

OUR READERS WRITE

Appalling lack of health services—nurse

Dear Sir:

Many people have been hesitant to discuss the appalling lack of community health services in North Halton. After reading a recent board of health report I feel a responsibility to speak out and would hope others will do the same.

According to the report, Dr. Chamberlain, Medical Officer of Health, made a reasonable request for an adequate staff of community health nurses and an administrative assistant. He mentions that this would free him to set up new programs. One urgent example could be home care enabling many people to be cared for in their own homes and the cost covered by insurance plans. The cost of such a program would be covered by provincial, not county money, but would be complex to set up and require co-operation and understanding from the board of health.

Mrs. MacArthur, reeve of Nassagaweya, points out that public health nurses are no longer in the schools and Dr. Oakes follows that by saying an administrative assistant would leave little for the M.O.H. to do!

It is incredible that the county council seems to have little insight into community health services and I can well imagine Dr. Chamberlain's frustration at this point. The board of education hires registered nurses in the high schools only, and in Acton on a part time basis. Elementary schools are virtually without health care except for immunization, hearing and vision tests.

Council members have only to read their copies of guidelines for the M.O.H. and boards of health to realize the overwhelming responsibilities carried by Dr. Chamberlain.

It becomes increasingly clear why Halton county is noted for a high turnover of health professionals and has had at least five MOH's since 1965. Halton residents who are competent public health nurses are

travelling to Peel and Wellington to work rather than face the ridiculous case loads, frustrations and lack of job satisfaction in North Halton.

A quick comparison with Peel and Wellington indicates we are definitely a "have not" county. Both neighboring health units have larger professional staffs, more in-service educational programs to keep their staff up to date, more relevant and progressive health services. Both have assistant medical officers and Peel has an administrative assistant.

This is much too broad a topic to cover in a letter to the press or to the board of health but we must begin somewhere if Halton residents are ever going to start receiving the services they are already being taxed for.

I propose the following: (a) Investigate the feasibility of setting up an advisory committee to the board of health as is done in some counties; (b) provide press coverage over a period of time to explain community health care and the various programs that should be operating. These could possibly include pre-natal classes, better pre-school programs, addiction services, school health, home care and others too numerous to mention; (c) everyone with criticism or ideas for improvement call or write one of the board of health members.

We hear plenty of talk and it would be nice to see some action!

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Alma M. Swetnam

Copies of guidelines respecting Medical Officers of Health and Boards of Health may be obtained from Provincial Department of Health, Special Services Branch, Queen's Park, Toronto.



GET SET, GET 'READY, GO. A young English visitor to Canada discovers what Canadian winters are all about. Adrian Moss of Lancashire England gets ready to toboggan down one of the hills at the Kelso Conservation Area. Adrian is staying with his cousin Erica MacLean in Acton for a few weeks.—(Staff Photo)

Coles' slaw ...

(Continued from Page 4)

Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn in the African Queen through the headwaters of the Nile and you'll get some idea of how it looked and felt on the ride.

Crocodiles appeared on the bank, opened jaws and slid noisily into the river as if they were waiting for someone to fall off the craft and make lovely tropical desserts. Elephants thrust their trunks and huge ears through the thick foliage and eyed the wide-eyed band of tourists trespassing on their domain.

Lions and tigers, in clear view of the passengers, lolled amongst skeletons of previous victims, which the guide assured us had come from passengers who had leaned too far over the side.

A huge python twined itself around a line overhanging the water and startled everyone, especially the women with a built-in fear of serpents. Headhunters appeared on the bank and unloosed a volley of arrows and spears in our direction which mysteriously seemed to fall short. A rhinoceros tread three hunters on the bank in a realistic tableau.

At one point our guide, maintaining a ship-to-shore contact by means of two-way

radio, suddenly went for his revolver and unloosed a volley of shots on cannibals who ventured too close.

This whole splendid movie set is outside and with the hot Florida sun beating down on you at 95 degrees Fahrenheit or a subtropical rain pelting, it can look and feel pretty real.

I guess I don't have to tell you that the animals, snakes and other tropical hazards infesting the route of the ride were simulated, stuffed versions of the real things. But they looked so real I spent most of my time as did Charlie Perry clicking the camera shutter. The accompanying photos give some indication of the type of material we were shooting.

We did all kinds of other things at Disney World before we were ushered out as the last gates were closing. A Dixieland band marched alongside playing the Rampart St. Parade as we took the motor train and they took the Mississippi river boat over the large lake which greets you at the entrance.

Next week we'll continue on down through Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota, Naples, across Alligator Alley to Fort Lauderdale where we bided until it was time to catch the Bahama-bound boat from the port of Miami.

Education critic has axe to grind

Acton, Ontario,
January 3, 1972.

Dear Sir,

I would like to comment on my "colleague" and his chain letter. First of all, as far as autonomy of the teacher is concerned, he finds himself with as much autonomy as he has the initiative to use once he has proven himself competent to his principal and department head. Nowhere is anyone given autonomy without proven competence, and rightly so.

If the anonymous writer of this great dispatch has a workable solution to the high cost of education, he is going about it in an ineffectual manner. For the past six months and for the next five months, there is an ad hoc committee of the Halton County Board of Education meeting continually and open for suggestions and briefs from individuals and groups. This committee is dealing with priorities and expenditures and if the individual has suggestions let him take them in writing to this group made up of pupils, taxpayers, teachers, principals, department

heads, trustees and administrators.

Personally I think this writer has an axe to grind and we must remember that any fool can criticize as long as he does not have to come up with a workable solution. The system of education in Halton County is not flawless nor is any system flawless.

The "hierarchy" will reduce as teachers become more competent, as principals take over the role of awarding permanent contracts to their staff and recommending permanent certificates. This will only happen when there are very few mediocre to poor teachers left but I feel confident it will come about.

Sincerely,
Gary W. Bateman
M.Z. Bennett School, Acton

P.S. I would hope that anyone who has positive criticism of our educational system would take the opportunity to present their brief to the Ad Hoc Committee on Priorities and Expenditures, c/o Halton County Board of Education.

Ain't it the truth

The money-lenders got us all,
Our backs are up against the wall,
We pray to God for daily bread,
But all get credit cards instead.

Our Governments, in townships too,
Are debt loaded through and through.
We buy the things we can't afford,
And try to "interim" the Lord.

We spend so much on education,
It's almost ruining the nation,

GOD BLESS US EVERY ONE.
Vic Smith
R.R. 2, Rockwood

Parcels overwhelming

Mary Papillon would like to share this letter she has received from the Princess Margaret Hospital Lodge, Toronto.

December 17, 1971.

Miss Mary Papillon,
Canadian Cancer Society Activity Group,
259 Queen St. E.
Acton, Ontario.

Dear Miss Papillon:

How can one every begin to go about thanking you and the members of the Acton Activity Group of the Canadian Cancer Society for the overwhelming Christmas parcels that arrived here at the Lodge last Sunday. It was just magnificent and it made it possible for us to add many extra treats for our patients and in some instances their children.

I shall start with the Christmas puddings, the jellies, cookies, squares, tarts, canes and shortbreads. They are all a work of art and our trays and cake plates for our various functions have never been so well-supplied or so attractive. For all of those who made these confections, may I say thank you.

The toys, books, games, puzzles and hand made furniture will bring a great deal of pleasure to the youngsters who receive these articles. Everyone fell in love with the duck and already it has found a new home with one of our prosthetic patients.

The candles, wrapped gifts and cosmetic bags too will bring a large vote of thanks from the patients.

The clothing too will be distributed and it was so thoughtful of you to send it. It seems that we cannot always keep up with the demand.

The heritage our kids will get,
Is nothing but a whopping debt.

They won't be happy with their lot,
When they see all the debt they've got.
They'll curse us for these foolish frills
When they are left to pay the bills.

Our rulers, are our men of brains,
It's too bad they don't hold the reins,
They'll never cure our country's ills,
By borrowing dough to pay the bills.

The scarves have been sent to the radiotherapy department to the patients there.

Now to the knitted goods. I must be honest and say that I have never seen anything to equal those boxes. Everything is so beautifully done and if you could but realize the enjoyment, comfort and pleasure, the sweaters, baby things, toques, socks, bed socks, bed jackets will bring to each person, I am sure you would be as happy as I am to distribute such beautiful and useful gifts. The pillows too will bring great comfort.

Will you please convey our gratitude to all of your wonderful members for this marvellous contribution. It will bring joy to so many people and I know each one is most appreciative.

The good wishes of the volunteers of the Lodge go forward to you and the Acton Activity Group and we trust you have a happy holiday with a healthy and happy new year.

Sincerely yours,
Miss Helen E. Howes,
Director of Volunteers

William Stuckey PHOTOGRAPHY
Weddings - Passports
Industrial - Portraits
PHONE - 853-2269

Implications to be probed

What are the implications of the new tax legislation on you and your farming business? All Halton farmers are invited to a meeting to discuss these subjects on Monday, Feb. 14 at the Masonic Hall, south of Milton, starting at 1 p.m.

Discussion subjects include capital gains, averaging, exemptions, capital cost allowance and quotas.

Concrete firm may locate near Milton

Following a written query from a law firm representing Spaycreek Ltd., manufacturers of pre-cast concrete, Esqueping Council has ruled that until the township's zoning by-law is enforced, there would be nothing to stop the company from storing materials outdoors on the property north of Milton, recently vacated by Systems Construction. Spaycreek are reportedly interested in the site.

Council decided Monday to write the law firm to say that at present they would have no jurisdiction over it. However, Reeve Tom Hill said there could be restrictions introduced, when the zoning by-law comes into effect.

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GEORGETOWN

Free choice of schools plan approved by board

Halton County elementary and secondary school students will be allowed to attend the school of their choice. At the regular meeting of the Halton County Board of Education Thursday, the free choice of schools proposal was approved.

Assistant to the Director Em Lavender told the board seven months' notice would be required for a student to transfer and the transfer would only be given after rational thought had been given by the student and only if there is a student place available at the school they choose to attend.

Expect 100

The board will not provide transportation for those students wishing to transfer. Educators don't expect a great number of applications for transfers. Director Jim Singleton predicted about 100 applications.

Mr. Lavender suggested a number of legitimate reasons for a transfer. He indicated boundary line families might prefer to go to another school and

some students might wish to attend a traditional school rather than those with the open concept while some may prefer the open concept.

Until now students could only get transfers provided they were moving to a school which offered a subject not offered in the home school.

NIGHT school registration coming up again soon!

Dedication Knox addition

Plans are being made for the opening and dedication of the new addition at Knox church on Sunday, Jan. 23.

Former ministers of Knox are being invited.

HALF frozen and half open water, the school creek lured junior sportsmen during the holidays. They skated fearlessly right up to the edge of the water. In that creek, there wasn't too far to fall through.

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- SPAGHETTI Catelli (Save 10¢) or Ready Cut 2 lb. Bag 39¢
- MAGARONI
- Canada Packers 12 oz. Tins (Save 25¢) KAM LUNCHEON MEAT 2 for 89¢
- Proctor & Gamble King Size (Save 34¢) OXYDOL DETERGENT \$1.69

Pantry Shelf 10 oz. Tins (Save 18¢) MANDARIN ORANGES 3 for 69¢

Rosedale 14 oz. Tins (Save 23¢) CREAM STYLE CORN 6 for \$1

Libby's 15 oz. Tins (Save 25¢) SPANISH RICE 5 for \$1

Libby's 12 oz. Jars (Save 53¢) GHERKIN PICKLES 3 for \$1

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