

Council berates columnist for slamming Milton

By ROB KELLY

If it wasn't worth the drive to Milton for Linda Jacobs before, it is undoubtedly even less so now. The Burlington Spectator columnist is

She says it's 'not worth the drive from Burlington'



Brian Penman

not a popular figure with Milton council.

Monday night councillor Brian Penman took a figurative filleting knife to a column Ms Jacobs tendered in the April 26 Spectator. The headline read, "It's definitely not worth the long drive to Milton," Linda fumes.

The article complained of regional government services "that have been plunked in Milton—and now you and I are stuck with the consequences."

Ms Jacobs took issue because divorce court, the land registry office, Halton Centennial Manor, facilities for battered women and alcoholism treatment centres are all located in Milton.

Her piece reads: "...a divorce? That you have to go to Milton for. Talk about deterrence."

Elderly residents from south Halton are "forced into long drives on wind-swept country roads" to visit spouses in the Manor, she com-

miserates. "Is this fair? Well, it beats the drive to Acton. That's all you can say about it."

Referring to Morton Downey Jr. and Geraldo Rivera, Mr. Penman said, "we have trash television, so trash journalism can't be far behind."

"Linda Jacobs is neither a researcher or a thinker, and barely a writer." The councillor characterized her column as "journalistically inept."

Mr. Penman said the dig aimed at Acton in the column's conclusion was "a poor close when you don't know how to end your article."

Councillor Brad Clements felt the Spectator was on shaky ground taking stances on north Halton issues because "the Spectator in many cases does not know what is north of Highway 5."

Councillor Colin Best said Milton residents too are faced with inconvenience to obtain regional services. Halton region's main offices

are "20 miles away."

The Halton Board of Education offices are in Burlington, Mr. Best added, and Milton taxes pay for southern waterfront park developments in which "hopefully we'll get a booth."

Ward 1 councillor Rick Day sarcastically praised Ms Jacobs with a reference to her parent paper, the Hamilton Spectator. The Burlington Spectator is largely a copy of the Hamilton edition with the added "Today" section.

"It does take a certain amount of nerve for people from Hamilton to criticize anyone."

Sewage plant capacity study is on line

A consulting firm has been retained to perform initial studies which could lead to boosting the Milton sewage plant's treatment capacity.

Pollutech Ltd. won the tender with a \$36,000 bid approved by Milton's planning and public works committee last week. The decision

is expected to be ratified by regional council today (Wednesday).

The sewage plant expansion would allow Milton to grow by an estimated 10,000 people, or the equivalent in people and industrial users.

Pollutech will work with the min-

istry of the environment to determine if the plant can handle the extra load, and to evaluate what impact such a development might have on the 16-Mile Creek.

A regional report cautions that the concept could be abandoned early if the ministry fails to support the idea.

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