



Photo/DAN PELTON

SIMPLY FRIENDS: The Simply Friends Artisan's Show & Sale took place Sunday at the Monora Park Pavilion. The event was made up of a group of 15 to 20 local crafters. Rosemary Martineau is seen here posing with a sampling of the crafts on display.



Photo/DAN PELTON

HUMBER COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE: Carri-Ann Scott, left, and Marsha Barrett of The Early Childhood Education program at Humber College's Orangeville campus were on hand for the annual open house, where the campus set up information booths for prospective students and to educate the public on the various programs the college offers in Orangeville.

Tree bylaw sent back to committee

By **WES KELLER**
Freelance Reporter

Largely on the view that private forest tracts should be considered in the same light as any other agricultural crop, county council has rejected the proposed Tree Conservation bylaw, and has sent it back to committee for further review and more councillor input.

The proposed bylaw would have allowed landowners to harvest enough trees to satisfy their personal needs without a permit, but would have required a \$50 permit to harvest for sale.

East Garafraxa Mayor Allen Taylor said he could-

n't "be involved in supporting (the terms of the bylaw as) silviculture should be considered a normal farm practice."

Amaranth Mayor Don MacIver said a succession of delegations to the council last month had made valid points. "The people's points were exactly valid," he said. "There are good forest managers in the county that own their own land. Tree planting is something they do regularly. People plant because they want to do it."

Mr. MacIver said he would support education but "of more concern, it's a land use issue. It should be a municipal responsibility. The county should revert

back to the local municipality."

That later point might have arisen obliquely when Shelburne Mayor Ed Crewson asked committee chairman John Oosterhof, the ELGV mayor, about permit fees.

Mr. Oosterhof reiterated that the county (by provincial regulations) controls only forest tracts that are one hectare or better. In such a case, the permit fee would be "\$50 per occasion if trees are for sale. If it's for their own use, go ahead," he said. In all events, the landowner would have to apply for clear cutting.

In previous meetings, it has been pointed out that

local municipalities are entitled to have their own bylaws to control forest tracts of less than one hectare. In such cases, they could have the county enforce the local bylaw as well as the county's own.

The controversy over trees erupted when North Dufferin Agricultural and Community Taskforce (NDACT) accused The Highland Companies of violating the existing county bylaw by its tree cutting, among other things.

Although NDACT had sought legal action against Highland based on its findings, the county ruled that there were no grounds for prosecution.

NDACT consultant Garry Hunter had a different view in a recent interview. There would have been no need for a new tree bylaw "if the county had enforced the existing one," he said.

Now, with the proposed new bylaw destined for a new committee study, the old bylaw remains in force until it comes back to the county council table.

Nonetheless, Mono Mayor Lorie Haddock was among those who seemed to feel the proposed bylaw was too onerous. "Staff spent a lot of time but for the wrong reasons. A bylaw with all these conditions is totally wrong," she said.

Council votes to change hiring policy

By **DAN PELTON**
Staff Reporter

Orangeville Council voted Monday night to revise its hiring policies and allow relatives of council members and town employees to apply for certain positions.

The new bylaw supports a resolution from the town's human resources department that states: "The Town of Orangeville will not provide preference, nor will it discriminate either in favour of, or against, any relative of employees or elected representatives who wish to apply for employment, promotion or transfers with the municipality."

Prior to Monday's vote, the "Employment of Relatives Policy" contained a provision that prohibited the hiring of rela-

tives of a council member, while that member is in office, which came about in 2005.

Relatives or significant others are defined in the Town's existing policy to include a partner, parent, step-parent; child, step-child; grandparent, step-grandparent, grandchild or step-grandchild; brother, sister, step-brother or step-sister; or the spouse or same-sex partner of a child or step-child.

There are exceptions in the bylaw, however. It also states that the town's chief administrative officer (CAO) and department heads cannot be related to a member of council.

As well, no employee can deal with an application for employment, promotion or transfer submitted by any relative. In addition to that, a person who is

hired, transferred or promoted cannot be assigned to a position reporting directly or indirectly to, or supervising, his relative.

Monday's vote was not unanimous, however. Councillor Gail Campbell, for example, has opposed the revisions since they were first suggested.

She alluded to the fact that council's responsibilities include deciding the staffing and salaries of the various departments. Ms. Campbell said that, if a councillor's family member is employed by a particular department under review, that councillor might be in a position where he/she will have to declare a conflict.

On the other hand, Councillor Gary Kocialek has argued that it's "important to have the best person for the job." He said a rela-

tive should be considered if he or she undergoes the standard hiring process and is considered the most qualified.

Ms. Campbell was also worried that a council

member's relative would, regardless of job performance, always be labouring with the stigma that nepotism played a role in his/her getting the job in the first place.

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Supporting People With Disabilities

Hi, I'm Anita Wilches

I was born in Ecuador and came to Canada nineteen years ago. I moved to Orangeville seven years ago. I live here with my husband and two children. As a teen I did some volunteer work in an orphanage. I really liked working with these children while I was still in school. Working there really touched my life; that is why when I came to Canada I was inclined to working in a field which related to caring for children. I felt that working with children was what I really wanted to do with my life, so I went back to school to get my Early Childhood Education Diploma at George Brown College. I was hired at CLD as a Resource Assistant for the Pre-School Resource Program (PRP) at Rolling Hills Children's Place. I worked closely with the Resource Teachers, families and children with developmental delays. I worked one on one, hands on. My first experience there was with a child with autism. I loved it and I not really close with the child and the family. It was a wonderful experience. He wasn't verbal at all. At that time he was receiving IBI (Intensive Behavioural Intervention) and one day after working with him for a long time he said my name! His mom was there and she cried with me. It was really emotional. At the same time I felt that I was in the right field and I was doing a good job. Four years later I decided to go back to school to get my Resource Teacher's Certificate and was awarded The Huda Scott Scholarship Award (an award given through CLD). It honours Huda's contribution to the organization. Now I'm one of the Early Interventionists in PRP. When a child is referred to our program, one of us will do the intake interview. If the child exhibits delays on two of the developmental areas the child will enter the PRP program. The Early Interventionist will then help these children achieve those developmental milestones. I go to different centres, homes or to the babysitter and work 1:1 with the child. Everybody has a right no matter who the person is and we have to see that especially with our children and adults with special needs. They are people and I hope the community sees that and respects them for who they are. Sometimes when people see children that seem to misbehave they assume it is because the child has not been disciplined. But sometimes it is because of their disability and the child has been triggered by something and may be frightened. I wish people would understand that and not judge or assume anything without knowing the circumstances. CLD means integration. For me it means bringing people together. When you see the adults come here it is like they are coming home. It is a wonderful feeling because not everybody is going to welcome children and adults the way we do.

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