

# The Jarvis Record

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## REGION VOTES

### TO OPEN

### COMMITTEES



Standing triumphantly above the crowd Princess Sonja completes another death defying act and acknowledges the crowds approval, at the Norfolk County Fair. The

Princess, a North American Indian put on three shows a day throughout the annual five day event that drew to a close Saturday. Total attendance for the fair was 120,132.

## Region will try for lakefront policy

Regional Council agreed last Thursday to meet behind closed doors, on November 13, to try and hammer out some kind of policy on lakefront development, which has four months left to go in a six month freeze. Prompt action to formulate a policy was suggested by Norfolk Councillor Robert Causyn who showed concern for people who had hoped to build cottages next summer.

"If we don't lift this freeze for some of these people, then I don't see how anyone will be able to build a cottage before winter closes in 1976," he said.

Township of Norfolk Mayor Jerome VanDeSlyke commented that he couldn't see the purpose of another study of lake-front development.

"We in Norfolk have had a policy where each infilling lot would be dealt with on it's

own merits, with no plans for expansion," he said.

"I can see this study being completed and us still not having a policy," he said.

"After this study is completed, someone is going to have to say what we are going to do with the lots that people own along the lake that they aren't going to be allowed to develop. We are going to have to reimburse these people who have bou-

ght lots but are not going to be allowed to develop them."

Nanticoke Councillor John Roxburgh said more study was required and a policy articulated.

"There are circumstances where requests concerning development are made and people are not receiving any direction on what the next move is," said Councillor Roxburgh.

The planning and develop-

BY RICHARD HOUGHTON

After heavy criticism by the media, and the public, the Regional Council of Haldimand-Norfolk voted last Thursday to open all their standing committee meetings to the public and the press.

The motion was presented by Simcoe Councillor Catherine Smale, and seconded by Nanticoke Councillor John Roxburgh Jr.

Councillor Roxburgh said that some councillors felt that it was too soon to introduce such a motion, but that he felt that all councillors have had sufficient time to reassess their position.

He said that opening the meetings would be in the finest tradition of the democratic process.

"Three things are threatened by closed committee meetings," said Councillor Roxburgh, "and they are: a council's moral and legal obligation to openness; the council that leaves itself open to public criticism; and the public's basic right to know what their government is doing."

He also commented that it was interesting to note that in the recent provincial election that all three area candidates took a stand in favour of the region opening their committee meetings.

Council closed all committee meetings Aug. 28 and since that time has been the recipient of much criticism both from the editorial columns of newspapers, and also from the general public.

Haldimand-Norfolk region council was the only regional council in the province which had decided to close its committee meetings.

#### Editor's Quote Book

*Liberty without learning is always in peril, and learning without liberty is always in vain.*

John F. Kennedy

In a recorded vote, Councillor Smale's motion was passed by a 13 to 6 majority.

Voting to close the committee meetings were: Dunnville Mayor Charles Lund y and Councillors Lorna Miller and Keith Richardson. Simcoe Councillor Roy Whitehead and City of Nanticoke councillors Keith Shay and Phil Hare. Mr. Hare was attending his first regional council meeting after replacing Gordon Miller who was elected to the Ontario Legislature on Sept. 18.

Voting to open the meetings were: Delhi Mayor Fred Peacock and councillors Clare Huffman and Vern Partridge. Town of Haldimand Mayor David Peirson and councillors Lyle Furry and Jack Young. City of Nanticoke Mayor John Pow and councillor John Roxburgh, Township of Norfolk Mayor Jerome VanDeSlyke and councillors Bob Causyn and Basil Long, and Simcoe Mayor Alfred Judd and councillor Catherine Smale.

Standing committees of council are finance and administration, engineering, planning and development and health and social services.

City of Nanticoke Mayor John Pow commented that he wasn't sure that the Health and Social Services committee should be opened to the press and the public. He said that this meeting would be in-camera almost 90 per cent of the time.

It was stipulated that committee chairmen could bar the press and public from discussion of certain items which were outlined by Region Chairman John Mc Combs and endorsed by the press at a joint meeting in early August.

In camera discussions will be held in matters of individuals, clientele or consumers for all functions under the responsibility of the health and social services committee, matter which is or could become the subject of litigation, property when it was deemed a premature disclosure of the price and nature would not be in the public interest and personnel matters relating to an individual to avoid embarrassment.

Mayor David Peirson of the Town of Haldimand said that it should be up to the chairman of the committee, whether the press and public were allowed to stay or not. "My concern is more for the public than the press," he said. "The press are bound by ethics but we must know where we stand with the public."