

Town council wants full control in naming streets

By IRENE GENTLE
The Champion

When it comes to naming local streets, Halton Regional Police may soon be asked to get lost.

Currently, new street names can be vetted by police if there's already a road of the same name in a nearby municipality.

The concern is that rescue teams could be mistakenly sent to the wrong location during an emergency.

But at last week's community services meeting, Councillor John Challinor asked that the policy be scrapped.

"We decide what we name our streets in this community," he said. "I don't think it's an issue of public safety. I'd like to have this committee settle this once and for all."

The issue arose over a list of approved street names to be used for upcoming development.

In Milton, streets have historically been named after local residents who have had an impact on the town.

"We're one of the few communities in the country where our street names are researched," he said. "We know why we name our streets."

But police have scratched some names off the list, and Mr. Challinor is hoping to put them back on.

"They've removed some names because they happen to have a family name that's found somewhere else in the region," he said. "I don't approve of us editing because we're concerned about what they think. That's what we've been doing."

Prominent residents, including war veterans, should be recognized, he argued.

"There are very prominent, well-known, deserving people who'll be omitted if we allow police to name our streets," said Mr. Challinor. "They're Miltonians who have made significant contributions to this community."

With committee's approval, he asked to bring forth a complete, unedited list of names for council approval on June 12.

At that time, Mr. Challinor also hopes to end the practice of seeking police approval once and for all.

But Councillor Wally Hunter feared public safety could be at risk if the police are kept out of the process altogether.

"There are sometimes safety issues if the

streets are adjacent to each other," he said.

But it's unlikely streets of the same name would be in close proximity, responded Mr. Challinor.

"Even when Milton is built out, we're at least four concessions away from north Oakville, six from Mississauga and more than that from Burlington," he said.

And taking away police veto power doesn't mean they can't voice an opinion, he added.

"We've been circulating (the names) to them for approval," he said. "I say lets circulate it to them for information."

That seemed to satisfy Mr. Hunter.

"As long as they've got the right to comment," he said. "Their comments can be critical."

One story was outdated, another was incomplete

A portion of the June 6 Champion story 'If schools close, what happens to former sites?' contained outdated information.

Martin Street School is no longer slated for closure as early as 2001.

A recent vote taken by the Halton District School Board subsequently extended its life to at least 2003.

Also, information in a triathlon story

in Friday's Champion was incomplete. Milton area athletes Cathy Hall and Aimee Kilbourn took part in the event but were inadvertently left out of the article.

As well, it wasn't mentioned that Milton's Kathie Key won her women's 50-54 age class.

We apologize and regret any associated embarrassment or inconvenience.

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