

New agreement may mean less rural fire confusion

Milton Fire Chief Richard Playfair hopes a new arrangement for fire department responses in northern Nassagaweya will mean less confusion for rural residents who need assistance.

Chief Playfair's recommendation to council, which was adopted, means Rockwood will no longer enter into Milton's firefighting plans. Previously, Rockwood firefighters responded to some Milton calls because they can get there faster than Milton's rural firefighters, who work out of the more distant Campbellville station.

However, Chief Playfair said response from Acton (Halton Hills) was only seven seconds slower. In accordance with Chief Playfair's recommendation, council opted to continue

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joint firefighting agreements with Halton Hills, but not Rockwood.

That is expected to minimize confusion over who should be called for residents in northern Nassagaweya. There will be only two numbers to deal with, instead of three. Firefighters will make it known to area residents which number they should use, Chief Playfair said.

There is also a cost advantage, since each department charges back

to the neighbouring municipality fees for calls its firefighters attend. Rockwood is pondering a substantial increase, much more than Halton Hills charges.

Halton Hills wants only \$400 for a two-hour call while Rockwood, if they adopt plans under discussion, would charge \$1,485 for the same call, Chief Playfair pointed out.

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There should be a little more levity in the levee, according to Ward 2 councillor Les Laughren. Or a little more something, at any rate.

Dr. Laughren proposed that the annual New Year's levee at town hall get a financial boost in order to attract more citizens. Council went

along with that Monday night, approving \$1,000 for the event rather than what had been standard for the last few years, \$500. "Take it up a notch," Dr. Laughren said.

However, it is unclear exactly how that will be done. No firm plans were made for spending the additional \$500, although Dr. Laughren did suggest "a big bowl of egg nog or punch."

"I'm all for that," quipped Mayor Gord Krantz.

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Traffic accidents along Highway 401 in the Milton area have jumped substantially since 1987, Chief Playfair told council Monday night.

Quoting OPP figures, Chief Playfair said there were 33 accidents to date in 1989, 30 in 1988 and only 14 in 1987.

Part of the problem is increased traffic, which Chief Playfair pointed out is expected to be up by another two million vehicles next year.

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Various business taxes were reduced or written off at municipal council Monday night as uncollectable, a routine procedure for municipal governments when faced with business failures or unscrupulous individuals controlling certain businesses. Also, some tax reductions are applied because the original assessment was incorrect.

Council authorized \$22,639 in reductions or cancellations of taxes and wrote off a further \$23,179 as bad debts.

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Monday night, municipal council came out strongly against granting a patio licence to O'Toole's Roadhouse, a new restaurant scheduled to open soon on Ontario Street.

Council adopted the recommendation to oppose such a licence put forward by town planning director Bob Zsadyani. Mr. Zsadyani cited concerns about noise (the restaurant is near a residential setting, he noted), and an objection because the patio would take up parking spaces.

Parking, or more properly the lack of it, is becoming a major concern in the downtown area.

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Four Milton citizens were recognized at council Monday night for their contributions to the community through participation in some of the various committees which advise local government.

Esther Caldwell, Jim Gerhard, Ken Layfield and Brian Lodge received plaques and council's thanks for their work.

Mrs. Caldwell and Mr. Gerhard were on the leisure services advisory committee while Mr. Layfield and Mr. Lodge served on the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC).

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After some bickering over the \$15,000 it will cost, council finally

approved a new landscaping initiative for the small park area the town owns on the northwest corner of the intersection of Derry and Thompson Roads.

Stone age travellers camped at landfill

By NORMAN NELSON

Halton Region is spending about \$35,000 to remove stone age artifacts from the site of its proposed landfill in Milton.

It's part of a \$61,000 budget approved by council on Wednesday to complete an archeological survey of the site as stipulated by the provincial hearing board when it approved the regional landfill.

The town of Milton is one of three agencies still contesting the proposed landfill by taking the last legal route — through the courts. The other two are a Milton citizen's group and National Sewer Pipe, the company which owns the rejected site in Burlington.

Preliminary investigations of the proposed landfill, conducted for the Ontario Waste Management Corporation (which was considering the site for its provincial toxic waste dump) and Halton Region in recent years, unearthed a dense concentration of 120 stone flakes and two stone scrapers in one relatively small area.

The region's consultants — experts in Indian archeology affiliated with the University of Western Ontario — determined that "the size and nature of this site suggest it is a Late Archaic period (circa 2,000 B.C.) camp site, where a small group of people stopped overnight or for a few nights. While there they made stone tools, resulting in the deposition of a large number of flakes."

They predicted excavation of the site "would result in the discovery of at least one hearth (fireplace) and possibly of some subsurface features which may contain fragments of bone from a meal or meals eaten while these people were camped here, and of numerous (stone) flakes and tools."

Artifacts recovered from this excavation will eventually be given to Halton Regional Museum.

Other work to be done includes a closer look at another site where artifacts have been previously been found but which has not yet been investigated, and a more detailed re-examination of 11 other locations to "re-assess their significance."

The consultants indicated the possibility, although remote, does exist "that one or more of these locations may yield several artifacts and lead to the re-assessment of them as significant."

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