

No ward changes until after turn of the century

By BRAD REAUME
The Champion

Town council voted Monday night to maintain the status quo in ward boundaries and numbers of councillors until at least 2001.

Despite warnings that waiting until after July would effectively put off political change until after the next municipal election, council backed a plan to get public input before the end of September.

Town clerk Bill Roberts told council internal changes would have to be in place by the end of July to give the provincial government time to approve them prior to January 1, 1997. Approval later than that date would not allow changes to be in effect for the November, 1997 municipal elections. Only direction from the province will

alter the timing of possible local reforms.

The move was a compromise between a suggestion by Councillor Ron Furik, who advocated getting public input before then-end of June, and several other councillors, who were willing to wait until the end of December.

"I am talking about internal boundaries and it is still urgent to hear from the public," said Mr. Furik, who said constituents had mentioned public input to him on several occasions.

"I'm not against public meetings," said Councillor John Challinor. "It's the timing, I don't agree with the timing. In light of the Crombie Commission announced on Thursday, council made an excellent decision last week to wait."

The Crombie Commission is a provincial panel which will make quick studies of several

key issues in the debate on municipal reform and report to the government. The province is expected to have the first of these reports within six weeks. They have promised to implement solutions after the final consideration by the commission.

Mr. Challinor also argued it was "more democratic" to defer debate on public input because several long serving council members were not in attendance Monday night. Mr. Furik said waiting only delayed an important and necessary process.

Several councillors clarified their reform positions. Councillor Marion Howard said she voted against the public meeting, despite being in favour of many of the principles of reform, because there was not enough time to properly access public opinion. She pushed for a

December deadline.

Councillor Rick Day said the issue was unusual. Councillors, he said, usually hear expert opinions of issues before making decisions, but in this case the councillors are uniquely qualified to comment because they are the subject of discussion.

Councillor Gerry Brooks told council that Milton chief administrative officer David Hipgrave and Mayor Gord Krantz had stressed the need for action was immediate. He argued that council had an obligation to the public to provide an alternative in time for the next election.

"Politicians and diapers have one thing in common," Mr. Brooks quipped. "They should both be changed regularly and both for the same reason."

15—The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, June 5, 1996

The steel canvass tour is underway

• from CANVASS on page 3

ment productions, do some hypothetical design work, or deliver a major exhibition to fulfill this requirement.

"A lot of the people in the class are used to working alone rather than as a group," said Mr. Busse. "So that's part of the challenge."

Mr. Busse said varied jobs beckon in art, despite the warnings of so many naysayers. He pointed to jobs in print and computer graphics, design, photography and computer animation.

"There are many jobs in graphics that you don't even think of as being art jobs, but they are," said Mr. Busse. "Students are discouraged from art because employment prospects are not supposed to be there."

Students in art usually go on to higher education, according to the teacher. He said Sheridan College's acclaimed animation program, the Ontario College of Art and Humber College were favourites with students, as well as fine art degree programs in universities.

"To get into architecture at the University of Toronto you have to show sketch books," Mr. Busse said. "They want to see a creative mind. Buildings are really just sculptures you can walk into. They set an emotional tone."

The Co-Steel project will involve three main themes subdivided into three subgroups of paintings. Mr. Busse said it was the best way to access the students' individual strengths within the group scenario.

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