

Communication is key Dr. Philbrook's visit

Communication is one of the areas Dr. Frank Philbrook would like to improve in, as M.P. for Halton.

"We would like to improve the quantity and quality of communication with people in this riding, particularly the media," the member of parliament told this paper during an informal interview Monday. One of the ways Dr. Philbrook plans to improve this is with a column in riding newspapers. The editors may either publish the columns as they come in, or take the topics and expand on them in any form they wish. He emphasized, however, this column would not be regular.

Dr. Philbrook does not think the general public is aware of his job, and what he can do for them. The matter of personal appearances is an important one in the doctor's mind. So few groups know they can arrange for him to be guest speaker, that he is

rarely asked. He has only declined a speaking engagement twice, when the event clashed with something previously booked on his schedule.

Since his election into office, he has only formally visited Acton on three occasions, these being the introduction of letter carrier service to Acton, and the opening ceremonies of the new legion and the swimming pool.

Up until now, the only major form of liaison with constituents and parliament has been through the major Toronto daily newspapers. He feels, however, that the readership in weekly papers and he is seeking ways of becoming more oriented in this area.

He also has a mailing list and plans to send a newsletter, possibly with a questionnaire. This will cover the people who do not read any paper.

"We have work to do here in Acton in terms of activity, there is no question about that," Dr. Philbrook stated.

Emergencies

He would also like the public to know the little things he can do if emergencies arise. If someone needs a passport immediately in case of a death, Dr. Philbrook, assured it is an emergency, can have the process speeded up considerably.

He is also readily available either at home, in Oakville or in his office in Ottawa, should any problems, complaints, or suggestions arise. He wants to hear people's opinions on any subject.

"We would like more input from this area in the way of criticism, problems or anything," Dr. Philbrook told the small gathering of Acton reporters. "If I am not available, I have two secretaries who are trained to answer all questions, or help in any way."



DR. FRANK PHILBROOK, member of parliament for Halton, wants to hear more from people of Acton and district. He came to Acton Monday with local Liberal supporter Virginia Kennedy of Erin township. He talked communications with the Free Press news staff.

Halton Hills considering maintenance management

Before the town decides to hire consultants to set up a maintenance management system Halton Hills works committee is going to take at least two weeks to think it over.

Four representatives of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications appeared at Monday's works committee meeting to try and sell the town on maintenance management.

They didn't go away with a firm sale but with a promise the town will think about their idea.

"I am all for maintenance management. You have shown us it works and I think it will help us. However I don't like the idea of hiring consultants. There are a lot of people who are dead set against consultants, and I am one of them," Councillor Ern Hyde worried.

Mike Cook, Ministry of Transportation and Communications, told the committee maintenance management helps municipalities plan, organize, direct and control all their works projects.

He pointed out since everything is broken down into projects and materials when budget cuts become necessary it is easier for the councils to make cuts.

"I agree," said Councillor Mike Armstrong. "At least with this system if we make cuts we know what we are cutting. Our way we are cutting money and not works projects."

Cook pointed out since maintenance management started in 1968 the province has about 60 municipalities on the system. Over 100 towns have tried the system but some have found they can't shake off their old ways and adjust "to modern management systems," Cook explained.

He suggested it could cost as much as \$30,000 to get consultants into Halton Hills to set up a maintenance management system.

Ministry officials told councillors that Brampton, Mississauga, Halton region and Burlington all use the system and Oakville and

Hamilton have started to implement the system.

Engineer Peter Morris said he likes the idea of maintenance management because "then we can tear the budget apart. We don't have to wait until the end of the year to see what we have done. With this system everything is broken down and we can see exactly what we have cut."

Cook pointed out many councils just take whatever they spent the year before on a works program and add a little to it since costs have gone up. "With this system you know how much work is to be done and if it is less than the year before then you can cut back instead of adding automatically. Maintenance management helps budgeting and planning," he explained.

Hyde suggested the town's employees could go to other municipalities and see how things are done, study the manuals, and then set it up themselves without using consultants.

He was told by the Ministry officials other town's have tried setting up their own system but have always ended up using consultants.

Halton Hills works superintendent Frank Morette told the councillor he is in favor of maintenance management. "It is logical and the only orderly way to schedule work," he stated.

Deputy engineer Bob Austin also thought the system was beneficial.

The committee decided to look over Ministry literature on maintenance management and mull the plan over for two weeks and discuss it at their next meeting.

No change

Members of the Halton Hills finance committee are not in favor of recommending changes in municipal election dates or the fiscal year.

A resolution from Markham to end the fiscal year December 31 and hold municipal elections the first week in October was discussed by committee members but both chairman Harry Levy and vice chairman Russell Miller thought the proposals would be too disruptive, especially where it concerned the fiscal year. At present the Province ends the fiscal year March 31 and elections are held the first Monday in December.

Levy said the Province sets its estimates after December 31 and there was no way they would change it now although he felt it could be ideal if the fiscal year coincided with the end of the regular calendar year.

Councillor Miller had similar views. He felt the municipalities could do little until the province decided to make a change.

Would people come out in larger numbers for municipal elections if they were held in October instead of December?

Members mull it over with Miller noting there might be snow and ice in December but there could be rain and winds in October to

keep the people at home.

Levy remarked that everyone was jumping on the bandwagon regarding earlier elections in spite of what happened in Windsor on December 2, 1974. Blanketed by a 14-inch snowfall, there was a 37 per cent turnout of voters in Windsor to the level attained on a clear day in 1971.

Twenty-six pass course

Twenty-six fire fighters passed the standard St. John Ambulance first aid course with Mrs. Marie Hargrave as instructor, Blaire Beemer as demonstrator, and Donald Miller the Examiner.

Names are:

Herbert Dodds, Alfred Duly, John Dunn, Wilfred Duxon, Dorson Frizzell, Larry Frizzell, Albert Fowler, Kenneth Hodgson, Wayne Kelley, John Krapek, Brent Marshall, Douglas Mason, Philip McCristall, Edward McGiloway, Lloyd McIntyre, Harry Otterbein, Norman Price, Robert Price, Howard Roszel, David Shannon, William Spielvogel, Leo Synnott, Harold Townsley, John Turkos, Donald Van Fleet, and Burnes Van Fleet.

Future first aid courses will be starting up again soon. The first is scheduled for March 20, at Building Products of Canada Ltd. with approximately 30 employees partici-

ating.

On April 1 another course will begin at the Robert Little school. It is expected that 16 teachers will attend.

A pictorial explanation of what a watershed is and how it affects those who live there will be part of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority display at Square One from March 10 to 22.

Meeting called to discuss 'freezing' of rural land

Chairman Jim Reid will call a meeting of the South Esqueping and Owners' Association and other interested farmers and landowners to discuss proposals to freeze rural lands for permanent agriculture uses in the Town of Halton Hills.

Mr. Reid, a dairy farmer on the 8th Concession of Halton Hills, said "We are concerned by the much publicized pro-

posals to freeze all land into agricultural use. We do not believe this protects farm land or the farmer."

The Association's meeting for its members and other farmers and landowners in Halton Hills will be on Thursday, March 27, 1975 at 8 p.m. at Stewarttown Community Hall.

For further information call Jim Reid 877-8429.

Narcotics charges laid

On Thursday at 1:30 p.m. two youths were checked by Acton O.P.P. on Mill St. As a result, one Acton youth was charged with possession of narcotics and will appear in court June 18. Other charges are pending against him and another local youth, according to police.

On Sunday at 1:35 a.m. as a result of checking a vehicle on Queen St., Acton police charged an Acton man with

possession of narcotics. He'll appear in court June 18.

There was one liquor seizure during the week, and two persons charged with being drunk in a public place.

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