

Will improve North Halton health service new committee of county council says

The new community services committee of Halton county council agrees there is a need for more public health nurses in North Halton, although it was also established that there is a county-wide shortage that partially accounts for the paucity of health services in the north.

The committee debated the points at length at a meeting last Wednesday spurred by a story in The Acton Free Press and The Canadian Champion, and crackling charges by Acton deputy-reeve G. W. (Pat) McKenzie and Esqueving reeve Tom Hill that inadequate health services in North Halton were being ignored.

The article, written by Free Press editor Hartley Coles, quoted former public health nurse Alma Sweetman and North Halton psychologist Isabel Davey as saying nurses in the north have an impossibly heavy workload, are frustrated in attempts to carry out programs and are unable to use professional training.

Acton deputy reeve Pat McKenzie spearheaded the discussion and demanded answers to his questions about inadequate service in the north. A report from the

Health Unit's nursing director Miss G. Leavey which recommended there was an immediate need for one nurse to serve the Acton and Nassagaweya areas aroused his ire.

"Daff" proposal

He charged that the proposal to have one nurse serve that large area is "daff".

"I don't know what you would call it, but I'd call it daff", McKenzie told the committee.

Then it was pointed out the health unit nursing staff was below its complement and having trouble hiring more. McKenzie said the north deserved more than the crumbs from the table. "It is always the north that is on the short end of the stick."

Figures from Miss Leavey's report revealed the health unit was short seven nurses and efforts to recruit more had been unsuccessful. Advertising in August and November drew only nine replies from qualified nurses, according to county personnel officer John Watson, and none of these were hired.

Four replies from students who will

graduate in May were filed for future contact.

McKenzie said the article in the Free Press and Champion had lots of material to draw from since Acton and Nassagaweya didn't have a nurse all last year. "We have one now," he said, "and she is snowed under." He said people in the area had to call Georgetown for a nurse last year.

South better

Esqueving had no nurse either, he charged, noting one nurse couldn't do it all. It was significant, he felt, that the ratio of nurses to population was far better in the south.

McKenzie blamed hazardous winter driving conditions and mileage rates which favored the nurses in the south as reasons for the failure to recruit northern nurses. He felt the northern nurses should be compensated for the extra wear and tear on their vehicles. Nurses working for the health unit now receive \$48 per month plus seven cents a mile. He suggested 12c a mile would be more suitable for those in the north.

The Acton deputy reeve wants the

complement of nurses in the north raised from four to seven and asked for more clerical help in the Georgetown office.

Esqueving reeve Hill earlier suggested one nurse be hired in Esqueving, one for Acton and Nassagaweya and one floater between the two areas.

Dr. Chamberlain, medical officer of health, said registered nurses could not do a satisfactory job as a community nurse because they do not relate to the family like a public health nurse should. Four registered nurses and six registered nursing assistants are working with the health unit and have taken over post-natal care in the south.

Both chairman David Coons and Warden Jim Swanborough agreed with colleagues McKenzie and Hill that better facilities were needed in the north, although noting it would be up to Dr. Chamberlain and his staff to shift nurses accordingly.

"There is no question that Dr. Chamberlain got the message that we need more nurses in the north," he assured the Acton deputy-reeve.



INTENSE INTEREST is shown in this start at the Y's Men's snowmobile races Sunday. There was keen competition among 40 entries.—(Staff Photo)

The Acton Free Press

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Sixteen Pages—Fifteen Cents.

Reeve, deputy defend county council



PETER DEBENHAM receives approval for his efforts at sketching from supervisor Mrs. L. Dittich during art classes for youngsters which are sponsored by the Y.M.C.A. at Acton public library Saturday morning.—(Staff Photo)

Sentences for forgery

The two men charged in connection with uttering a forged document at the Bank of Commerce here were sentenced in court in Milton Monday.

William Arthur Myer, 19, who attempted to pass the forged cheque, was sentenced to six

months definite. He was apprehended by police.

His associate, Richard Taylor Jane, 26, was sentenced to 18 months definite.

Charges were laid against the two Woodstock men by several police detachments as well as

Acton O.P.P. The incident here occurred January 20 when the younger man was spotted in the bank, after the staff had been alerted to watch for him. Myer was arrested, then escaped and was later arrested again.

If regional government imposed

Eden Mills wants to secede from Halton

The police village of Eden Mills would rather be part of Wentworth County than Halton, in the event that regional government would split the village in two.

This is what village trustee Norman Marshall told members of Nassagaweya Township Council at their regular meeting Monday night. The village is located at the northern end of Halton County and straddles both Nassagaweya Township and Eramosa Township, located in Wentworth County.

Marshall told council members the people of Eden Mills were very anxious to keep the community together and feared

that the setting up of a regional government in Halton would split the village. "We want to keep Eden Mills as a distinct village, no matter what county it joins. However we are more oriented to the north than the south," Marshall stated.

Village trustee Rodney Bell, who with secretary John Turner accompanied Marshall to the council meeting, told members that some high school students from the community were forced to board school buses at 7 a.m. in order to attend schools in the southern portion of Halton.

Marshall asked council members if they would have any

objection to the village annexing that portion of the community situated in Halton.

"Certainly, Nassagaweya would not oppose such a move, if Eden Mills feels inclined to leave Halton," remarked Reeve Anne MacArthur. The Reeve said she and Deputy Reeve Don McMillan would present the trustees' view to Halton County Council.

Deputy Reeve McMillan told the group that once a presentation was made to council, the feelings of the trustees and the people they represent would be known. He told the group not to bother with expensive annexation meetings,

"I don't think anybody can point the finger at county council", Reeve Frank Oakes said last night (Tuesday) in reply to Councillor Peter Marks' request for comments on the recent Free Press article, which suggested health services in North Halton do not compare favorably to those in the southern part of the county.

"I don't believe everything I read in the paper is right," the ex-warden said.

Oakes said he was amazed at the words "frustrations" and "disillusion" used in the headline of the front page story.

"There's a shortage of nurses. But there's only so many hours in a day. They can only work till the day is spent. So why be frustrated

or disillusioned?" he asked.

Asks patience

Deputy-reeve Pat McKenzie, who sits on the Board of Health in his capacity as a county councillor, asked council to be patient for a while.

"They have had a problem hiring nurses. We have 24, but we should have 31," he reported. "Nurses who have taken public health courses are at a premium."

McKenzie said he was encouraged by the fact the board approved extended home care at its last meeting.

"There have been problems, but Dr. Chamberlain feels the servicing will improve," he said.

Wants seven more nurses

In a follow-up to last Wednesday's Board of Health meeting, Acton's deputy reeve Garnet W. McKenzie has written Dr. J. H. Chamberlain stating that the director of nursing in Halton does not understand the needs of North Halton and can't be very serious about over-

coming existing problems. McKenzie wrote that he felt the Board, of which he is a first year member, took positive steps in updating public health services in the county at last Wednesday's meeting but he took issue with a written report from the director of nursing which stated that the immediate need is to hire one additional nurse for North Halton.

Others' opinions

"This is not a personal opinion but rather one that has been formed after receiving in writing opinions from community leaders in Esqueving, Georgetown, Nassagaweya and Acton," the deputy-reeve stated.

The director of nursing has an excellent program on paper but it is humanly impossible for one public health nurse to adequately administer it to the citizens of Esqueving or Acton and

Nassagaweya, the letter explained.

"Since I requested a progress report at the next meeting, I feel obligated to place my expectations in writing," he said, pin-pointing four points:

Seven needed

(1) Provide seven public health nurses to administer the programs as outlined in your report to the board.

(2) Provide one additional clerical staff at Georgetown to assist the nurses in the area.

(3) Provide effective guidance and supervision for these nurses to offset working in a rural area.

(4) Give consideration to a public health nurse that provides a car and operates it during the winter season in a rural area. The present mileage arrangement works to the advantage of a nurse in South Halton.

The letter concludes, "Let us bury the past and work for

The deputy-reeve concurred with Reeve Oakes that neither county council nor the health budget could be blamed for the problems.

"How about the disparity between north and south?" Marks asked.

"I don't know of any," Reeve Oakes replied.

Councillor Bill Coats, whose wife Gloria is a nurse, said he understood nurses had felt for some time they were not able to do what they thought needed to be done in the North Halton area.

"These people have professional pride in doing their job," he said. "I believe they've all had this feeling of not being able to do what they wanted to do in this area."

CP Air lift for Grey Cup bid

Acton's centennial commissioners got an unexpected shot in the arm for their Grey Cup bid when CP Air announced Monday that they would supply free air transportation to Montreal Friday for four members of the commission to attend a meeting of the Canadian Football League.

It is expected a decision will be coming out of the Montreal meeting Friday regarding the 1974 Grey Cup site.

"We just want to be sure the CFL knows we weren't kidding when we put in an official bid for the game," said Ted Tyler Jr. with a wide grin. The quartet will stay in the Chateau Champlain, one of Montreal's poshest watering places, and is calling a news conference during the day, before returning by CP Air.

CP Air made the concession

No injuries

Five cars bear collision brunt

Two accidents were investigated by Acton O.P.P. during the past week.

Three cars, one of them new, were all damaged in a collision on Guelph St. at Lakeview. There were no injuries. Weather was bad when one car slid off the road into the ditch, and the other two cars became tangled up in the accident.

No charges were laid by the investigating officer.

Drivers were August Bollert, R.R. 4, Acton, in a '67 Ford which had estimated \$100 damage; Roy McGregor, Oakville, in a new Mercury which went down in value by estimated \$500; and Anne Luty, Acton in a '67 Rambler with \$750 damage.

All the cars were proceeding east on Guelph St. when the chain reaction occurred at 4.50 p.m. last Thursday afternoon.

Friday smash

The second accident occurred at 4.15 p.m. on Friday at the corner of Church and Frederick

Sts., and a charge was laid by Acton police.

Drivers were Albert Ware, Acton, with \$175 damage to a '64 Chev, and John Feenstra, R.R. 1, with about \$200 damage to a '65 Ford.

One of the cars was making a turn when the collision happened.

Centennial walk here?

Acton won't be hosting the district Orange parade this year after all. Instead, an effort will be made to have the district parade here in Acton's centennial year, 1974.

This year's Walk will be in Arthur now instead of Acton. This is Arthur's centennial year.

It's Peel county's turn in 1974 but local Orangemen expect to talk the situation over with other lodges and see if it can't be switched.

provided they can be known as Acton's official centennial airline, a request the commissioners had no trouble granting.

Pocket chip

"The town has set aside \$30 for the trip," noted commissioner Jack Carpenter, who first broached the Grey Cup idea, "but we'll likely have to dip into our own pockets because the room at the hotel will cost at least \$27.50."

The tremendous publicity the town has received from the Grey Cup bid has let almost the entire country know of the town's centennial. One Guelph barber told an Actonian he read about it in an Italian newspaper. Another reported the news had come over a Florida radio station reporting Canadian news.

Nation-wide coverage by press, radio and TV has developed into

country-wide interest about the small town that dared to try for the Grey Cup. The Oakville Daily Journal Record recently devoted almost a full page to coverage.

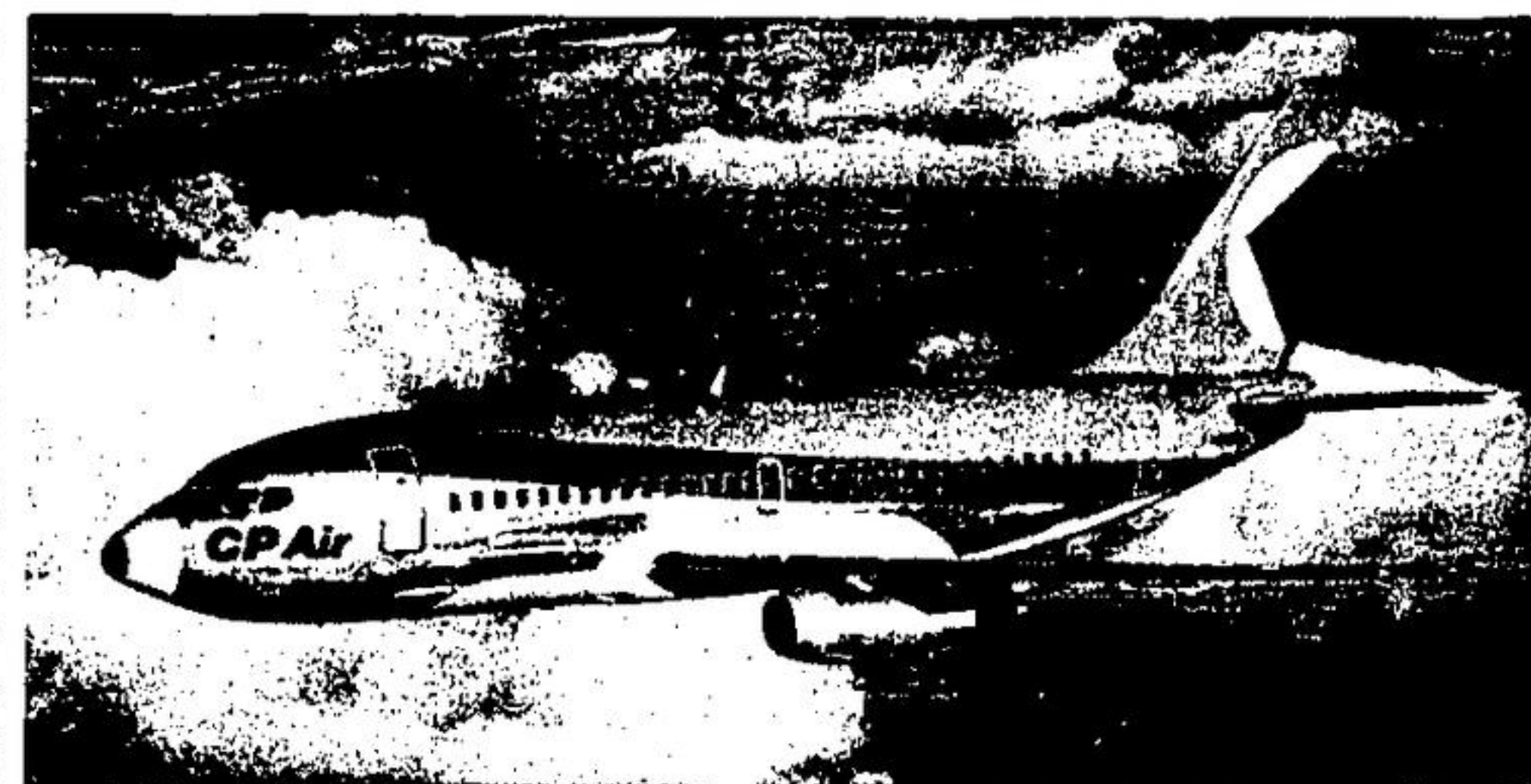
Not all pleased

Nevertheless, commissioners are aware that not everyone is pleased. Some think the bid is contributing to tarnishing the town's image and dignity. Others, confirmed anti-footballers, say they will form an anti-Grey Cup lobby.

Centennial commissioners respect the wishes of what they consider a very small minority. "Most people we have talked to are 100 per cent behind us," they say convincingly.

"It is really putting Acton on the map," said another.

"Of course it was always there but perhaps few people noticed."



CP AIRLIFT FOR ACTON