

# Councillor tries to get \$100,000 Mountsberg grant reconsidered

By **MELANIE HENNESSEY**  
*The Champion*

Ward 3 Councillor Jan Mowbray's bid to put an approved \$100,000 grant for the Conservation Halton Foundation back on the table for reconsideration proved unsuccessful at Monday night's meeting.

The funding, to be used for expanding and renovating the Discovery Centre at Mountsberg Conservation Area, was given the go-ahead last month by council through the Milton Community Fund program.

The fund was created so that local residents or groups can apply for money the Town receives from Slots at Mohawk.

At that time, Ms Mowbray voted in favour of the grant.

"My second look at council action in approving the grant stemmed from learning from various callers and e-mails that Mountsberg is not in Milton," she explained.

Ms Mowbray presented a long list of reasons for why she felt the funding should be sent back for a second look to the Community Services Advisory Committee (CSAC), the body that recommended approval of the money.

"When Eden Mills Community Centre

asked for funding for repairs, the application was dismissed so fast purely because it was outside Milton's boundary. Mountsberg is also outside Milton's boundary," she said.

But, Conservation Halton Director of Communication Services Gary Hutton said about 200 acres of Mountsberg is located in Milton, while the rest of the property falls just over the town border in Flamborough and Puslinch.

"To be splitting hairs over a few hundred metres... I think is something we shouldn't be doing," he said. "We're just a little bit disappointed there was so much negative information out there."

Ms Mowbray pointed out areas where the community fund guidelines are being breached, such as the foundation doesn't meet the 75 per cent Milton resident membership requirement — a reason that other applications have been rejected.

She added the funding also far exceeds the \$40,000 project grant maximum guideline created by staff.

"Can we honestly say to Milton taxpayers, 'Yes you are honestly well-served with this grant?' I don't think so," she said.

Ms Mowbray's motion was backed up by Ward 3 Councillor Cindy Lunau and

Ward 1 Councillor Rick Day.

"There may be some CSAC members that would appreciate looking at this again in a new light," Ms Lunau said. "I would really urge this council to respond to members of the public."

Ms Mowbray's recommendation to suspend the rules of procedure and reconsider the motion on the foundation grant was defeated 7-3, with Wards 1 and 3 Councillor Barry Lee absent.

Although it's been about a month since the initial grant approval, Town Director of Corporate Services Jim McQueen said the cheque still hasn't been issued.

"I felt that it might be quite embarrassing to Milton council and the Town if there was a reversal of that decision," he explained at the meeting.

Mr. Hutton said he knows that Milton residents will benefit from the new Mountsberg facility.

"Conservation Halton and our volunteer foundation are very pleased that Milton decided to support this project," he said.

There's about \$148,000 left in the community fund for the remainder of the year.

*Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessy@miltoncanadianchampion.com.*

# Heslop Rd. house search turns up drugs

Small quantities of drugs were seized from a Heslop Road home Wednesday night.

Halton Regional Police conducted a search warrant at about 8 p.m. with tactical

officers who were on hand because of suspected weapons, Det. Sgt. Don Cousens said.

Although no weapons were found, drugs were.

A 36-year-old man of Heslop Road was charged with possession of cocaine and a 28-year-old woman, of the same address, was charged with possession of hash, marijuana and ecstasy.

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