

# County forecast sparks controversy

A disagreement concerning the county's family counselling service that has been evident for some time now appears to have surfaced. At a meeting of the Community Services Committee of Halton County Council last week the County's Family Counselling Department came under criticism from both the Oakville and District Social Planning Council and the Oakville Family Service Bureau.

Both agencies appeared before the committee Wednesday in regard to a five year plan published by the Halton County Department of Social and Family Services several months ago.

The county report envisioned amalgamation of privately operated counselling services with the county service.

The Social Planning Council met privately with the Community Services Committee first and this was followed by a meeting with the Oakville Family Service Bureau. Reporters were allowed to sit in on the second meeting but on the request of the Social Planning Council, left the room for a discussion on the matter.

### Professionalism

The crux of the situation seems to centre around the degree of professionalism and who can best handle the matter of family counselling.

Both the Family Service Bureau and the Social Planning Council suggest in written briefs that a minimal requirement for a counsellor is a graduate degree in social work, a registered psychiatrist or a registered psychologist.

The Halton County counsellors all have degrees but not all are MSW's or psychologists or

psychiatrists. The Family Service Bureau listed public accountability, community participation, flexibility of policy and service, the ability to respond to need and the freedom to speak out on sensitive issues relevant to social issues as important factors in such an agency.

"We see no evidence that a tax-funded public body has or is planning to meet this minimum standard in Halton County. In the community interest we believe the Oakville Family Service Bureau must continue its counselling role unless a public body demonstrates that it can provide this standard of service," the Family Service Bureau said.

Prefer private agency  
The Social Planning Council suggested in their brief, "Results of interviews indicated a decided preference for the calibre of professionalism found in the private agency. We feel it is of paramount importance that this degree of competence be maintained so that persons requiring the service will be adequately cared for and the taxpayer will get full value for his dollar."

In a six page report to the Community Services Committee, Director of Social and Family Services Jim Gray answered criticism and reviewed the background to the problem. He recalled having a good relationship with the Oakville Family Service Bureau until Mr. Coupland was hired as an assistant and later became director of that agency. In his submission Gray notes cases where Coupland interfered in some county cases and offered gross misinformation to a client of the county body.

Gray recalls Coupland telling former Minister of Social and Family Services Tom Wells that the county counselling service wasn't professionally staffed and operated at a substandard level.

### Clean bill

At that time Gray invited the Department to investigate and after they had, the province was more than satisfied with the staff and the operation.

"It seems this man (Mr. Coupland) has, for some unknown reason deliberately set out on a course to discredit wherever possible, the County Family Counselling Service," Gray said.

Gray's report goes on to defend the county position and review the work being done and the continuing demand for the service.

After the meeting Rennie Vivian, deputy director of the county department commented on the charge that the department isn't properly qualified. He said some people feel that only those with a masters degree in social work should do the job.

### Excellent work

"There are people with various backgrounds doing excellent jobs in the field of social work without MSW degrees. We look at academic qualifications when we hire but we also look for someone who is honest and someone who people can find confidence in."

"A degree alone doesn't make a counsellor. We want as good a counsellor as we can get, but there is more to counselling than a degree," Vivian noted.

He recalled a person working as a social worker in a Children's Aid setting without an MSW and doing an excellent job. "I'd put her against a Phd any time."



PRESIDENT LEE MAGLOUGHLEN, Leonard Kirby of Collingwood and Ellis Taylor of R. R. 1 Limehouse, look over Mr. Taylor's gun collection during Sunday's show at the Acton Industrial Centre. Hundreds

of gun buffs from all over the province, the United States, Quebec and one avid collector from Lunenburg, Nova Scotia attended the show which the Halton Antique Arms Collectors Association sponsored.

## Permit building to house dogs

Esqueping Council Monday night granted Donald King of Shangri-La Farms, Lot 9 and 10,

Con. 3, permission to construct a 640 square foot building to house six German Shepherds which she maintains as protection for thoroughbred horses on the farm.

### Kohlrabi Kids

Meeting 5 of the Ballinacree North Kohlrabi Kids was held at the home of Beverly Leitch. A discussion was led by leaders on Vegetables all Year Round, and they talked about storing, preserving and canning vegetables. They opened and inspected various grades of canned vegetables, and then sampled them for dinner.

Heather Kirkwood made dehydrated soup. Kathy French and Frances McLean made an Eggplant casserole. It was an interesting combination for a meal.

Miss King said she keeps the dogs only as a means of protection for the horses and that she in no way will start operating a kennel. Council had previously announced they will issue no further kennel licenses.

Miss King said she would like to have the building as large as it is to allow the dogs room to exercise.

Deputy-reeve Russell Miller

### Miseries

Miserable weather brought the miseries in the form of colds, flu and chicken pox.

## Junior girls bow to Milton

By Mike Almon  
Last week the sports scene was rather quiet at A.I.S. All the teams were practicing very hard for future games.

Thursday, the junior girls' basketball team played their fifth game of the season at Milton District High School. They played extremely well -- (their best effort of the season), but unfortunately lost 35-20.

### Semester system very popular

By James Gibson  
Williamstown, (Humberly County), has a school interested in the Acton High School semester system. Tom Stewart, English, Len Bullock, Math and Science, Ian McMartin, Science, Chemistry, and Physics and their Vice-Principal Joe Treaster were most impressed with our school. They feel the system would benefit their school, Charlan H.S. They put questions to the students about how they liked the way the courses are run now, and received very good comments.

From my conversation with the visitors, I'd say they are quite prepared to give it a go at their Charlan H.S. We wish them the best of success.

### English class attends play

On Wednesday, November 8 Mr. Ken Ellis' grade 13 English class went to the St. Lawrence Centre to see "The Trial" by Frank Kafka.

Of special interest was the session following the performance, when the director and one of the actors discussed the play with the audience.

Our mode of transportation was private car. We returned to Acton at about 6:30 p.m., after an afternoon well spent.

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## Announce poster contest winners

Two Halton Separate School students have been chosen winners in the 15th annual fire prevention poster competition sponsored by Halton County Fire Prevention Bureau. Top girl in the contest was Karen Devlin, a 10-year-old grade five student at Milton's Holy Rosary School. The

top boy in the county-wide competition was Allen Roy, Age 11, of St. Vincent's School in Oakville.

Both Karen and Allen will be guests of honor at a Bureau awards banquet in Milton Fire Hall on Tuesday, Nov. 28. They will be presented with a certificate of merit and a desk pen set, while their schools will receive a large trophy they will retain for one year. The parents, teachers and principals of both winners are also being invited to the banquet.

### Runners-up

Also guests at the banquet will be four honorable mention prize winners. Runners-up in the boys' division were Michael Trischler of Hornby, a student at Holy Rosary School in Milton, and Craig Gordon of Acton's M. Z. Bennett School. Girls' runners-up were Nora Summerfield of Moffat, a student at Brookville School in Nassagaweya Township, and Ruthann Pritchard of Oakville's St. Vincent's School. Each will receive an honorable mention certificate.

The posters drawn by Karen and Allen will also be entered in an Ontario-wide fire prevention poster contest sponsored by the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs.

## Halton president chairman

Tom Ramautarsingh, of Georgetown, president of District 9 (Halton) of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, was selected to be chairman of one of five major seminars at the annual conference of the Ontario Association for Curriculum Development in Toronto November 9, 10 and 11.

Theme of the conference is "Relevance in the Curriculum," and the feature speaker on the first evening is Dr. W. H. Worth, Deputy Minister of Advanced Education in Alberta.

Mr. Ramautarsingh will also be workshop chairman of the conference, assisted by F. L. G. Chapman, Director of Education in York County as a consultant and Ian McHaffie of the Ministry of Education as recorder. Other Halton delegates are Dick Van Fleet, Georgetown, Mrs. Kim Thetford of Oakville, and Mrs. Irma Coulson of Burlington.

The conference will close Saturday with an address by the Hon. Thomas Wells, Minister of Education.

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**NOTICE TO VOTERS**

**1972 MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

The regular polling day for Municipal Elections is Monday, December 4th, 1972 during the hours of 11:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.

A notice has been sent to each dwelling unit in the Municipality advising the location of the polling place for the electors in that dwelling unit.

For the purpose of receiving votes of electors who expect to be unable to vote on December 4th, 1972, there will be an advance poll held at the Township of Esqueping Municipal Office, R. R. 1, Georgetown, Ontario on Monday, November 27th, and Saturday, December 2nd, 1972 during the hours of 11:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.

Every person offering himself as a voter at the advance poll shall be required, before being allowed to vote, to make a declaration before the Deputy Returning Officer. Declaration that they expect to be unable to vote on December 4th, 1972.

**Delmar French, Clerk & Returning Officer, The Township of Esqueping.**

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