

Councillor cajoled by giant chicken's charity promotion

By ROB KELLY
The Champion

There was a chicken among municipal councillors Monday night. In fact, it's probably safe to say that by the time it all ended, councillors had chickened out.

Cold feet on a controversial issue? Votaphobia? No, no. Just poultry

(that's poultry, not paltry) politics. The pullet was there in the name of philanthropy.

Anne Sidebottom, representing the North Halton Association for the Developmentally Handicapped, was at council's general committee meeting to drum up support for the Halton Hills Bike-a-Thon. The bicycle rally helps fund the agency through

pledges to riders. The agency in turn assists people in Milton, as well as Halton Hills.

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller has challenged Milton Mayor Gord Krantz as to who can come up with the most pledged cash for the May 30 event. It's sponsored by Maple Lodge Farms, thus the need for someone dressed up like a giant

chicken, at least in Ms Sidebottom's mind.

The chicken accompanying Ms Sidebottom became the focus of her presentation, walking among councillors, shaking hands and, pardon the expression, hamming it up in a manner not usually seen in the decorum-bound council chamber.

Councillor John Challinor will ride

in Mr. Krantz's place since the Mayor can't attend the Bike-a-Thon. The chicken gave Mr. Challinor one of those painter hats pro bike riders wear. It didn't fit.

"Not with that big head," quipped councillor Art Melanson.

Councillor Ron Furik said he had bet \$20 on Mr. Miller beating Mr. Krantz across the finish line, but given that the younger Mr. Challinor had stepped in, he wanted to switch sides.

Councillor Rick Day used the chicken as a runner to send a \$10 pledge to Mr. Challinor.

The door to the council chamber opened and councillor Colin Best walked in, a few minutes late. Ms Sidebottom stood smiling at the podium facing the committee, with a shiny new bicycle as a prop behind her. A person dressed as a big chicken, clutching a \$10 bill, hovered next to councillor Challinor. Mr. Challinor was wearing an undersized painter's hat atop his conservative suit. Mr. Day was yelling that he expected change.

"Maybe somebody should tell councillor Best what's going on," laughed councillor Brian Periman.

"Councillor Best, do you want to know what's going on?" asked meeting chairman Barry Lee.

"Not really," Mr. Best replied.

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CRIME STOPPERS OF HALTON

Unsuspecting movers at farmhouse?

Halton Regional Police Detectives in Milton and Crime Stoppers of Halton are asking the public's assistance in identifying the person(s) responsible for breaking into a farmhouse in Milton and stealing antique furniture.

In late January of 1986, person(s) entered an old farmhouse, situated at the north-east corner of Highway 25 and No. 5 Sideroad in Milton.

This home contained antique German furniture which was stored in heavy brown cardboard/paper wrapping.

Stolen was a large wooden buffet, oval tables, chairs, along with a quantity of other antique furniture.

Due to the large quantity of furniture taken, a truck would have been used to transport these items.

The furniture was valued at approximately \$200,000.

The property was subject of a bankruptcy dispute at the time and it is possible that the persons involved in removing the property may not have been aware the furniture was actually being stolen.

If you have any information that leads to an arrest in this or any other case, you may be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$1,000. You need not give your name and your information will be treated with complete anonymity. Call 1-800-668-5151 or 825-TIPS (8477).

Crime Stoppers of Halton is operated by a Board of Directors made up of 18 civilians from all areas of Halton Region. Our reward fund results from the financial support of business, industry, service clubs and private citizens.