

Town appeals UFFI tax rule

By LINDA KIRBY
Staff Writer

A provincial decision to award Milton residents who own urea formaldehyde foam insulated homes a 75 per cent tax reduction for 1982 will once again be challenged by the town.

But Milton must first proceed to a divisional court to determine whether or not it has the right to appeal the tax concessions as "an interested party".

At an Ontario Municipal Board hearing two weeks ago, the Board rejected the town's position on the grounds it does not have the right of appeal.

That point of law, to be argued in a divi-

sional court within the next two months, will cost the town another \$2,000 in legal expenses, but it could be a small expense compared to what the municipality stands to lose in tax reductions if the provincial decision is upheld, according to town treasurer Don Lougheed.

If the town wins its case and is recognized as an "interested party", the OMB will reconvene the hearing into the tax assessments and hear the town's arguments.

Milton is the sole municipality in the province to challenge the tax reductions, which Mr. Lougheed feels are far too high.

Results of a study commissioned by his

department of 17 homes in the Milton area, indicate tax reductions should be given in the neighborhood of 10 to 30 per cent, depending upon the extent of urea formaldehyde in the homes, said Mr. Lougheed.

In addition to the seven homeowners previously mentioned, there are a further 27 homeowners looking for a 35 per cent or higher reduction for the tax year of 1983.

Mr. Lougheed said it is important that each case be treated individually as the province has not provided a "sunset clause" and there is likely to be a growing number of residents who will look for a large tax cut on the basis of having some urea formaldehyde

in their homes.

Not all councillors were in favour of continuing the fight.

Councillor Jim Watson said he was not in favour spending another \$2,000 in legal fees and that the seven people involved in the 75 per cent tax reduction "have had it tough for the past three to four years".

"These people have been under a cloud of hardship," he said, adding he personally does not feel confident the town will win its case.

He was backed by Councillor Don McMillan who said he wondered if the Town would win by continuing on with the case.

Drink-drive laws need teeth says Treleaven

By ALEX MATHESON

There has been no change in the penalties meted out for impaired driving despite growing pressure from the public and encouragement by Ontario attorney-general Roy McMurtry.

Minimum penalties continue to be the norm, regardless of documented evidence that impairment is an overwhelming factor in serious accidents, said Halton crown-attorney Jim Treleaven.

A blood alcohol level of .15 is relatively mild impairment although the chances of being involved in an accident are 25 times greater than for a sober driver, he said.

This evidence hasn't swayed judges from minimum sentences. In addition, said Mr. Treleaven, judges aren't as much influenced by previous offences in upping the penalty as they are for other offences.

A repeat thief is more likely to feel a steeply heavier penalty for increased violations than is an impaired driver, who is a much greater hazard to the general public.

Judges seem oblivious to crown-attorney pleas for heavier sentences and prosecutors can get frustrated calling for higher penalties if they are always ignored.

"We could get a machine to give minimum sentences but judges are paid a lot to make decisions," he said.

When you have to see the victims and face the families, you realize the penalties are too light, Mr. Treleaven added.

It may be provincial court judges get together and agree on an appropriate sentence for an offence so there is uniformity. It is hard to get judges to rock the boat by giving different sentences.

If one judge was more severe, lawyers would try to avoid his court, Mr. Treleaven said. Also there would be more trials as guilty pleas would fall off with stiffer sentences. If we have to have more trials then we will do it, said the crown-attorney.

The end result of this punitive pattern is that people in Canada are not afraid to drink and drive, he said.

If there were automatic suspensions of a year to 18 months, as there are in Great Britain, more would be discouraged from getting behind the wheel while inebriated, he added.

It is in the area of suspension that Mr. Treleaven is most concerned.

"I am not as concerned with fines and jail terms for first offenders as getting a lengthy suspension of driving privileges," he said.

This concern with licence suspension seems to be shared by the public, he added.

If a driver is caught twice, it is a good indication of a drinking problem, since the chances of being caught are only one in 2,000, he said.

The minimum penalties given out for second and subsequent offences, being relatively light, are not discouraging. Nor are the penalties given for driving while licence is under suspension.

As a result, it is estimated that as many as 60 per cent of drivers under suspension operate a vehicle as a normal course, said

Mr. Treleaven, and this doesn't include those who occasionally drive while under suspension.

A fine of \$250 is the minimum penalty for driving under suspension and that is what is normally given. For twice being caught driving without a licence, the fine is \$500 minimum and judges rarely stray much from that figure, said the crown.

If a driver, while impaired, drives very badly, for example the wrong way in a lane or up on a sidewalk and kills someone, he is likely to be charged with criminal negligence causing death which carries a maximum penalty of life in prison.

The minimum would be nine months in jail, while the norm is 15 to 18 months behind

bars, said the crown.

Crowns are constantly trying to get the court to take a tougher stance, he added.

With similar circumstances, but the victim only injured, the maximum is 10 years in jail.

If a victim is killed by a drunk driver, where the driving infraction itself is not severe, he may be charged only with impaired, said Mr. Treleaven.

Charges of dangerous driving may be laid against a drunk driver where driving was bad but not outrageous enough to warrant criminal negligence, he added. Here the maximum penalty is two years in jail.

For the first impaired driving conviction, the maximum penalty is a \$2,000 fine and six

months in jail with a possible three-year suspension of driving privileges.

If a person is caught driving drunk twice, a fine cannot be levied and the maximum penalty is one year in jail and a three-year licence suspension.

What is normally given is the minimum 14 days in jail, usually served with the convenience of the criminal in mind, and the minimum six-month licence suspension.

If a third offence occurs, the criminal is eligible for two years in jail and an unlimited driver's licence suspension. Normally, he is sentenced to three months in jail and given the automatic three-year suspension.

Ostler named chairman of Sheridan's '84 Board

Values, attitudes, self-confidence, common sense, and initiative—educators must help students develop these qualities as well as specific job skills, said incoming Sheridan Board Chairman David Ostler in his inaugural address to the 1984 Board.

"The challenges will be tougher, the competition stiffer, and the pressures greater, than ever before," said Mr. Ostler of the world which graduates will face on

leaving the College.

"Our task, as teachers, administrators and governors of this College, is to ensure that our students leave this institution with the kinds of skills and attitudes that will put them "A Step Ahead" for years to come."

Mr. Ostler was elected chairman of the board, and Jim Aziz vice-chairman, at the December meeting.

Mr. Ostler is a lawyer with the Brampton firm of Davis, Webb.

He graduated from Osgoode Hall law school in 1973, and was called to the bar in 1975. He also holds an honours degree in Business Administration from the University of Western Ontario.

Before pursuing a career in law, Ostler spent four years in industry, with a major food company and an electronics firm.

He was first appointed to the Sheridan Board in 1978, and was re-appointed in 1981.

Ostler is a member of the Law Society of Upper Canada, and is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Urban Energy Centre, a co-operative venture of Sheridan and the Region of Peel.

He is married, with three daughters, and lives in Brampton.

Vice-chairman, Jim Aziz, who has been a member of the Sheridan board of governors since 1979, said the key to the college's success is its ability to adapt to change, including the changing needs of the community.

He described 1983 as an "ambitious year", which saw the board study and approve two additions to the Oakville Campus, an athletics complex and a computer wing.

Mr. Aziz predicted that 1984 would be another year of growth and striving to maintain excellence, with a continuation of Sheridan's development of sources of non-grant revenue.

Mr. Aziz is assistant vice-president of operations for Household Finance Corporation, with direct responsibility for 46 Ontario branch offices.

He is vice-president of the Progressive Conservative Federal Riding Association of Mississauga South, and also serves as Fund-raising and Finance Chairman for that organization.

Mr. Aziz is married, with two young children, and lives in Mississauga.

Surprise!

Your're in Omagh

Imagine driving down a road in North Ireland and noticing a sign stating you are entering Omagh, population 16,000.

Go a mile or two down the road and you're in Drumquin.

If that sounds like something out of a Rod Serling television script, imagine the surprise on the faces of Tommy and Gretta Strain of Omagh, Northern Ireland, this summer as they happened to turn down Britannia Rd. here in Milton and arrive in "their town" back home.

The surprise of finding Omagh and Drumquin was an accident.

The Strains arrived from Omagh, in County Tyrone, this summer and were visiting friends in Oakville.

On a Sunday drive to show the Strains the general Oakville area, they were leisurely driving up Trafalgar Rd.

"Suddenly Tommy yells 'stop the car, stop the car'" said Brian Thompson, who has known the Strains for years and had them over to visit him in his Oakville home.

"Tommy saw the Drumquin sign and he couldn't believe it," he said. "Drumquin is just a little bit away from where they live in Omagh."

"Well when we got to Omagh, Tommy and Gretta just couldn't believe it."

The Strains scoured the Omagh Church graveyard and they came across something very interesting.

They noted the gravestone of Bessie Smith. Her middle name was Bell, and the Strains said, incredibly, the mountain beside Omagh in Ireland is Bessie Bell Mountain.

The Strains could not know that Bessie was one of the most famous residents of this area as well as being a "Mountain" of opposition to the region's dump plans.

Mr. Strain was so impressed by finding Omagh and Drumquin he had a story written about him in the Tyrone Constitution, which covers Omagh, complete with pictures of the Omagh Church sign and Bessie Smith's grave stone.

That was published in the paper along with a poem about the visit here.

Mr. Thompson said he is very sure the Strains would like to know much more about our Omagh and Drumquin.

To contact Mr. Strain the address is 18 Rogers, Villas, Omagh, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland.

rea

CR
R

80
mat
land
acce
sive

8

4

MOVE-
has 4 p
place, l
BETTY E

SUPER
\$10,000,
acres off
tage and
KERSLAN
WHY RE
own this
schools a
Ask for S

There

RIA SI
BROK