



COMMENT

Development charges far from chicken feed

No matter how you serve it, \$53,500 isn't chicken feed. But that's the development charge farmers Cornelis and John Opsteen were hit with after building a bigger chicken barn to replace one that had been demolished by fire.

The bill is the result of a new bylaw that doesn't exempt agricultural endeavours from the fees. The previous one did.

So this situation has the Town on the horns of a dilemma. Development charges are there to ensure current residents aren't burdened by the costs of the imminent growth boom. Since the chicken barn is a new structure, it qualifies.

But what's the cost if area farms are forced out of business due to tough bylaws like this?

Many residents fear growth will bulldoze through Milton's proud agricultural heritage. And too much agricultural land is already in the hands of developers, which just lease it out to farmers.

But this land is owned by the Opsteens. They want to farm it. It would be a shameful price to pay if fees like this mean they and others like them aren't able to.



OUR READERS WRITE

'No parking' violators drive reader insane

Dear Editor:
So there is a God. Congratulations to the opportunist, who three months ago had the presence of mind to recognize an invitation to help himself and transfer an illegally-parked running car from Farah's Food Mart to a more acceptable location ('Police seek auto thief' -- Crime Stoppers of Halton, March 31).

Whenever I find a vehicle defiantly parked on top of the large 'no parking' signs painted on the road in front of those shops with the engine still pumping out pollution, the keys left in by

some indolent idiot who is unequal to the daunting task of turning off the ignition much less finding a proper parking spot, and often with the stereo blasting out a sample of the poor taste in noise that matches that sort of mentality, I'm always tempted to drive it away myself and abandon it at a police station.

But I know I could never get away with it.

Incidentally, on January 2 I was out of the country.

**David Townson
Cabot Trail**

How about an independent Nassagaweya?

Dear Editor:
With regional government, mega-cities, the Greater Toronto Area and downloading of services, will the little gem to the northwest be forgotten?

The former township of Nassagaweya existed prior to 1985 when it was annexed by Milton and I for one, think it should exist again as an independent township.

The needs of Brookville, Moffat, Campbellville and the rural residents are quite different than Milton downtown, Milton south and all those new industrial parks along Hwy. 401.

Let's take steps now to ensure our rural area stays rural and our tax dollars benefit us.

I'm tired of waiting for Town officials to get around to talking about the needs of the north and subsidizing the growth that isn't important to or welcomed by us former township types.

Agriculture is of prime importance as is protecting the land and

most of us are self-sufficient on water/septic/garbage.

We are a unique area and those differences that make our place so special can only be understood and protected by self-governance.

We have everything we need already -- a bank, grocery store and post office.

Our council meetings could be so much faster and I would be pleased to do three or four days labour on road projects in lieu of taxes -- just as things were at the beginning of the last century.

Our fire department is volunteer and policing could be contracted out to the OPP or the Region. We have a casino, which we read recently is a \$10 million a year gift.

Let's keep horse profits in horse country and keep the cash cow from being milked by Town Hall.

Let's have a referendum on the next municipal election ballot.

The question should read, "Do you support an independent Township of Nassagaweya sepa-

rate from the Town of Milton and Regional Municipality of Halton?" Flamborough did it. Why can't we?

If the people vote in favour of separation, then those councillors elected to our ward could form a steering committee to direct the separation of the township.

As for costs, we could buy back what we sold to the Town in 1985 in the same fair manner in which Milton took it.

As for recreation facilities, perhaps a grant based on the per person cost spent on the Milton Leisure Centre and arenas could go toward constructing something of our own.

If Kilbride, Carlisle, Eramosa and Lowville want in, I think we could work something out that would be fair, but the criteria needs to be clear on future services.

Keep our taxes and services simple and accessible to the people.

**David O'Drowsky
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Pud

by Steve Nease

