

Busiest holiday period for Halton road crews

Halton Region staffers charged with keeping the county's roads system open and clear from ice, rain or snow recently had one of the busiest holiday periods they have had in recent history.

According to engineer Jack Corbett and general foreman Stan Wilson, the four inch snowfall Dec. 19 marked the start of a busy two weeks.

"Since then it has been go, go, go," Wilson said in an interview. The 30 outside regional employees and the 10

contractors who work with the region in road maintenance were called out almost every day including Christmas and New Year's Eve and Christmas and New Year's Day.

Several of the men worked 14 or 15 hours, slept for a few hours and then returned to spare off another man on a plow or truck. One man worked 50 hours overtime during the two week period and the crew as a whole worked between 300 and 400 hours in overtime during those two weeks.



EMPLOYEES DAVE DEFOREST and Clark Armstrong are shown beside a grader in the new county garage. Both men and equipment were taxed to the limit during the recent two week period of bad weather.

According to Corbett, Stan Wilson practically moved into the regional garage where the operation is coordinated during the past two weeks. Corbett noted many men missed Christmas supper or Christmas morning in an effort to keep the roads in good shape.

He explained that since Dec. 19 blowing snow, rain or falling snow hampered driving conditions almost every day. The crew has 170 miles of regional roads to maintain. About 140 of those are paved and the rest are gravel roads.

Last winter staffers used 15,000 tons of mixed sand and salt plus 2,500 tons of straight salt. According to Corbett and Wilson the amount of salt and sand used in last year's relatively mild winter wouldn't be nearly enough to meet the needs this year if this weather continues.

Wilson said he couldn't guess at how much salt or sand would be needed for the balance of the season and noted it might well be that the brunt of winter has already passed.

Steady snow He explained that it wasn't any one particularly heavy storm or an accumulation but rather steady snow, rain or blown snow that made it necessary to have men and

machinery on the road almost every day. In addition to the men who operated machinery the two mechanics were called upon to work extra hours over the holiday to keep the machinery in good running condition.

Wilson explained each machine is delegated to a certain part of the county. If one area is cleaned up before another, machinery will be used to help in the other area.

"The new garage is worth its weight in gold at a time like this," Wilson said. He was referring to the new works garage just completed in the autumn. The spacious garage on Steeles Ave. at the Third Line is in direct contrast to the cramped quarters in Milton where the crew worked until the new one was built.

"It's tough having to call men day after day on what is supposed to be their day off or a holiday, and asking them to work. Their wives answer and say 'ya, he's here,'" Wilson explained.

No time Wilson would continually tell the men to take tomorrow off, only to have snow during the night and have to call them in.

"We call the day shift in as early as 1 a.m. and the night shift in as early as supper," he said. Like so many jobs that involve service for the public, little thanks can be expected. "In our business no news is good news," said Corbett, explaining that for every pat on the back the department gets a handful of complaints.



IT WAS about 30 years ago when this school class warbled through a fishing song and lined up in the school yard to get their picture taken. Back row, left to right, John Barr, George Elliott, Jack Kentner, Bill (Spike) Marshall, Ken Papillon, Jack Fields; Bill McKnight, Tom Harris. Front row Vic

Patrick, Armand Braida, Reg Spiers, John Agar, Earl —, Lorne Arbie, Andy Nichol, Paul Desserault, front row, Irma Kentner. There may be errors in these identifications; if so, let The Free Press know. How about some more pictures, old or not so old, for centennial issues of the paper?

Relocated, crowded staff ready to go

In spite of crowded conditions in some areas it appears municipal staffers working for the Halton Regional Council, Milton Council and Halton Hills Council are all ready to go.

At the regional level all of the services normally delivered from the county administration building on Steeles Ave. will continue to be handled from that building, for the immediate future at least.

By phoning 878-2801 residents can be switched to any of the regional departments operating from the building. Those services include Social and Family Services, the administration office, engineering and public works, planning and Emergency Measures Organization. Departments on the 878-2801 line that operate outside the main office include Halton Museum, Halton Health Unit and the county works garage.

Separate number Halton Centennial Manor has a separate phone and can be reached at 878-4141 while the police phone number is 878-5511.

The following are the people in charge of the various departments: Rennie Vivian, Social and Family Services; Garfield Brown, administration; Ed Cumming, Planning; Dr. J. Chamberlain, Health Unit; Bill McCrearie, EMO; Erl. Brittain, Museum; Stan Allen, Halton Centennial Manor.

In Milton municipal staffers from the old town of Milton and the Township of Nassagaweya have crowded into town hall. The building and inspection department under Ray Olan, parks and recreation department under Bob Small, clerk's depart-

ment under Jack McGeachie and works superintendent Bruce McKerr all work from town hall. Treasurer Don Loughheed and his staff will work from that area formerly used as police offices in town hall.

May go there The Brookville office that has served as the township office is still open and sparsely staffed. According to Deputy Clerk Campbell Thompson there has been some consideration to moving staff into the Brookville office to alleviate crowding at downtown headquarters.

The new number at town hall is 878-7211. That number will work for the variety of offices at town hall and at Brookville.

According to Mr. Thompson, water and sewer services will remain the function of the local government for the time being. Any queries about planning, sewers and water should go to the local level of government first. If it should be referred to the region it will be, says Thompson.

In Halton Hills the municipal staff is split between a number of locations for the time being. Staffers

will be at the former Esquing Township office on the Seventh Line, at the Georgetown office on Main St. and the engineering office on Maple Ave. E.

To Seventh Line Clerk Administrator Doug Pritchard will move from his present office on Main St., Georgetown, to the Esquing municipal building on the Seventh Line.

With him will go two secretaries and the planning department under Mario Venditti.

Treasurer Lloyd Peterson and his department will stay at 38 Main St. in Georgetown.

The inspection department, where building permits and plumbing permits are issued will move up to the engineering office on Maple Ave. E.

OFA opposes

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture has come out against the imposition of daylight saving time.

The executive of the Federation claim to have received countless telephone calls from their members opposing the possible time change.

Members are concerned about sending children to meet school buses in dark early morning hours, while dairy farmers are particularly concerned about the possibility of a "double" daylight saving time in spring and summer, when they must cure hay according to sun time.

The executive of the OFA said they could see little reason why the majority of people in the province should have an arbitrary time imposed on them, when the corporate world can adjust their schedules to that of their U.S. contemporaries and parent companies.

DANGER Drivers are reminded by the Ontario Safety League of one of the easily overlooked winter dangers. Intersections are likely to be more dangerous than other road sections, because the heavy traffic tends to polish ice and snow to a hard glaze. Approach intersections more slowly in winter.



GENERAL FOREMAN Stan Wilson and Lindsay Love are shown outside the county garage. The truck is being loaded with salt and sand ready to combat the next spurt of bad weather.

4-H clubs organize

Halton 4-H Clubs are presently organizing for the 1974 agricultural club season. A veterinary science club and a snowmobile club are operating through the winter

with about 40 members attending and plans for the new year call for the regular line-up of 4-H clubs including dairy and beef calf, field crop, horse, sheep and possibly a tractor club.

An organizational meeting will be held Jan. 16 in Milton for the sheep club, which gives members training in the breeding, feeding and management of sheep. Other 4-H clubs will be organized in the March winter break and anyone wanting information on 4-H is urged to contact the agricultural office in Milton.

Glen Eden conditions are good

Glen Eden Ski Area has been a very busy spot for the past three weeks. With the exception of a few days, the conditions have been good, and the ski club has been taking full advantage of the snow. All classes are in full swing.

The two racing training camps, before and after Christmas, were well attended and very beneficial to the youngsters. They were ably organized by Kurt Laichman and Ken Whalen, and coached by Mike Weiss and Bill Whalen.

Next weekend our red and white teams travel to London on Saturday, and Woodstock's Alpine team comes to Glen Eden on Sunday. Lots of luck to all our skiers.

Time produced Elora gorge

Time—nearly six million years to be exact, gave the Grand River valley the spectacular 70-foot deep Elora Gorge situated at the junction of the Grand and Irvine rivers.

In fact, two separate geological events, spaced almost three million years apart, were responsible for the gorge.

During the first event, the rock was formed after which the cutting action of streams

resulted in the gorge as we know it today. And the Elora Conservation Area is the location chosen by the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) for an afternoon snowshoe hike, Sunday, January 13. The hike gets under way at 1:30 p.m.

The snowshoe hike is the fifth feature of the Grand River Experience program which is designed to help valley residents enjoy the

outdoors even during the bleak winter months. Bizarre Apart from the gorge, the Elora Conservation Area abounds with caves bearing

exotic names like Ree-Chim-A-Tik, Demon's Retreat and the Sibirian Gates. At this time of the year bizarre ice formations can be seen dangling from the mouths of the caves.

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