a five-acre parcel of land on the west side of Hwy. 25 at Speyside. It was first proposed to the former Nassagaweya Township Council in 1973, but final approval of the zoning amendment was stalled by the transformation to Regional government and the lengthy CRTC hearings required to use microwave systems.

Mrs. Hayne-Jenkins, who appeared at the hearing with her husband Cyril and six other neighbors of the site, said her major objection to the proposal was the effect it would have on her property values.

"If the town of Milton is so hard up for \$1,000 a year (the taxes that would be paid on the tower installation) then I would gladly write them a cheque for that much every year," she said.

Peter Pillwein, general manager of the Guelph system, said three other sites were investigated before the Milton location was chosen as the one that would give the clearest and most stable signal from the American stations.

"The signal we get from the Buffalo stations is about 30 per cent weaker than from Toronto," he testified. "Ever since a cable operation was started in Guelph we have been hearing about the quality of these pictures."

"Our subscribers want the same kind of quality from these stations that they get from Toronto," he added.

Mr. Pillwein said his company currently provides cable service to 23,000 households in Guelph. Signals from the Buffalo stations are provided by a parabolic antenna system located near the city, but even this provides a weak picture in certain atmospheric conditions.

Mr. Pillwein explained that while the tower was meant primarily to serve Guelph, dishes were being added to service Fergus and parts of Toronto at the request of the CRTC.

The Toronto service will not be added immediately, he said, because a Maclean-Hunter tower at Hornby currently meets that need, but as development closes in on the installation, some though will be given to moving it.

Residents also sought to express their concerns about possible health effects from leaked microwave radiation.

OMB member E.A. Seaborn said he didn't think the Municipal Board had the jurisdiction to deal with such concerns, but allowed them to be expressed anyway.

Leading the resident's attack on that question was Stan Bujak, president of a Toronto-based electronics company and neighbor of the site.

"I don't want to live in an area where I'm going to be fried alive," Mr. Bujak said. "I don't think Maclean-Hunter has satisfied anyone that they have done everything possible to find a proper site for this in Guelph."

"This whole thing is not just related to these four channels. There is some future objective behind this that we are not aware of," he testified.

Under questioning by Town lawyer Noel Bates, Mr. Bujak said he is certain that microwaves are dangerous to health because his firm manufactures microwave ovens.

"I know that microwaves are dangerous because everything in electronics that radiates is dangerous," he said.

That opinion was not shared by Kenneth Easton, an electronic engineer who has designed several microwave transmission systems, including the one located at the top of First Canadian Place in Toronto.

Mr. Easton also serves as chairman of the microwave subcommittee of the Cable Television Operators Association.

He explained that the greatest concentration of radiation from the microwaves used in the transmissions would be found at the base of the tower and for an area of 64 meters from the base.

At that point, he said, the radiation that a person would receive would amount to one one-millionth of the acceptable federal standard.

"If a person had a leaky microwave oven they would receive a far greater dose of radiation than they would get from this tower," he testified.

At a distance of 325 meters from the base of the tower, he said, microwaves would be focussed into a beam carrying the signal to its receiver and although the amount of radiation contained at that point would be significantly higher, it would still amount to one one-thousandth of the federal standard "and a person would have to be in a balloon hovering 200 feet off the ground to experience it."

Mr. Easton admitted that there has been controversy surrounding the standards used by the federal government to measure microwave radiation and noted that because of the argument the standard was reduced in 1979 by 90 per cent from the original level.

Asked if he would have any concerns if his own family were living near the tower he replied simply "none at all."

In response to other concerns raised by the residents, he said the frequency at which the cable signals would be transmitted would guarantee there would be no interference with the television signals the residents currently receive or with the operation of any satellite dishes they may later install.

"Your televisions just aren't capable of receiving anything in this frequency," he stated.

Mr. Easton also stressed, outside the hearing, that microwave radiation is completely different from the radiation associated with X-rays, gamma rays and nuclear reactions.



## Wheeling for dollars

Handing over more than \$50 cash to Ervina Coleman, president of the Halton Centennial Manor Residents' Council is Camillo Cipriano 10. He, along with friends Steve Kolbus 12 (left)

and Fernando Cipriano 13, raised the money through a bike-a-thon during the March break. With them is Marlene Brown, activities director for the Manor.

# Regional staff request 43 additional employees

By STEVE ARNOLD  
Champion News Editor

Requests to add up to 43 more employees to Halton Region's payroll provided the fuel for last week's "discussion" at the Region's administration and finance committee.

The committee, which oversees the operation of the treasury department, personnel, clerk and chief administrative officer, was getting its first full look at the budget requests for those departments.

Virtually all of the departments reporting to that committee were making requests for more staff. Including the requests of departments reporting to the health and social services and planning and public works committees, the new staff would cost Regional taxpayers \$517,344.

Members of the administration and finance committee voted to phase the hiring of new staff in those areas over a three-year period with a report to be prepared by chief administrative officer Dennis Perlin outlining the priority to be given to those new staff.

Treasurer Gerry Lawson presented a request for seven full-time and one part-time person for his department "because we are still trying to build up a core financial staff."

In explaining his \$825,650 budget to committee members Mr. Lawson said many of the people he wanted to add to his staff "will be very cost-effective because they will save us money."

"What we are trying to do is a question of catch-up. It's also a question of how fast council wants us to go," he said, adding that even with the additions his department would still be smaller than the size recommended by Provincial government guidelines.

Many people have argued that one of the major reasons for the deficit problems that shook Halton Region two years ago were caused by a grossly understaffed treasury department.

"We have a great deal of catching up to do," Mr. Lawson argued. "There are things that need to be done and that aren't being done and that won't be done until we have the proper resources."

"Halton is still one of the very, very lowest

regions in terms of the number of staff in the finance department," he added.

Milton mayor Gord Krantz, while not arguing against the need for more staff, said the size of the total increase was simply too much.

"We can't consider adding 43 more people to all of our departments. There's just no way that the people in the real world are going to accept that," he said.

Burlington Coun. Jim Grieve also felt that the total increase was too large.

"We all realize that we've been suffering over the years from terminal cheapness," he said, "but those black days are behind us."

"I just don't believe this council is going to buy 43 more people," he added.

Dennis Perlin, chief administrative officer, said the additions being requested were all to bring Regional staff to the level needed to carry out its responsibilities.

"We need a basic structure that the department can work with," he said, adding that in future years he expected to be asking only for new staff that aren't approved by council this year.

He added that while he could prioritize the staff requests "our number one choices may not always be the ones that will save you the most money."

"I agree with Gerry's number one request," he added as an example. "We need another payroll clerk because we have already lost a good person in that department because she was overworked."

Another of the large requests for increases came from business development director Matt Fischer who asked for increases that would take his total budget to \$269,400 from the \$179,765 budgeted last year.

Mr. Fischer argued that the increases were needed because the workload he faces is increasing "and it's when we get into face-to-face contact with industry that it really becomes time consuming."

He noted that the increase he was requesting totalled 54 per cent over 1981, "but then we were spending far too little last year."

## Appointment



GREG GOLDING

Mike Hall, Advertising Manager of The Canadian Champion, announces the appointment of Greg Golding as Assistant Advertising Manager.

Mr. Golding, 31, is married and has lived in Milton for the past six-and-a-half years.

He has four years advertising experience and had sold advertising in Milton for two-and-a-half years before joining The Mississauga News as a display advertising representative a year ago.

Mr. Golding had also written a regular weekly column for The News.

His appointment is effective immediately.

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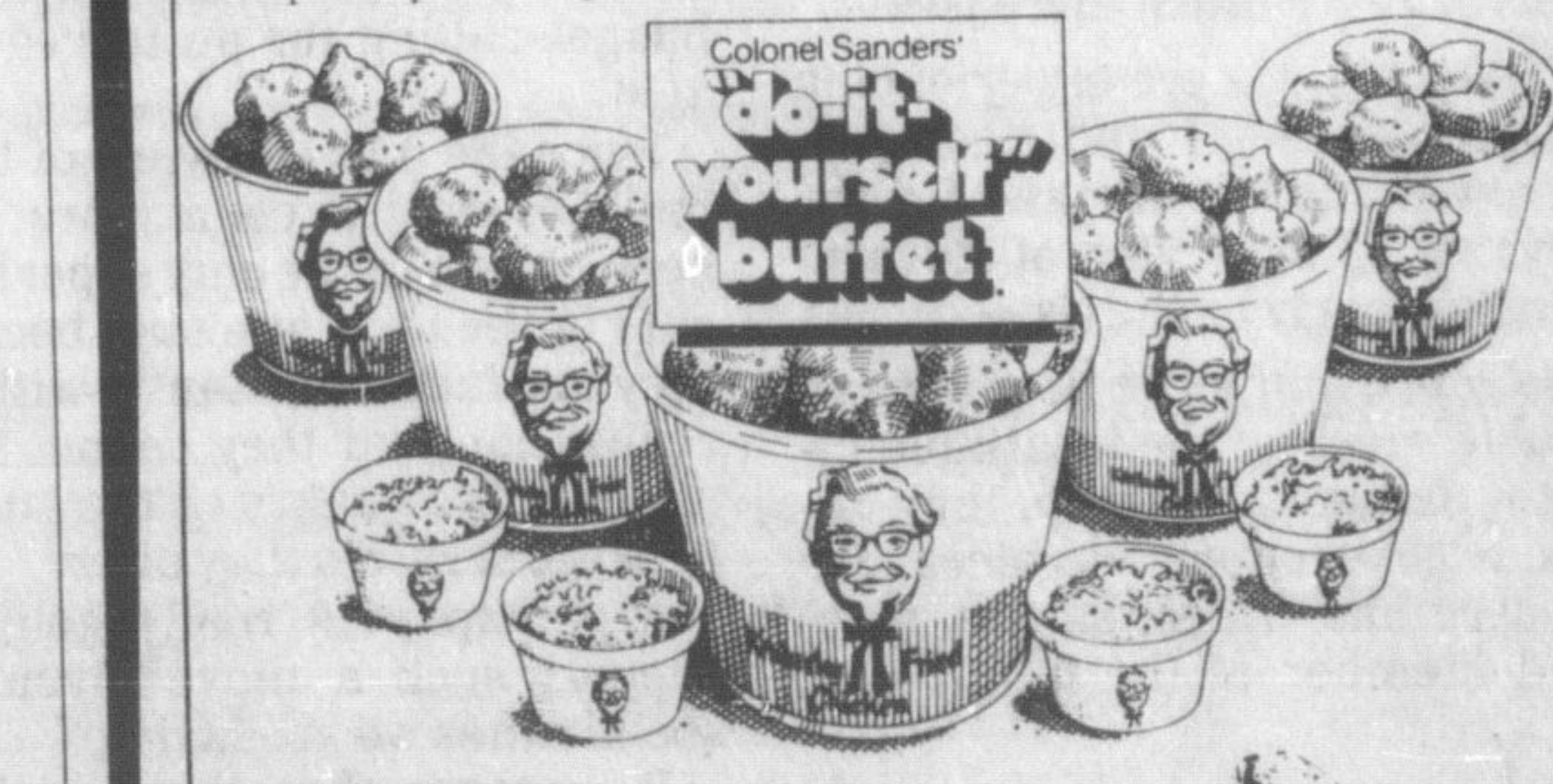
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## UFFI pamphlets contain propoganda

Federal government pamphlets of urea formaldehyde foam insulation (UFFI) contain more propoganda than useful information, according to Halton's medical officer of health.

To counter that, Dr. Peter Cole has issued a pamphlet of his own to assist local residents to deal with the problem.

Urea formaldehyde foam was a popular insulation material installed in many homes with the assistance of grants from the federal government.

That same government has now banned the foam because of discoveries that as it dries and cracks formaldehyde gas is released into houses causing health problems.

Health effects are especially bad in people who suffer from respiratory ailments.

Under pressure of public concern, the Regional health department started a program of testing houses to determine the level of formaldehyde gas. A more refined Provincial test was introduced and the Region program was suspended.

Since an announcement by the federal government that financial assistance will be provided to homeowners wanting to get rid of the insulation however, the Provincial testing program has been stopped, but the federal program is not fully operating yet.

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