

# Taking government away from North Halton—Mulkwich

Regional government proposals, says former Halton West NDP candidate Walter Mulkwich, have the potential of becoming a technocratic monster which will further growth for growth's sake because technocratic monsters have to grow.

In a submission he made to the Minister, Mr. Mulkwich contends the urban type problems will not be solved until local government is reformed to involve the people of the community meaningfully into the decision making process.

"Your proposals include no real changes in the method of representation to further this kind of involvement," he charged.

"You have failed to consider that among the many causes of problems such as overcrowding, pollution, housing shortages, etc., is the fact that local governments have not been responsive enough to the needs of the people they represent. Some citizens have expressed their lack of interest in local government by simply not voting at elections. The poor voter turn-out in municipal elections is a symptom of a disease which you have not attempted to cure in your proposal."

Mr. Mulkwich says the present system of representation was designed for a rural community where the word community really meant something, before mass

newspaper, radio, television and telephone.

As he sees it the government has not followed the need for reform to its logical conclusion. "What have you really changed?" he asked. "You have changed the boundaries but not much — as the old county boundaries are still much the same with some notable exceptions. Perhaps the biggest change you have made, and rightfully so, is to realign responsibilities so that regional level (i.e. the old county level) has great responsibilities and powers. Generally I don't quarrel with your division of responsibilities between the regional and local level, but we must note that all you have done is to reorganize an existing county government. Further you have made very little change in the methods of financing local governments and the methods of electing representatives to municipal councils."

He points out that Burlington will likely elect just as many representatives or fewer than are now elected while people in the other Halton municipalities will apparently elect less representatives. "Moreover, you have done nothing to bring government closer to the people of Burlington and have effectively taken it further from the people in the municipalities of North Halton."

"You argue that regional government

produces "greater responsiveness" without really explaining how an unchanged representative system in Burlington and less representatives in North Halton makes for greater responsiveness."

"My alternative suggestions are such that I believe will allow the people in their various communities to become more involved in the decision making process. They can be summarized as follows:

"1. The Halton Region should be divided into Wards with a population of approximately 10,000 people in the urban areas south of Number 5 Highway and approximately 2,500 people in Halton north of the Number 5 highway.

"2. Each Ward would elect by direct election one Regional Councillor to act as the representative on the Regional Council. The salary for this position should be large enough to enable the Representative to be a full time representative. Each representative would be supplied an office with secretarial and research assistance in a central place in the Ward.

"3. The Responsibilities of the Regional Council would be much as they are presently enumerated in your proposal. There is an obvious need for regional planning and controls. However, your proposal of local municipal councils should be replaced by a scheme of community councils within each Ward.

"4. Each Ward would elect one or more community councils depending on geography and other critical factors. The Regional Councillor for the Ward would be the chairman for these Councils. The basis for representation on the community council would be 1 representative for each 1,000 population in the urban areas south of Number 5 Highway and 1 representative for each 500 population in the areas north of Number 5 Highway. These community council would be given decision making powers and direct responsibilities for matters of community concern at the local level such as parks, recreation and education. Matters which come before the Regional Council would have to be aired first by the Community Councils. These Councils would then become a real forum for public opinion, would assist the Regional Councillor, and would involve the community in the decision making process before the decision was made.

"5. The first Regional Chairman should be elected rather than appointed. It is an insult to the people to suggest that someone in Queen's Park should appoint their first Chairman. Let the people speak!

"6. This reformed representative system would make the Ontario Municipal Board obsolete, contradictory, and unnecessary and it therefore should be abolished."



Private Collett with the militia's only female member Linda Street of Georgetown. —H. Coles photo.



DEAR DEER, what's that you're eating there? The presence of this two legged deer didn't interrupt the four legged variety from its search for food recently at Kortright Waterfowl Preserve near Guelph. The deer is quite friendly and unafraid of humans who walk through the trails at the preserve, even when they get as close as three year old Robert Jennings did. (J. Jennings Photo)

## Charge seven drivers after 17 collisions Plow again

Last week Milton OPP investigated 17 motor vehicle collisions in the North Halton area patrolled by the detachment's officers. Four people were hurt and property damage totalled \$13,175.

Seven drivers were charged. Accident prevention officer Jim Redpath reports just one-third of the drivers involved in these collisions were 25 years or younger. Police also investigated 58

general occurrences during the past week. Included were a break and enter, three thefts, five liquor charges, two criminal charges of impaired driving, two stolen cars recovered for other police departments and three trespassing complaints.

For the first time in weeks, town workmen snowplowed through the night Sunday. It's been over a month since night plowing was necessary.

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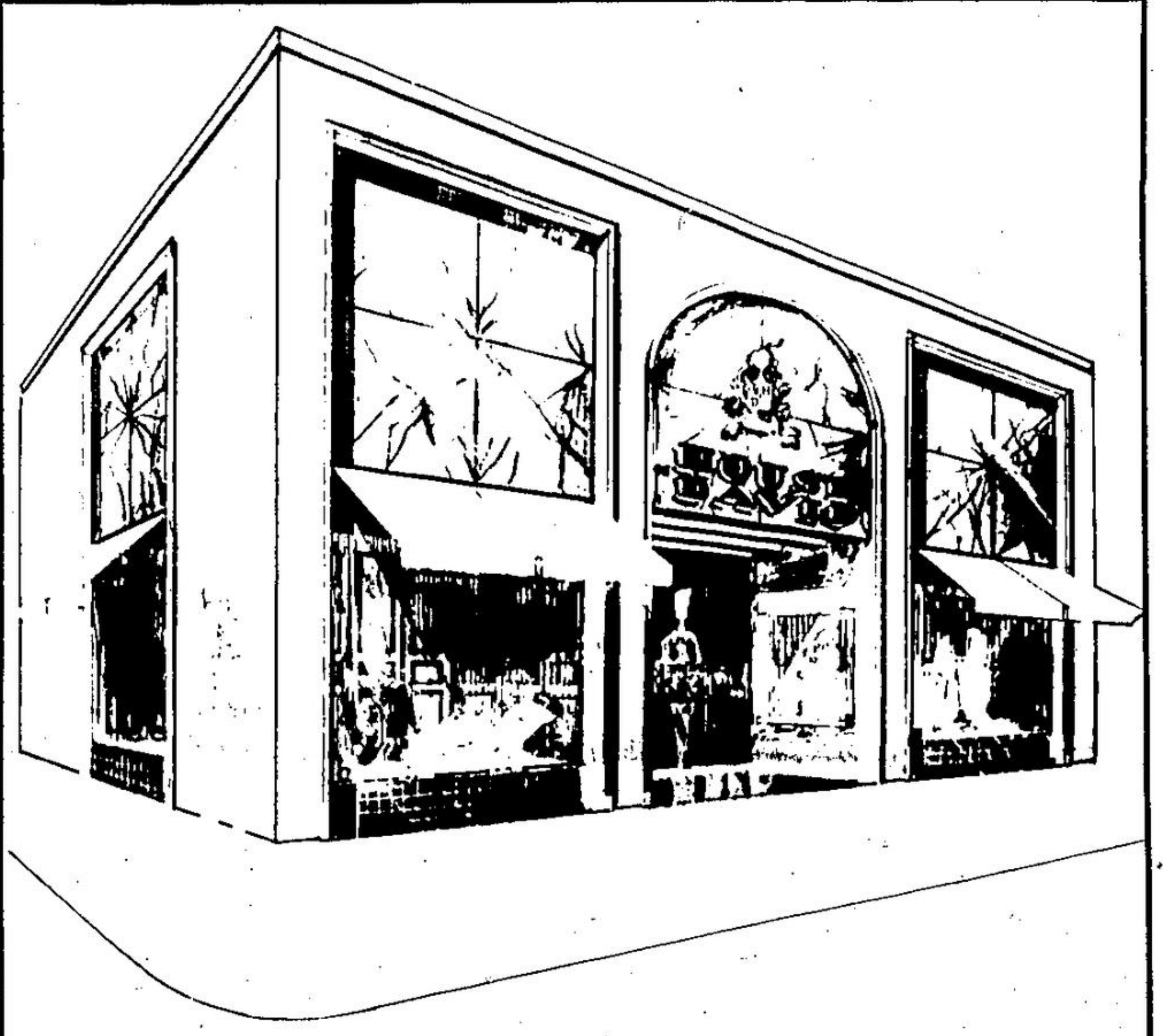
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