Pet of the week



"Where, oh where, has my master gone?" asks Sue, pet of Gord Thomson, R.R. 1, Acton who has been out west since June. Sue hopefully checks familiar hunting grounds every day in case he might be there.

To oversee health care

District Health Council being formed in Halton

A group that will eventually oversee the delivery of health care in Halton Region is in its "Councils will have to re-early beginnings, John Porter examine the effectiveness told a press conference last and efficiency of any existing

Porter, President of Sheridan College, was recently named the chairman of a steering committee charged with the responsibility of set-ting up a District Health Council for Halton Region. Halton is one of eight regions or counties in Ontario

that either has a District Health Council or is in the process of developing one. Regional Chairman Allan Masson and Milton Orris, a representative of the Ministry of Health, joined Mr. Porter for the meeting. Identify needs

The council, once formed, will attempt to identify health needs in the region and consider alternate ways of providing for those needs.

One of the functions of the council will be to guard against duplication of services within the region and to co-ordinate the existing ser-

Mr. Orris told reporters the council would have a great deal of clout. He explained that no agency programs or expansions will be considered by the Ministry unless it has the aprpoval of the District Health Council first.

A government booklet describing these councils says, programs. New programs will have to be evaluated as to whether they should be "instead-of programs" rather than "add-on programs."

Budget restraints The need to more closely examine health care costs has been underscored by re-cent provincial and federal budgetary measures to control health costs.

"The 70s have ushered in an era of constraints in budget allocations, so we must now look for alternatives within financial parameters. The task of bringing about the shift at the local level will fall to the councils," the ministry booklet states.

Chairman Masson described the council as one example of the province try-ing to decentralize the decision-making process.

Mr. Porter described the makeup of the council and said he felt the establishment of the council was a very positive step. He said he hoped to have his steering committee operative by the middle of September and the council in operation early in 1976. Once the council is formed, the

steering committee disbands. The council will consist of 15 members. Probably six of them will be from deliverers of health service, six from

consumers and three elected officials from regional and for municipal councils. Councils will have a fuli time executive director with

supporting secretarial staff. The Ministry of Health will cover costs of salaries and administrative expenses. Council members will not be Mr. Porter said his steering committee would hold some

public meetings and entertain

briefs and suggestions before

making recommendations

and selting guidelines for the Mr. Orris said that in the past a host of agencies have dealt with the ministry on a direct basis and approvals for programs came from Queen's Park. He explained the establishment of health councils in the region would

make it possible for people

with more knowledge in the

region to have an input in fin-

Not automatic While all new programs must have the endorsement of the councils, it doesn't necessarily mean that

those endorsed will be approved by the ministry.

vices has grown to be very complex. For example users of the system may have services provided by one or more of: the health professionals; hospitals, chronic or active or pschiatric, convalescent, private, teaching or non teaching; or by nursing homes, public health organizations, home care, mental health centres, detoxification centres, family practice units, either a health or social nacommunity health centres, ture.

The delivery of health ser-

president William A. Johnson pararily as president Johnson send a report of the meeting is currently campaigning as to Milton Council. the NDP candidate for

tion, has taken over the duties didates.

Halton-Burlington riding. NARA executive currently investigating a complaint about the Nassagaweya garbage dump.

family practice units, founda-

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of president while NARA Recreation meet The group's recreation is involved in the provincial director Phil Walker anelection campaign. The nounced plans to hold a executive asked Mrs. An- meeting for people interested drews to take over tem- in recreational facilities, and

president of Nassagaweya up a meeting for all three

Area Ratepayers Associa- provincial election can-

NARA names Andrews as acting president

Executive members also make a presentation. Land space.

Caroline Andrews, vice- Plans are being made to set Use Committee chairman Dr. Ray Durham was also asked to contact the regional solicitor to see if the voluntary services of Ric Symmes of The Sierra Club will be utilized at the hearings.

Welcome

reminded their accounts of discussed the hearings into meetings are always is the Springbank Gravel ap- welcome. Please just report plication and authorized what is important; the correspondence with Halton minutes and usual minutes Region Conservation and treasurer's report can Authority asking IIRCA to easily be left out to save

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