

The Canadian Champion

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NEWS ITEM: HALTON INSTITUTES INDUSTRIAL LOT LEVY DESPITE OBJECTIONS BY BUSINESSMEN.

SAY WHEN!



Levy is wrong

Homeowners and workers aren't the only people who have been forced to their knees by the insensitive and ineffective economic policies of the Trudeau government.

Industrial developers have also been hard hit by his stumbling efforts to solve the problem of spiralling inflation.

It is for that reason that Halton Regional Council took "the wrong move at the wrong time" in deciding last week to impose a \$2,500 per acre special levy on industrial land.

Councillors made their decision despite the pleas of several developers and against the advice of their own director of business development.

Developers warned that they can only pass along increased costs to a maximum price per acre dictated by their highly competitive industry.

If their costs are pushed beyond that point they have to give serious thought to starting a project.

There was nothing capricious in the councillor's decision. They were following a well established policy that dictates new development should not be a cost to existing residents.

The special lot levy would be used to pay for the provision of water and sewer services to the

industrial sites, as well as police and fire protection and all the other services of local government.

As high as the special levy is, it still leaves the majority of the costs of these services to be borne by taxpayers through debenture sales.

Industrial growth is a vital factor in the life of a community because once they are established, industries contribute more to local coffers than they demand in services.

A good base of industrial assessment is one way in which a municipality can provide high quality services and save residents from bearing the full costs.

Especially in days of high unemployment and shifting industries, it is important for local governments to do everything they can, within their limited power, to assist in providing jobs for the people who support them through taxes.

Levies such as this may provide a short term benefit for Halton by cutting its need to borrow, and again in the short term, it is easier to sell than a surcharge on existing industries, but over the years it will mean the loss of industrial assessment, and jobs, to areas more willing to accommodate such growth.

A positive step

Secondary educational institutions are not preparing young people for the working world that lies beyond them.

This is a complaint rising from numerous sectors including employers, parents and the students themselves. It is comfort to know however that this criticism has not been ignored, evident by some new directions in education.

Practical training in skilled trades, traditionally offered at vocational schools is finding its way into secondary schools offering a blend of academics and training in practical skills.

At Milton's E.C. Drury High School, students in the four year food services program are learning the basics in chef training, restaurant services and baking. Dependant on individual capabilities and desires, this education could be put to use upon graduation or as a stepping stone to post secondary education in the field of food services.

A tour of the facilities housed in E.C. Drury School for the hearing impaired serves to impress the professional level at which the program is operated. At the same time these same facilities represent a large capital outlay, an extravagance sure to make taxpayers wince.

It is no secret that you can't get something for nothing and in the case of purchasing the equipment needed to duplicate what is found in the real world, the cost is great. The need for such expenditures is also great.

If E.C. Drury High School were not the result of a rare teaming of resources between the Halton Board of Education and the

Ministry of Education, the food services program would in all likelihood not exist.

The high school, located on the same property as E.C. Drury School for the Hearing Impaired, shares its sister school's gymnasiums, swimming pool and several shops, an exercise which eliminated a costly duplication of facilities.

As the price of constructing the high school, now two-years-old, was greatly reduced through the sharing of resources, money was directed to creating the food services facility which would otherwise have been used for the bare bones of regular high school necessities.

Students and taxpayers have both benefitted from this union of local and provincial resources.

The staff of both schools are the willing watch dogs of the edible wares of the food services program. The students prepare a varied menu each day for the staff cafeteria through the combined efforts of all three segments of the program.

When the major problem facing young people fresh out of school is their lack of practical experience, this hands on approach to education is bound to have its benefits.

Senior food services students further their knowhow by participating in a two week work experience beyond the bounds of the institution.

The innovation shown at this local high school should lay a path for future considerations of educators and those who control the purse strings which threaten to strangle the development of programs which break traditional molds.

Viewpoint

WITH STEVE ARNOLD

Digging away



Ever since our ancestors left their caves and started to build huts and plant their own food, man has taken control of his environment.

We call it the "built environment," that part of our surroundings that we shape and form to our own liking, rather than tolerating the limitations of nature.

In the early stages we relied on the materials that nature provided for the shaping of this environment—wood, brush, mud and stones.

Today, it is different. Plaster, cement and steel form the basic building materials. They are not natural in the sense that you can't pull them out of the ground. They are man made materials that have a great many advantages over the ones provided by mother nature.

With materials like these we have taken the fruits of mother nature's labors and combined them into new materials with which we have shaped the monuments to our time.

This is rather an elaborate way of leading into the current debate raging through Regional Council about an official plan amendment dealing with the aggregate industry.

For people in Milton's urban core, and even for the majority of people in the rural southern ward, this isn't a particularly important issue because they can't relate directly to it.

In north Milton, and most of Halton Hills, however, it is something of vital and pressing concern.

First, the issues. The basic materials of our modern "built environment" are sand, gravel and crushed stone. Halton Region is one of the areas in Ontario that has these materials in abundance.

We have more of these elements than other areas of the province, and we also have them closer to the areas that require them.

That is the basis of the problem. A loosely knit association calling itself the Halton Aggregate Producers Group

has been lobbying for several months against proposals in Halton's official plan that would require them to go through the extremely long and costly process of amending that plan before they could open up new pits and quarries to mine and sell sand and gravel.

After seemingly endless meetings and bargaining sessions they have reached a compromise with the Region that will allow them to go ahead without amendments on some 6,000 acres of land in addition to the roughly 8,000 acres that are already in production.

If they want to open up mining operations on any new land however, they will have to submit themselves to the time and expense of amending the local official plan.

While the producers are not totally happy with the final agreement, they will probably sign it so that they can get on with business.

For the owners of the 6,000 acres that have been designated for future production, the agreement means their land is effectively frozen—mining uses take absolute precedence.

That is a pretty significant loss of authority to a local government because one of the chief purposes of that level is to plan the life of the area.

Indications are that the efforts of aggregate lobbyists at the provincial level have been more successful than their Halton counterparts and that Ontario regulations may increase the amount of land here that is totally reserved for the mining interests.

Now the problem. Aggregate production is a major industry in Milton and Halton Hills and the indications all point to growth in the future. Even now, roughly 80 per cent of the sand and gravel taken from Halton's earth is shipped to other areas of the province.

It is expected that Halton will provide its "fair share" of the requirements to the rest of the province, whatever the

wishes and desires of local residents and landowners may be.

Beyond the purely selfish level, this is difficult to argue with. If land owners in Niagara must adjust their wishes to the demands of the fruit growing industry (most of which is for export) then surely a similar sacrifice for the common good is not an unreasonable expectation in Halton.

(Of course everyone would rather live next door to a peach orchard than a gravel pit, but you get the point anyway).

Aside from the obvious noxious effects of mining on the lifestyles of neighbors, there are concerns about what becomes of the quarries once they are mined out and the producers have taken their profit to other occupations.

Both Halton and Milton have well established policies dictating the new development should not be a cost to existing residents. By extending that a little we can conclude that expiring developments, such as pits and quarries, should not be a cost to remaining residents either.

Sand, gravel and crushed stone are vital elements in our built environment and unfortunately they can't be grown in the same way we produce corn. They have to be dug and blasted out of the ground.

That is a dirty and obnoxious occupation. It's ugly and leaves the land scarred in a way that may never be fully healed, but it is also vitally important.

There is an old line that goes "a camel is a horse designed by a committee of politicians."

The agreement worked out between the HAPG and Halton Region isn't a thoroughbred, and it isn't exactly a camel either, but it at least provides some ground rules for the future development of this important industry, not only important to Halton, but to the entire urban area of the province.

People in our past

A continuing series during Milton's 125th anniversary
1977 Citizen of the Year Jim Dills

When Jim Dills was growing up in Acton, girls went into teaching or nursing and boys either worked in the tannery or followed into their fathers' footsteps.

Mr. Dills, the son of a printer, chose the latter route.

Born in Guelph and raised and educated in Acton, Mr. Dills complemented his knowledge of the printing and publishing business with a degree in graphic arts from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in 1951. He majored in journalism.

Although he had worked in and around the business since his youth, Mr. Dills began his full-time career in publishing following his graduation. He began working in Milton at the offices of The Canadian Champion.

It should be noted his father owned The Champion and the Acton Free Press. He had owned The Free Press since 1927 and The Champion since 1943.

To this day, Mr. Dills doesn't recall his father ever fully explaining why he chose to purchase The Champion—a paper located 11 miles south of the printing plant and, at that time, a little out-of-the-way.

Mr. Dills married in 1952 and continued to commute from Acton to Milton until 1954, when he felt it was necessary to be

living in the community where he was publishing a newspaper.

"I began to spend a lot more time with the newspaper and we needed someone in the office all the time," he says.

His efforts to become more involved in the newspaper's day-to-day life got him quite involved with the community.

"It was very easy to get involved in Milton," Mr. Dills says. "The town had a population of 2,000 and also had good community spirit. Whenever there was a special event, people were willing to work on the project."

Mr. Dills says the fact he was on the newspaper and looking for information about whatever was happening often made his involvement in many activities "automatic."

"It always seems that whenever I went to cover an organizational meeting, I became a member of the committee," he says. "I also couldn't keep quiet. Because I was always there it was often easier to be on the committee than have to chase the story from the outside."

Aside from the many total community events Mr. Dills was a part of, he was a Rotary Club of Milton president, a Milton Historical Society president, a member of Milton Chamber of Commerce,

president of the Mr. and Mrs. Club at St. Paul's United Church, involved with Milton Boy Scouts and was most recently an assistant provincial commissioner for the organization.

In 1977 his volunteer service earned him Milton Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of The Year honors.

He and brother Dave sold Dills Printing and Publishing, which included The Champion, The Free Press and The Georgetown Independent, to Inland Publishing Co. Ltd. in 1978.

Inland was purchased by Metrospan Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd. in 1981.

Mr. Dills is currently executive director of the Canadian Community Newspaper Association (CCNA).

Looking back on 30 years of life in Milton, Mr. Dills says all of the development in town has "not been good, but not all of it has been bad."

"I don't think I would want to see the clock back," he says. "From my point of view, Milton has the benefit of some natural assets that haven't been touched yet."

Jim and wife Shirley have three boys—Steve, Mark and Paul—and two girls—Catherine and Carolyn.

Pages of the past

One Year Ago

From the October 14, 1981 issue

Local nurses seeking wage parity with those in other provinces rallied for public support yesterday, (Tuesday) conducting an information picket at the doors of Milton District Hospital. The 25,000 Ontario nurses have been working without a contract for more than a year now and as they are not allowed to strike, have been waiting for an arbitration decision for many months now.

One of the most dedicated opponents of the Site F dump is dead at age 96. Bessie Smith, around whose rural Milton home Halton has proposed to build its future garbage dump, died Oct. 6 at Milton District Hospital.

Halton councillors have defeated a proposal to protest provincial plans to hold a four day deer hunt in the region.

An estimated \$80,000 worth of jewellery was stolen during a break-in at Brancier Jewellery Ltd. at 220 Main St. over the holiday weekend.

Ontario Transportation Minister James Snow was fined \$3,500 in Newmarket Provincial Court recently for breaking the Environmental Assessment Act last year. Calling the incident an "honest mistake", Mr. Snow of Hornby said the experience has taught him some valuable lessons. Mr. Snow pleaded guilty Sept. 11 to charges of proceeding with the Highway 404 extension before a 30-day period for environmental hearings.

20 Years Ago

From the October 18, 1962 issue

The 106-year-old mill around which the Town of Milton was founded may soon become a local tourist attraction or branch of the Halton County Museum.

Milton Council, Halton County Council, the Halton Museum Association and the 16 Mile Creek Conservation Authority have been asked to investigate the possible purchase and preservation of the flour mill on Martin St., Milton, commonly known as "Martin's Mill."

In an electric-like atmosphere Monday generated by heated exchanges of opinion and verbal furries, Milton Council hammered through a resolution on annexation that found major favor at this initial stage.

The township of Esquing has 6,514 people, Esquing assessor Art Benton reported at Council Monday evening. This is an increase of 310 over last year and is slightly higher than usual.

Marilyn Wilson, Halton's Queen of the Furrow, placed third in the International Furrow Queen competition at the International Ploving Match at Owen Sound Thursday.

Plans for the official opening of the new Halton County court house, registry office and administration building on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 17, were made Tuesday at the October meeting of the country council in Milton.

50 Years Ago

From the October 13, 1932 issue

Snow fell in Milton yesterday but soon disappeared.

Trafalgar now has a relief board as well as Milton. There appears to be a general need in all places.

Following are some interesting figures taken from the Halton county jail statistics for the jail year ending Sept. 30th: Prisoners committed during the year, 157, including 4 women; committed to Reformatory, 15, to Kingston Penitentiary, 3; married, 56, unmarried, 101; Number of prisoners who could neither read nor write, 4; Temperate, 103, intemperate, 54; Nationalities—Canadians, 97; English, 18; Irish, 5; Scotch, 10; United States, 3; other countries, 14; average cost per prisoner per day, 11c. During the year 200 transients were given night's lodging and breakfast.

Refusal of Toronto and Hamilton to pay an extra levy to the provincial Hydro Commission to meet bond interest in New York funds has been joined by Milton Hydro Commission which took this stand at a special meeting held on Thursday evening, Oct. 6.

75 Years Ago

From the October 17, 1907 issue

A concert will be given by the Hornby Division Sons of Temperance on Friday evening, 18th inst. There will be a good programme, consisting of debate, subject, "Resolved, that the immigration of the yellow race to Canada is an injury to the country."

Miss Margaret Vanfleet, of Kilbride, has been given a first class certificate. She was the only one of six candidates from Waterdown high school to pass at the examination. She was two points short, but the Department threw out physics paper, which was the cause of the trouble and this left her 15 points to the good.

There was no pocket picking at the fair on Friday, but there was stealing of exhibits from the hall, despite the watchfulness of attendants who were on the lookout on account of pilfering in former years.

The public school was closed on Friday on account of the fair, and Principal Inman spent the day and Saturday on Burlington Bay. He brought home 10 large ducks, mostly red heads and mallards.

Our good natured Town Clerk Bradbury is no more a tonsorial artist. His official duties were too numerous to give time for that, so he has leased his barber and billiard business to Chas. E. Hayworth, of Hamilton, a man of experience, who will conduct the business along the same successful lines.