

# Regional government proposal expected "within few months"

Specific proposals on regional government for the Halton area are expected "within the next few months", according to a statement in the provincial legislature last week by Municipal Affairs Minister W. Davey McKeough.

The Minister pointed out he had held preliminary discussion with Peel County on their proposals for regional government, "and I intend to have similar discussions shortly with Halton County."

He suggested at this stage it was not clear whether there would be one or two regional governments in the Halton-Peel area, "although I believe that in the long run one region will prove to be a better solution".

Specific proposals would not be presented until the completion of the Hamilton-Wentworth local government review which includes the town of Burlington.

On the Hamilton-Wentworth study it was pointed out, the commissioners expect to hold public hearings early in the new year and report within six to eight months. "One of the first decisions which must be made is whether Burlington should be part of a Peel-Halton Region or part of the Hamilton-Wentworth Region."

The Minister emphasized the government of Ontario has accepted the objective of regionalization of municipal government in Ontario and will move toward the implementation as quickly as possible.

Criteria accepted for the establishment of a region will be:

- \* A region should exhibit a sense of community identity based on sociological characteristics, economics, geography and history.
- \* A region should have a balance of interests so that no one group or interest can completely dominate the region.
- \* There must be a financial base adequate to carry out regional programs at a satisfactory level.
- \* The region should be large enough so that local responsibilities can be performed efficiently by taking advantage of economies of scale.
- \* Regional boundaries should facilitate maximum inter-regional co-operation.

Summarizing the major elements the government hopes to see in the regional government system, the Minister said he would be working toward units that would embody:

- \* A regional size which balances accessibility and the efficient provision of services. A minimum regional population of from 150,000 to 200,000 and, if two tier, a minimum local population of from 8,000 to 10,000.
- \* The region will cover both the urban community and the rural hinterland with which it share economic social and physical services.
- \* Regions may be one or two tiered, depending on local circumstances.
- \* If two-tiered the regional level will have significant responsibilities including assessment, planning, arterial roads, health and welfare.
- \* Municipal Councils will be strengthened by removing the powers from many special-purpose bodies and turning these powers over to Regional or local municipal councils.
- \* Regional government representation will be based on population.
- \* In the two-tier regions, Regional Council representatives may be directly or indirectly elected.

The Minister rejected suggestions in the Select

Committee on the Smith Report setting out a deadline for the introduction of regional government. "We do not propose to tie ourselves down to a fixed target date", he said, citing three reasons. All areas of Ontario are not in equal need, there is not sufficient trained personnel to cover all of Ontario, and the government wants to insure local participation which might be hampered by an inflexible target date.

The procedure proposed for the implementation of regional government will include discussion and consultation between the province and the municipalities in a region through joint studies, or meetings. This would be followed by a specific proposal by the province which would be presented to the municipalities in the region. The development of a final proposal and draft legislation, based on reactions to the provincial proposals would follow. The final step would be the presentation of legislation and its adoption.

"Regional government... will probably involve many departures from the existing set of county boundaries... in

some instances the existing county boundaries may represent a logical regional unit, but this may prove to be the exception rather than the rule."

Noting that county boundaries have been used for the re-organization of school boards, the Minister emphasized that as new Regional Governments are formed, "we will attempt to design them so that they and the school authorities will be co-terminous, or will have co-terminous outer boundaries."

Regional responsibilities foreseen would be health and welfare, arterial roads, transit, police, capital borrowing, parks and assessment. Under joint regional-municipal responsibility will be sewage, water supply, fire protection, planning and tax collection. Other responsibilities will be local.

In reviewing the Minister's statement, Halton East M.P.P. Jim Snow noted legislation would appear imminent in the current session for implementation in 1970 but it was likely, because of the Hamilton-Wentworth study, the earliest possible implementation of a program in the Halton area would be January 1971.



MAUREEN AND JEFFREY SALT find Santa's men's Santa Fun Fair Saturday. charms beguiling at the United Church Wo. (Staff Photo)

## 4-H banquet, awards night for Eramosa Junior Farmers

Eramosa Junior Farmers put on the annual 4-H agricultural banquet and awards in Rockwood town hall. About 125 persons attended.

Head table occupants were president and chairman Bernard Schimmel; Jim Brown, junior extension director for Wellington County; Reeve and Mrs. Cameron Lush; Mr. and Mrs. George Leslie; Mr. and Mrs. Earl Oshorne; Wilbert Freeman, Alex McNabb and Ron Storey.

The Royal Bank in Rockwood donated the following trophies; top home-making club member to Mary Pritchard, a silver tray, presented by Mrs. W. J. Ward; top grain club member to Larry McDougall; top corn club member to David Gordon, a silver rose bowl, by Mr. Ward; top sheep club member, to Larry McDougall, a silver pitcher, by Mr. Ward.

The Central Ontario Cow Breeders Unit, represented by Doreen Moffat presented desk sets to Earl Jackson, Brian Mack, Kevin Lowry, Ann Stewart, Brian Storey, June Thomson, Carol Thomson and Allan McPhedran.

The Waterloo Cow Breeders Association award, a book titled Morrison's Feed and Feeding went to Jim McMillan.

Merit certificates for completing six or more projects were presented by Jim Brown to Neil Darby, Brian Mack, Alex Pritchard, Chris Smith and Andrew Smith.

In breed awards, first year members showing Holstein calves, receiving pens, were Linda Law, Russell Leslie, Kevin Lowry, Bonny McKersie, Brian Smeltzer, Brian Storey, Fred Thring, Patsy Weir and Susan Weir.

Hereford awards went to Peter Hindley and Larry Robinson, receiving Ontario Hereford Association crests; and to Tom Landoni, Brian Mack and Judy McDougall, receiving pens imprinted Ontario Hereford Association.

Shorthorn awards went to Earl Jackson, Jim McMillan, Lloyd McMillan, Colin McMillan and Larry McDougall, receiving Ontario Shorthorn Association crests.

Jersey Awards went to Stephen Smith, a halter; and to

## Let's Play Bridge

by Bill Coats

One of the most difficult things to do in contract bridge is to quit bidding when its obvious there is a misfit between your hand and that of your partner. This means that you often play in a broken suit or one with little or no support in dummy.

There is just such a hand that occurred at the Acton Bridge Club last week. West dealt with neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
S 9  
H 10 9 5 4 2  
D K Q 8 6 2  
C 10 6

**WEST**  
S J 8 6  
H A K J 7 3  
D 2  
C 9 5 3 2

**EAST**  
S Q 5 4 2  
H 8 6  
D A 10 4 3  
C 8 7

**SOUTH**  
S AK 10 7 3  
H Q  
D J 9 7  
C A K 5 4

The bidding:  
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
Pass Pass Pass 1S  
Pass 1NT Pass 2C  
All Pass 2D.

Opening lead two of diamonds.

It's most difficult to stop at a diamond contract. North is afraid to bid again and South thinks that the major suit is better. This type of hand requires a lot of bidding judgment. One pair didn't get past one spade when North passed. Another pair couldn't

quit till they got to four spades.

How should declarer proceed after a diamond led from West? East won and returned a heart won by West. West led another high heart and declarer ruffed.

Often with a misfit, you have high cards in every suit. These cards should be protected. The only way to do this is to draw trump and this should be done immediately. If declarer had done this he might have gotten away with a diamond, two hearts and two trump losers.

But our declarer did not do this. The idea of ruffing a club came to declarer so he chased the ace and king and ruffed a club. Now he tried to return to his hand with a diamond but West ruffed. West led a club and East ruffed. Back came another diamond and West got another ruff.

West led a heart, East discarded and South had to ruff. Declarer still had to lose a trump trick to East.

Often when you end up in a poor trump fit it is advisable to get what trump you have to work. You can take out two of the opponents' trumps for every one of yours and thus save your side tricks from ruffs.

Last week's winners at the Acton Bridge Club were: first, Bev Pattullo and Gloria Coats; second Mary Manning and Kay Campbell; third, Cam Sinclair and Bill Wardel; fourth, Sue Sullivan and Bill Coats.

## Pay accounts

Acton Council passed a resolution at the regular meeting Tuesday authorizing payment of election expenses. D.R.O.'s and Poll Clerks each received \$18 and \$15 will be paid for each of the polling places.

Reeve Bert Hinton, endorsing the resolution, quipped: "I'm not too satisfied with the results these people got but I won't take it out on the hardworking staff."

Mayor L. Duby recommended that council consider breaking the town up into six wards at the next election to expedite voting. Deputy-Reeve elect Ted Tyler also thought it would be better for the voters if polling stations were located at the same places as those used in federal elections.

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### Free Press Personals

Miss Alice Pilkington enjoyed a week's holiday in Bermuda.

Mrs. Lydia Everdell returned to Halton Manor Milton, on Saturday Nov. 30 after spending eight weeks visiting with her granddaughter, Mrs. Jack Stewart, her husband and family in Moncton, N.B.

Thursday evening Mrs. C. Nelles entertained fellow-clerks from Hinton's store at a Christmas party. They enjoyed a turkey dinner and exchanged gifts. Miss Elva Pearen showed interesting slides taken at Expo and in the west.

Both the Rotary club and the Y's Men's club held Christmas dances in the decorated Music

Centre over the weekend. For Rotarians, the Champagne Ball on Friday found tickets sold out so quickly there wasn't one left for the president a couple of weeks ago. Apparently he had "pull" because he got in alright.

There were 75 couples at the dance and Chinese food was served. Along with the fashionable miniskirts in satins and twinkling brocades were quite a number of floor-length gowns.

The Y's Men and their many guests enjoyed a buffet dinner and dancing Saturday evening.

Roy Rognvaldson has returned home after working since last spring on a ranch at Redgrave, Alberta.

### Free Press Local News Items

CHRISTMAS TREES are now on sale at the Y's Men's lot.

CHILDREN HAVE opened the hockey season on freshly frozen school creek this week.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING made easy—right on our main streets - by the merchants' extra open hours.

A COUPLE of youths have been apprehended shoplifting. It's the wrong way to Christmas shop.

ONLY TWO minor accidents were reported to the police during Safe Driving Week.

DREDGING CONTINUES despite the fact the lake is gradually freezing.

SNOWMOBILES AND skidoos are out already, although there isn't much snow yet.

DOESN'T THAT big gap between the M. Z. Bennett school addition and the high school look like a good place for a swimming pool?

ALL THESE weekends are busy ones. This Saturday there are more plant parties and the Y's Men's annual bingo and turkey draw.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES Commercial fishermen operate 1,600 boats on Ontario waters and employ 2,500 men. Their annual catch is valued at \$6,000,000.

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— RED BRAND BEEF —

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TENDER  
**SHORT RIB ROASTS 79¢ lb**  
or BLADE

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**PRIME RIB ROAST - 99¢ lb**

CHOICE  
**WING ROAST - 99¢ lb**

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**GROUND CHUCK - 69¢ lb**

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