

Nassagaweya history preserved in revised sign

What's in a name? Quite a lot, according to Milton councillor Barry Lee.

The Ward 3 councillor successfully spearheaded a drive to include on the sign for the newly-named Nassagaweya Community Centre a reference noting that it was formerly known as the Brookville Hall.

Monday night at municipal council he also saw to it that the Nassagaweya coat of arms was included in addition to the Milton logo.

Council unanimously supported his first point, but the second spawned an extended debate pitting arguments for the unity of Milton against those wishing to acknowledge the diversity of the various communities that merged to form the municipality.

Staff reiterated that council had previously set a policy that "only the new town logo would be used."

Council Briefs

Councillor Brian Penman agreed with that concept, arguing that it conveys a sense of unity. "People who live in Milton should feel that they live in all of Milton," he said.

The historical emphasis, he added, could be proudly and adequately displayed inside the building.

Councillor Lee, however, successfully argued that council shouldn't stand in the way of residents who want their heritage preserved.

Well Done

Several Milton residents were honoured by the Town for time and

effort spent on local endeavors. Those honored included Dorothy Gould and Don Page for service on the leisure services advisory committee, and Karen Sherfield and Bonnie Mullen for their work on the board of management for the Milton Downtown Business Improvement Area.

Literacy Day

Milton council has declared Sept. 6 Literacy Day.

In making the request to council, Maureen McCallum of the North Halton Literacy Guild said "we are seeking to increase public awareness of the aims of the guild."

The lack of reading skills, she said, has adverse consequences for society as well as individuals suffering from illiteracy.

"By providing personalized tutoring, our volunteers help our adult

learners solve problems caused by their illiteracy, as well as enable them to participate in the duties and privileges of Canadian citizenship."

Dancing in the street

Requests were approved from residents to close Harvest Drive and Strathcona Court on the evening of August 25 in order to hold street parties.

As well, the Ontario Steam and Antique Preservers Association received permission to hold its annual parade on September 1; beginning at 11:30 p.m. The parade tours along Main Street and then to the Milton Fair Grounds.

Defending champs

The Milton School of Jiu Jitsu was granted \$1,000 to defend its world title at this year's World Jiu-jitsu Championships, which will be held

in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in September.

The team has won the world title three successive times.

"The members of this school have provided the foundation for the Canadian teams which have represented (Milton) across the world," said Bob Kranstz of the Milton School of Jiu-Jitsu. "Since 1977, we have defended our status as world champions and proudly drawn international attention and acclaim to Milton."

Patio licence

Milton council decided it will not stand in the way of an application by the Tea Rose Restaurant and Gallery, located at 155 Mary Street, requesting a liquor licence.

Council's primary concern was that a parking area promised by the owners had not been completed. However, council withdrew its objection upon learning that the owners "are presently receiving estimates to have this work completed as quickly as possible."

Province asked to pay more for improved welfare cost

By NORMAN NELSON

One solution, albeit remote, Halton Region might employ to address a well-publicized \$500,000 shortfall caused by spiralling welfare payments is trimming Halton Centennial Manor's budget.

For the time being, however, the Region appears content to tackle the province-wide dilemma by lobbying Queen's Park for more money.

Trying to make up the shortfall by belt tightening within the welfare department just isn't practical, according to commissioner of social services Bonnie Ewart.

In a report to Monday's health and social services meeting, she said that while staff could make "some minor adjustments as a last resort", some Halton residents would be left without essential services.

As well, she added that any "efforts would fall far short of addressing the \$500,000 (shortfall)."

Budget trimming possibilities in other areas of the social services department, she added, "are worthy of note but seem somewhat retrogressive."

One option she mentioned is "reducing admissions to Halton Centennial Manor and/or restricting admissions to lower levels of care, thus reducing the operating budget."

However, she quickly noted that "the Manor is one of the major facilities in Halton serving the frail elderly and often accepts residents that are unable to be cared for elsewhere."

Following the meeting, she seemed pleased that none of the committee members raised the issue. "They never considered it. It's not a realistic approach."

Another alternative she mentioned is cutting subsidized day care spaces. With all these options, she warned that it's the old trap of robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Ms Ewart agreed that "if support programs are cut to accommodate expansion of social assistance, the very persons expected to benefit" will in fact be most hurt as services are cut back.

The dilemma facing municipalities across Ontario was caused by provincial reforms to the welfare program. The reforms basically increased welfare payments, primarily in the area of shelter costs, and also eased eligibility requirements so that more people were on the rolls.

Increasing the financial pressure was the fact that the changes happened to coincide with the downturn in the economy, "reflecting increased unemployment and reliance on social assistance."

Despite the trouble they seem to be generating, Ms Ewart conceded that the reforms were "were badly needed."

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