

Stress group co-ordination at human services workshop

By Bob Hurt
Co-ordination of efforts has definite advantages in providing for the delivery of human services, representatives from statutory and voluntary agencies were told. About 150 representatives attended a workshop at Holiday Inn in Burlington Thursday afternoon and evening.

The theme of the workshop was co-ordination versus isolation and was sponsored by the Human Services Council, Council Chairman John Graham spoke of the fears and the advantages of co-ordination.

He said there was a feeling among many agencies that they had something to protect and defend. He said there was a tendency to draw territorial boundaries and for agencies to say this is my responsibility of my area—please stay away.

Many workers Graham said there was much to be gained by using a co-ordinated effort. He pointed out it was possible for a police officer, an attendance officer, a mental health clinic official, a probation officer, a welfare officer and a family physician to be working on the same case at the same time without knowing that each other is even involved.

He referred to a program operating in North Halton where the various representatives of the agencies involved meet on a regular basis to discuss cases. This way one person can co-ordinate the efforts of all and everyone is more aware of what is happening in any given situation than they did before.

According to Graham one of the biggest difficulties in establishing a co-ordinated effort is overcoming the defensive feelings and the fears of the workers.

He claimed some agencies and workers felt threatened by the development of a human services council.

Public servants
"You provide many human services in Halton so that the needs of children, families, and older people may be met. Those of us who provide services are surely servants of the public. We do not have schools so that I may have a job. We do not have recognized police so that policemen may be employed.

"But it is so easy for a role to become a purpose within itself—something to defend—my territory, my property, something to be guarded—no encroachment."

Graham said that now

workers were working together they know each other, and he saw the challenge of the future as developing a blueprint for social or human services in the region.

He said there was an inequality in services provided. He suggested in some cases there was a lot of duplication, but in other cases there was no service available.

More needed
He pointed out several problems in the human service field that currently exist in Halton. The Red Cross Homekeeper Service in Halton Hills cannot continue due to the lack of funds.

He noted there was need for developmental centres for the severely retarded young people in the region. He said there were about 30 in the region who were not attending schools for trainable retarded or adult training centres. Noting the provision of such centres is very expensive, Graham explained the two southern municipalities could fund centres through United Appeal but that agency doesn't exist in the north.

He told delegates there was a great need for Big Brothers and suggested one of every three youngsters in the primary division of Halton schools is being raised in a single parent family.

Spotting potential school dropouts from school at a young age and better liaison between public health nurses and medical doctors are among the areas they must be

tackled, Graham said.

Co-ordinator
The intent of the council is to hire a facilitator. Part of his job would be advising agencies and individuals about the services available and assisting in making sure the right people are referred to the right people at the right time. Graham said the council would be in a position to select a co-ordinator soon. The council has financial support from two ministries, a third has pledged support and the Ministry of Education has not yet agreed to grant funding for the project.

Halton Region Community Services Chairman David Coons chaired the proceedings and Regional Chairman Allan Musson issued a welcome to delegates. Margaret Birch, Provincial Secretary for Social Development was to speak but cancelled the engagement the day before.

Delegates broke up into small groups for workshop sessions and discussed pros and cons of co-ordination as opposed to isolation.

Originator speaks
Dr. Michael Thompson, Medical Director of The London Psychiatric Hospital and Director of Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, University of Western Ontario spoke following the dinner. Thompson is credited as the originator of the Human Services Council concept.

He claimed there were a number of processes most

people in agency positions go through. Thompson said his observation of the group discussions indicated the delegates were for the better part goal oriented.

He pointed out that many people born with emotional problems needed a multi approach to their problem to assist the person effectively.

Keep improving
Thompson said those involved in providing human services should be certain the

services are accessible, meet the basic needs of people and should continue to improve techniques for handling problems.

Thompson spoke of the factors that cause people to break down and end up in the courts, requiring special education or welfare.

He noted that through the Human Services Council senior administration of statutory agencies and the neighborhood citizenry are brought together.

Planters removed for snow-plowing

An inquiry into the removal of planters placed on Mill St. last spring by the now-defunct Acton Development Committee, has provided answers.

According to Ted Tyler, Jr., chairman of the committee, he was approached by the

Halton Hills Works Department requesting permission to remove them for the winter months. Mr. Tyler said they could foresee problems with snow-plowing.

The planters were removed week before last and are being housed in one of the work garages for safe-keeping. They will be replaced again next spring," said Mr. Tyler who adds, "I would have preferred to have seen small trees placed in the planters with Christmas decorations." (Evergreens replaced flowers last winter.)

Next year's blooms
Mr. Tyler says that the Development Committee, before dissolving, used some foresight. "We recognized the possibility of Halton Hills Council being too busy to concern itself with planters and put aside enough money to cover cost of plants for next year," he said. He points out that two plantings were allowed for, with money put in trust with a legal firm. "Only enough though, for one more year," said Mr. Tyler, "after that it's anybody's

Hyde upset over purchasing plan

An item on the Halton Hills finance committee agenda Monday night has Councillor Ern Hyde pretty upset.

Hyde told the works meeting he didn't think much of the idea of giving all authority over what gets bought by the town in the hands of the purchasing agent.

"Has works been consulted about this? Works is where the big bucks are spent and I want us to have input into this thing," Hyde stated.

He said the proposed by-law would give the purchasing agent the chance to decide what kinds of spark plugs, what kind of sand and salt, and what kind of machinery is bought, without really having the knowledge to make the best choice.

guess who will look after things."

He pointed out that, although some of the plants in the planters were kept in continuous bloom during spring and summer months, others were ignored and allowed to dry out and die. "It all depends who will take the responsibility and water them right in front of their own doors," he said. The committee had instigated placement of the planters as a way of brightening up the main street of Acton. "As well as being attractive they provided pedestrian safety," said Mr. Tyler. He pointed out the planters were placed strategically along the roadway to discourage jay-walking and encourage people to use the proper cross-walks.

Meet your carrier



PAUL GORJUP is the first carrier boy of the Free Press series "Meet Your Carrier". Paul is ten years old and in grade 5 at Robert Little public school. Swimming and football are this young lad's favorite hobbies. His favorite section of the newspaper is the sports section. Paul lives at 65 Bower Ave.

\$157,798 aerial is okay

Milton Fire Department will purchase a fire truck with an 85 foot aerial platform ladder. The truck will cost \$157,798 and that quote is subject to an escalation clause.

The contract was awarded to the sole bidder, King Seagrave. Council approved the purchase at a recent meeting.

The truck is one of the more elaborate models and is especially useful for fires in apartment buildings or other high buildings and for rescue missions. It will take two years to build.

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Trapped woman cut free from car

A pneumatic air chisel was used to cut a woman out of the roof of her car, after a two car accident on the Seventh Line, north of Ballinafad, early Saturday morning.

Deborah Cochrane, of Park Boulevard, Erin, was trapped in the car she was driving, and had to be cut free by Georgetown firefighters, who lifted her out on a backboard.

She and her sister, Donna Marie Cochrane, of Cochrane, were taken to Guelph General Hospital with fractures and cuts.

The driver of the other car, Fred Armstrong, 22 McIntyre Cr., Georgetown, escaped with cuts and bruises. He was taken to the same hospital and released after treatment.

Milton OPP called Georgetown fire department to free the trapped woman. Guelph OPP Constable Don Emmer-son investigated the accident.

SHOP EARLY for the RUSH

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Expect \$139,000

Milton Council met for more than two hours Monday night in an in camera discussion concerning the status of arbitration reports and settlements between Milton and Oakville and Milton and Burlington.

The reports indicate Milton will receive some \$48,347 from Oakville and a further \$91,516 from Burlington. The arbitration is necessary to settle the assets and liabilities which each municipality shares in as a result of changes of municipal boundaries last January.

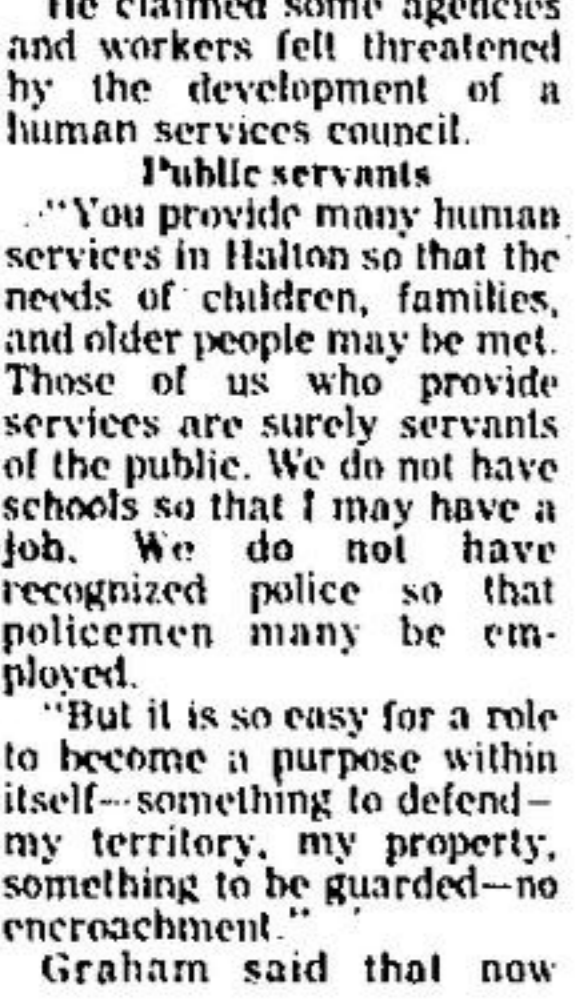
Following the meeting Monday night Milton Mayor Anne MacArthur said council

Council may appeal arbitration reports

would not be deciding whether or not to appeal until the meeting next Monday night. She explained the decision was being left until then because the council did not want to prejudice its case, should it decide to appeal later.

More than 2500 Canadians were under treatment for tuberculosis as of the end of December 1973, reports the Halton Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association, the Christmas Seal organization.

Strike? Renate Voskamp of the Streakers sends another sizzler down the bowling lane Saturday. League play is popular.



SATURDAY IS bowling day for many young people, and the bowling lanes are filled with noise and chatter and laughter. The leagues are well underway now and competition is keen.



STRIKE? Renate Voskamp of the Streakers sends another sizzler down the bowling lane Saturday. League play is popular.

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WORKS DEPARTMENT men have been busy cleaning the catch basins on Acton streets. Residents may have noticed the almost unbearable smell as the men worked. This was explained by superintendent Frank Morette as being stagnated material which had been sitting in the catch basins for six or eight months, possibly longer. Mr. Morette does not know the last time the basins were cleaned.

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