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County Planning Annual

See "Big Picture" in Crystal Ball

"Inter-planning between the municipalities in the county of Halton is not only essential, but vital to our future," planner Robert P. Serena of Burlington, 1965 chairman of the Halton County Planning Association, told members and guests at the Association's first annual dinner meeting Thursday, Jan. 6 in Milton.

The group, formed late in 1964 has been working conscientiously from the beginning as a clearing-house for ideas and exchanges of information among appointed board members and paid professional planners and staffs of the seven Halton municipalities.

Their first annual meeting and dinner last week sounded a note of optimism for the future, as chairman Serena looked into the crystal ball and came up with the "big picture" idea for regional government. "The big picture may be our only answer to municipal survival in the years to come," he warned, adding that a larger form of government is "certainly very timely".

Turning to the Halton-Peel Counties regional government needs study presently underway by Thomas J. Plunkett, a special commissioner appointed by the Department of Municipal Affairs, Mr. Serena said the idea was a good one but he wondered if it was done too soon.

"I would rather have seen the Halton and Peel study take place after the County Planning Association had done some preliminary work," he reported, however the chairman congratulated Halton on getting it started - "it is good to get the people started thinking about regional government".

Good Buffer
 He warned Halton is "oriented" towards Hamilton, Toronto, Galt and some other smaller cities in the area, and suggested Halton, part of Peel and part of Wentworth Counties would be a good "buffer strip" between the growing cities. The boundaries of any new regional set-up should give a reasonable economic potential, he added.

For the future, he saw a strip of land 10 or 12 miles wide, pushing northward from Lake Ontario, with a heavy concentration of urban development topped by several northern municipalities as "satellite communities" - growing and creeping into the farmlands adjacent to them.

Land unsuitable for farming, he urged, should be used for conservation projects.

Summing up the group's first full year of operation, he reviewed that a lot of good groundwork had been laid for the future as the delegates from the various boards and staffs in Halton's municipalities gather to look into their closely-related interests.

Good For All
 The lakefront municipalities have gone through annexations and amalgamations which forced them to pool their planning resources, and "all have worked together with some form of joint planning. There is no reason why the other municipalities in Halton cannot do the same."

The Association recently recommended that planning consultants were needed for all municipalities that do not at present have one, and there has been talk of engaging a consultant to service the whole of North Halton.

Election of new officers was held over until the February meeting, while appointments are being made.

For Recreation
 Nassagawesee Reeve Bill Coulter injected one new topic into the discussion, when he warned against listening to those who claim the rural areas of north Halton are being looked upon as future mass recreation complexes.

"Some people are concerned about a take-over, and enormous expropriation proceedings for conservation or other recreation projects," he said. "We as councillors and planners know there is no plan to take us over, and we must publicize this - this is something we've got to get across to the people."

He congratulated the Association on its work and hoped the members would continue to bring about a more co-operative effort between elected and appointed officials in all corners of the county.

Words of Warning
 Reeve Herb Merry of Oakville, Halton's 1965 Warden, said he has been preaching unanimity in the county this year, and the Planning Association was a fine example of that co-operativeness. The Warden said it was important to emphasize that Halton is a logical regional area, adding he wanted Halton to be named "the third metro area."

Others who brought greetings included members of the County Council's planning committee, Deputy Reeve Roy Goddwin of Acton and chairman Deputy Reeve William Hunter of Georgetown.

The group is preparing an annual report with several recommendations for the future, and it should be released by their February meeting.

North Halton Traffic Sets Four New Black Records

The year 1965 set four new records - black ones, but nevertheless records - for traffic accidents in the North Halton area notified by Milton O.P.P.

The 577 accidents, 12 persons killed, 229 others injured and \$326,550 in property damages, set the records. All four figures towered over totals for the four previous years.

December of 1965 alone set two new records, as three persons were killed on district roads and 31 others were injured. The district had two fatalities in February, May and June, and one each in April, August and October. The monthly charts of injured motorists ranged from a low of 10 to December's record 31.

January High
 Monthly accident tallies show:

ed April the low month with 29, compared to a high last January of 62. Property damages by months ranged from April's low of \$13,315 to November's high at \$48,770.

The following chart shows the monthly accident, injury and property damage toll for 1965:

Month	Acc.	Inj.	P.D.
Jan.	62	13	\$24,380
Feb.	48	10	\$9,230
Mar.	51	12	\$33,025
Apr.	29	20	\$13,315
May	44	21	\$21,520
June	35	17	\$20,025
July	51	17	\$16,425
Aug.	43	18	\$17,465
Sept.	43	17	\$28,870
Oct.	61	24	\$28,550
Nov.	52	29	\$48,770
Dec.	58	31	\$49,775

TOTAL 577 229 \$326,550


Here are comparisons of the year's total with the four previous years:

Year	Acc.	Inj.	Fat.	P.D.
1961	375	129	2	\$161,594
1962	419	163	10	\$210,177
1963	452	181	6	\$198,612
1964	549	192	3	\$313,052
1965	577	229	12	\$326,550

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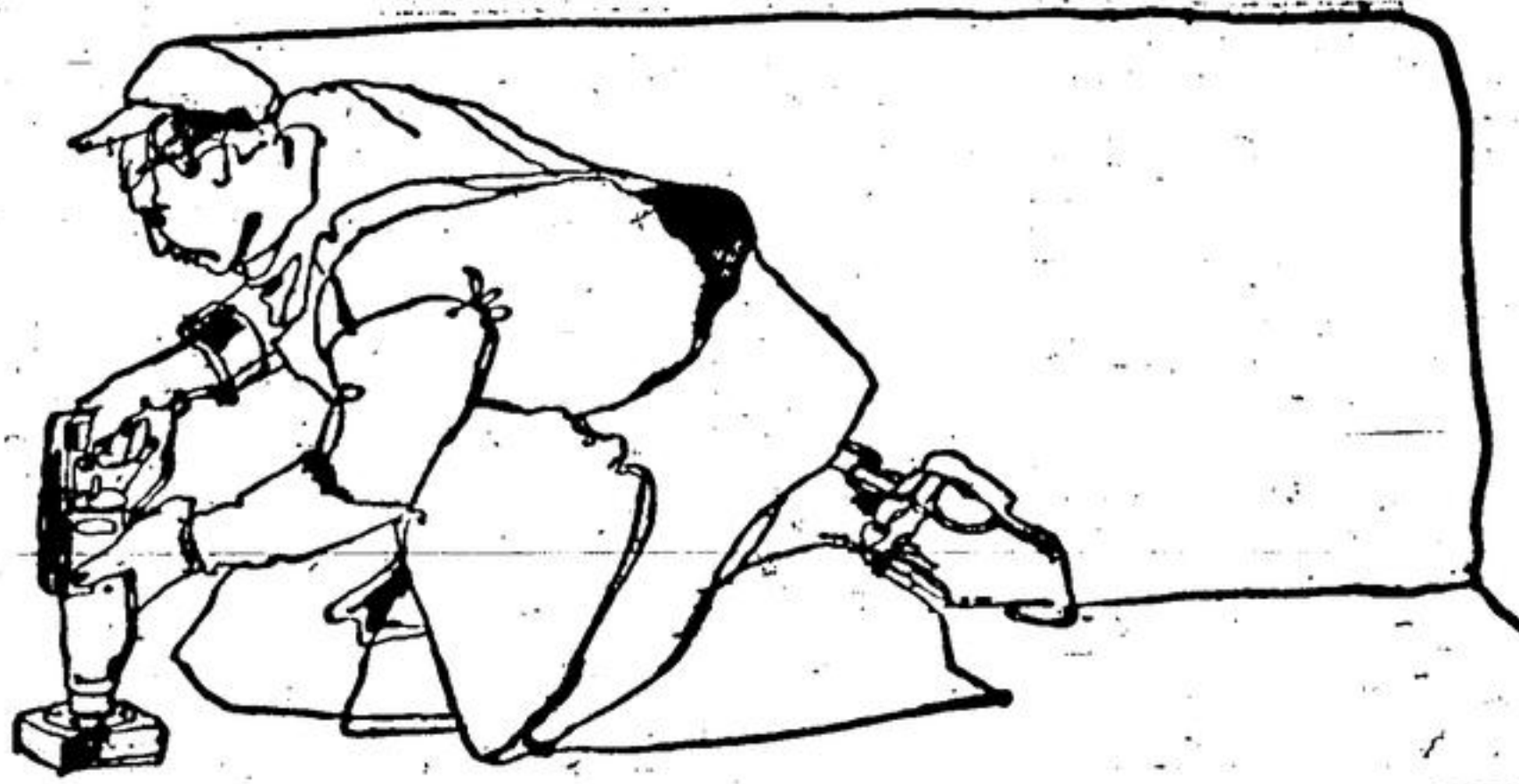
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