



MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS the Hon. J. W. Spooner, centre, is shown chatting with local officials at the unveiling of the Peel-Halton Local Government Review in Oakville Thursday. Left to right are Mayor Les Duby of Acton, deputy reeve R. R. Parker, Mr. Spooner and Milton Mayor S. G. Childs.

More reasons to change

Besides ideas from the briefs submitted last March, Needs Study Commissioner's detailed analysis of present government systems in Halton and Peel pointed to the need for a major reorganization. Here are some of the reasons:

THE GROWTH

Population growth in Halton has been mainly confined to Oakville and Burlington. Each of these towns has a total population exceeding the entire county population in 1951. These two towns in 1964 counted for 76.8 per cent of the total county population, and 83 per cent of the total assessment of the county.

In Peel, the Township of Toronto and Brampton account for most of the development, as they have 77.55 per cent of the total assessment and 74.6 per cent of the county's population.

The figures show the interrelationship of the large southern municipalities. Population forecasts show the majority of growth will occur in these areas, while the growth in northern centres will be slower.

TRANSPORTATION

Traffic movement studies taken throughout the two counties in 1964 show a growing interdependence between the urban municipalities in the southern parts of both counties, in terms of the relationship between where the people live and are employed. This southern part is developing an economic orientation of its own, which is also lessening its dependence on the metropolitan centres to the east and west.

Plunkett found a strong tendency for lines of communica-

tion and transportation to run east and west within the two counties, and a very much lesser trend toward any such lines running north and south.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

"Existing municipal boundaries are inadequate for certain services" such as sewer and water services, Plunkett reports. Some intermunicipal arrangements appear necessary. Police protection should not be confined to within the present municipal boundaries but could be more effective if administration were spread over a wider area.

Requirements of effective planning indicate it is "at least questionable" if these can be met within each individual municipal unit. It is "doubtful," he says, whether the two counties as at present can be developed in a rational or orderly manner without the adoption of some larger planning area.

EDUCATION

The Commissioner found "a multiplicity of jurisdictions" in educational facilities; a continued separation of secondary education that can be neither supported or justified in the second half of the 20th century; and high school districts too small to provide the three "streams" of academic, technical and commercial education.

He noted 20 separate education jurisdictions in the two counties, and only three of these are administered by boards of

education handling both elementary and secondary school education. In 1965, there were 55,642 public school pupils and 20,859 secondary-school pupils. Pupil enrolment ranged from 164 at Toronto Gore Public School to 22,159 in the Toronto Township Board of Education schools.

"Twenty educational jurisdictions are considerably in excess of the number required to administer an effective public school system," he said. Moreover, the boundaries do not coincide with municipal boundaries, especially in the case of high school districts.

CONSERVATION

Mr. Plunkett found three large Conservation Authorities operating in the two counties. He heard several complaints about lack of control over conservation work at the local level, especially in smaller rural areas where a small municipality's single representative could be opposed by 21 other members on the Authority.

SUMMARY

The review unearthed a multiplicity of municipal units, some of which have a status and boundaries that are no longer meaningful.

A bewildering variety of local boards and commissions resulting in extreme diffusion of responsibility and thus, from the point of view of the citizen, making accountability more difficult.

New counties in detail

"Establishment of two types of county government based on a recognition of the development pattern of the area (Halton and Peel) — urbanization in the south and a rural or agricultural orientation in the north — is special commissioner Thomas J. Plunkett's remedy for the municipal ills that beset the present Halton and Peel counties.

"It should be noted that while the term 'county' has been utilized, the structures envisaged are markedly different in both form and substance from what is normally understood as the county in the Province of Ontario," he writes.

For purposes of identification only, he refers to them as the Urban County of Mississauga, and the Rural County of Peel-Halton.

A detailed look at his plans for the southern urban municipality sees the new 19-man council assuming all the present powers and responsibilities of municipalities presently making up the area that includes Burlington, Oakville, Toronto Township, Port Credit, Streetsville, Brampton and Bramalea. Only exceptions are administration of justice and the registry office, which would be turned

over to the Province of Ontario. Specific services they would assume include police, fire, roads, public transportation, traffic control, water supply and distribution, public health, ambulance, sewage collection and disposal, air pollution control, public welfare (including homes for the aged), planning, zoning, building inspection, public libraries, street lighting, garbage collection and disposal, urban renewal, parks, licensing, recreation, assessment and finance (including debt management).

The 18 councillors would be elected by districts, and the Mayor elected at large. Seven councillors for Toronto Township, Port Credit and Streetsville would represent 89,073 persons; three councillors from Brampton and Bramalea would represent 34,784 persons; four from Burlington would represent 54,804; and four from Oakville would sit for 48,523. Representation should be reviewed at least every 10 years, Plunkett recommends.

The terms of office for mayor and councillors should be three years.

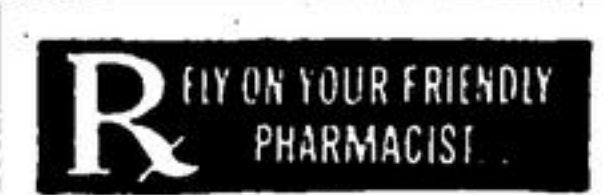
An executive committee including the Mayor and two members of the council should be

designated to handle those duties generally assigned to Boards of Control under the municipal act.

The mayor would have extended powers and the right to veto council's action (similar to veto rights in B.C. and Quebec) if within 48 hours, he submits his written objections to a council action, and the subject is discussed at the next meeting of the council. If an absolute majority of the council reaffirm their original action, it cannot be subject again to veto by the mayor, and becomes legal and valid.

All boards and commissions in the municipalities would be wiped out and a hydro-electric commission, board of police commissioners and library board would be established.

A Commissioner of Administration would be appointed, and under him would be 12 officers handling various tasks; county clerk and chief licensing officer, director of finance and county treasurer, director of planning and development, director of personnel, director of assessment, medical officer of health, director of parks and recreation, director of welfare services, director of fire protection services, county engineer and director of road maintenance and sanitation, and county solicitor.



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North Halton reps

North Halton municipalities were well represented at the Needs Study unveiling in Oakville Thursday.

Reeve William Coulter, Deputy-Reeve William Hoey and

No fire, good job bad fire, no job

Fires in places where things are made and sold account for nearly half the annual waste. At least \$600,000,000 is the cost of industrial fires in the last ten years in Canada.

Fire disrupts production and employment. In a small community, the loss of jobs is especially serious. If the plant is the only one in town, every citizen, directly or indirectly, suffers if it permanently folds.

Minor fires become big ones largely because of construction weaknesses, lack of protective sprinklers and alarm systems, and inherent fire hazards. Common examples of structural faults are missing division walls and unenclosed stairways and elevator shafts.

In 1965 there were 50 major fires in Canada, each costing upwards of a quarter of a million dollars. The destruction of these 50 fires was \$31,722,800. This was a sharp increase over the previous year when the total loss from major fires was \$14,290,100.

Small town disaster

Boxcar figures of the loss in an industry fire are only part of the story of fire destruction, particularly in a small town where new jobs are not easily found.

The direct loss of fire in a manufacturing establishment (building, equipment replacement) represents only a fraction of the indirect, economic community waste. The indirect loss may be five times more.

councillor Ross Gordon represented Nassagaweya. Esquesing's delegates were Reeve George Leslie, Deputy-Reeve Will Le-lic, school board secretary-treasurer Mrs. Aubrey Grant and Georgetown district high school board chairman Don Lawson from Stewarttown.

Miltonians attending included Mayor S. G. Childs, Reeve Austin Ledwith, Deputy-Reeve Charles Menely, high school board chairman Glyn Roberts, and public school board chairman H. P. Johnson.

Acton delegates included Mayor Les Duby, Deputy-Reeve R. R. Parker, high school board chairman Tom Watson and public school board chairman Vic Bristow.

Warden H. H. Hinton and deputy county clerk Jim Andrews represented the county council at the function. Mr. Hinton had just arrived back earlier in the day from a European study tour and brought Mrs. Hinton and daughter Kathy with him.

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Flash fires
"It happened in a flash, like a bolt from the blue." Nothing can be more terrifying than a "flash fire" in the home especially since it usually strikes in the most innocent way.
An education structure comprising a variety of jurisdictions no longer meaningful, and including a separation of responsibility for elementary and secondary education;
A number of conservation authorities with an important role to play but raising difficult problems of political accountability.

Your nose knows
If you cook with electricity the blowing of a fuse is your safety signal. With gas your nose gives warning of a leak. Whether natural or manufactured gas, a distinctive odor is deliberately introduced for your protection. The natural gas odor is sweet and sickly, even suggestive of a skunk. Manufactured gas may smell to high heaven like rotten cabbage. You may never enjoy such rare fragrance! But, if you do, open the windows, get out, and call aid. **DON'T STRIKE A MATCH OR SWITCH A LIGHT.**

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