

Close vote but councillors nix plans for flea market

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 Clair Lands development group centres on a decision by the Town's committee of adjustment, a group of citizen appointees who can grant

minor land zoning changes to people who basically want to bend, not break, municipal bylaws. Councillors are contending that the committee exceeded its authority by giving Mr.

Mott and his clients a green light in late May. Some councillors also admitted privately that they were miffed because Mr. Mott beat the bushes in

the community soliciting support for the project before unveiling it at council Monday night. For example, Mr. Mott had obtained the backing of both the Milton Downtown Business Improvement Area (DBIA) and the Milton Chamber of Commerce prior to the Monday meeting.

Mr. Mott said he had merely been attempting to resolve any potential concerns raised by area businesses prior to asking for political approval. But when council refused to budge, he said it was clear to him Milton's elected officials are willing to forfeit their decision making to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), the provincial hearing panel which decides such issues.

"The message we're getting is to let the OMB do the planning on this one," Mr. Mott said.

Ward 1 councillor Rick Day ripped into his colleagues for what he saw as an effort to dodge the issue. He called for council to take a firm stand on whether such a facility is wanted in the community or not, rather than dangling the prospect of a settlement prior to the OMB hearing that would see the appeal dropped — something that is not altogether uncommon.

Mr. Mott and his clients "are entitled to not be gobbeldy-gooked around," Mr. Day said. "These people have spent a hell of a lot of money and they're entitled to know whether we will entertain this in our town. Don't hide behind lawyers and legal opinions. Give them a straight answer."

Mr. Day drafted a motion that council agree to drop the appeal once a "proper" arrangement can be made between the town and the developers about site design. That idea was shot down by a 6-5 vote.

Mr. Day then immediately proposed that council say clearly they are "not interested" in Mr. Mott's project. But councillors balked then too, as only Ward 2 representative Brad Clements and Ward 1 councillor Brian Penman were prepared to go that far.

Mr. Mott said after the meeting he couldn't get a read on council's true intentions. "Maybe you can explain to me what happened. It seemed to me they want the trade centre but they decided to appeal the (committee of adjustment) decision for some reason."

Mr. Mott had an outspoken ally in Milton Chamber of Commerce president Carol McDonald, who lobbied strongly for the project before council decided to press on with the OMB appeal.

"We need development dollars now and here they are right in front of you," she told council. "There's a message here that can either be a positive or it can be death to Milton, and I don't think I'm overstating the case." Since "manufacturing in Ontario is dead," there will be no more plum industrial companies willing to locate in Milton and other avenues must be explored, she stressed.

That prompted a sharp rebuke from Ward 2 councillor John Chalilnor, who said the suggestion that Ontario manufacturing has wheezed its last breath is "absolutely outrageous rhetoric."

Ward 2 councillor Colin Best questioned whether 20,000 people could be attracted to such a facility consistently from across the Toronto area and beyond. "The projections we're seeing may be a bit on the high side. If we don't get these kinds of numbers, I don't want to be stuck with another white elephant."

Teachers accept pay hikes

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 The OSSTF local represents 1,280 full-time equivalent high school teachers.

The two-year contract covering the 1992-93 and 1993-94 school years, gives a 1 per cent increase in September 1992 and a 2 per cent increase in September 1993.

According to board employee services superintendent Sue Currie, salaries at the end of the two-year deal would range from \$30,591 for the lowest paid teacher on a grid to \$65,389 for the highest paid teacher.

"It is a responsible, timely and realistic settlement that is within the rate of inflation," said Ward 2 trustee and salary policy committee chair Cheryl Reid.

The settlement includes a special provision for a cost of living adjustment in both years of the agreement. An increase above 3 per cent in the November Ontario Consumer Price

Index would be folded into the salary schedule.

Also ratified Thursday was the board's agreement with the Office Personnel Association (OPA). A two-year deal will cover the 1992-93 and 1993-94 school years giving a 1 per cent increase in July 1992 and a 2 per cent increase in July 1993.

The settlement also includes a provision for a cost of living adjustment in both years of the agreement.

The OPA represents 292 full-time equivalents in the secretarial, clerical and technical fields.

With a four-year maximum to their grid, the OPA includes 12 classifications within its pay ranges. The new contract will bring those persons at entry level from \$10.54 to \$10.75/hr. to a top classification pay of \$18.97 to \$19.35/hr.

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