



Hugh Patterson

Salesmen beware

Town's purchasing agent watching for price jumps

Salesmen beware! Halton Hills purchasing agent Hugh Patterson will be on the lookout for price increases.

"The municipality will act the same as any citizen. If we come across a price increase which we feel is exorbitant, then we will take steps to make the increases known to the federal Prices Review Board," Patterson said in a recent interview.

He noted a number of salesmen who have visited his office trying to sell merchandise to the town have mentioned and discussed the new price and wage regulations. Patterson sees an average of four salesmen every day.

"If I come across a price quote which I think is too high I will certainly ask if it is a typing error," Patterson half joked. "I will be asking for explanations and if they aren't reasonable I intend to follow through and contact Ottawa. Even if the explanation of a price increase is reasonable but I still think the increase is unreasonable I will follow through and have it checked. I must be on guard for salesmen's propaganda."

The former deputy clerk-treasurer of Acton, who became the new town of Halton Hills' first purchasing agent when the municipality was born in January 1974, said because of the mail strike his office has yet to receive information on

reporting suspicious price increases to the Prices Review Board.

Patterson expects that once mail is moving again the town will receive much information about the new regulations.

He says the mail strike is causing some inconveniences for the town but has yet to result in any really serious problems. Patterson pointed out many of the salesmen who visit him these days are bringing invoices with them. He added the town doesn't have a lot of bills, such as tax bills, which have to go out right now.

Like most people in the town's money department Patterson is worried that the strike will continue to the end of the year and raise havoc in completing the year-end accounts.

"We have piles of cheques here waiting to go out and this strike could make a mess of the year-end accounting with so many accounts receivable and accounts payable outstanding," he observed.

As purchasing agent he would like to see the town employees all under one roof because as things stand now with municipal employees scattered all over he isn't really able to help other departments the way he would like to.

"Everything the town buys I handle but in many cases it is just a case of my signing the purchase order. I am not an expert on buying works equipment or a computer for the treasury department so I have to seek out the advice of the experts in those fields."

"In a lot of cases the various department heads are having to go ahead and take care of some purchasing themselves because I'm not accessible to other staff members. If I were handling various departments I could do some more of the work which goes into purchasing, such as getting quotes, and still get their advice about

quality of a product."

Patterson works in the Main Street, Georgetown, finance offices.

Another new development he is looking forward to is finding space in the town for storage so more bulk buying can be done.

"One way to guard against inflation is to buy items the town repeatedly purchases in bigger lots but we don't do that now because we don't have storage area and I think the day is coming. The purchasing department might take over the old fire-hall building at the Esquesing offices. It would be an ideal storage building."

While many people complain about the cost of regional government, Patterson can come up with a number of examples where it is actually saving money.

Since the birth of regional government in Halton the four area municipalities and the region have been getting together and buying items needed by everyone in bulk.

"The five municipal bodies get together and buy everything from salt and sand, culverts, heating oil and gasoline to light bulbs and pens and pencils. This usually means a discount of at least 25 per cent and sometimes other regions and their area municipalities get into the act and we all buy

things together." He added Peel and Niagara regions often purchase items along with Halton.

Patterson says towns used to get together to buy commonly needed products from time to time but not as often as they do now that regional government has come into being.

He thinks Halton Hills is working out pretty well and believes in the long run regional government is going to work out to the satisfaction of everyone.

Patterson said he really enjoyed his two years work in Acton as a municipal official and misses the close association with the ratepayers and councillors he enjoyed in ward one.

Before he began working for the town of Acton he spent seven years with Disston Saw as materials manager and three years as purchasing agent at Beardmore

Tories named to leadership rally

About 75 Halton Tories selected six people from their midst to help choose the next Leader of the federal Conservative party, at a meeting Thursday in Milton.

The six candidates will meet with the riding association executive to get some guidance and feeling of what the riding is looking for in its new leader. The mover of that motion made it clear that the delegates were not being told to vote en masse or vote as directed, but rather to get a broader feeling of what the executive was looking for in its next leader.

Fran Baines of Georgetown, John Ham and Mal Thorn of Oakville were chosen as delegates. Riding president Bob Jones is a delegate by virtue of his office as president.

Louise Drowley and John Chamberlain are youth delegates to the convention.

Name alternates Alternates include Dorothy Chamberlain, Tudor Beatty, Len Sancil, Kelly New, Gord Tate and Penny Bennett.

A new executive was elected during the meeting. Bob Jones was re-elected as

president, Mal Thorn as first vice-president, Fran Baines second VP, Wendy Bykus third VP, Dorothy Chamberlain as treasurer and Marilyn Sancil as secretary.

Area presidents include Russell Stock, Ken Allen, Jack Robertson and Terry Rayner from East, Central, West and North Oakville respectively.

Other area presidents include Jim Death of Milton, Glen Magnusson of Georgetown and Eleanor Taylor of Hillsburgh.

Convention schedule During the meeting Ontario Director for the Federal P.C.'s Gord Howe outlined the itinerary for the convention Feb. 19-22 and ran the election for delegates.

Fees for delegates attending the convention run from as low as \$25 to as high as \$150. Howe explained that while adult delegates with full

voting status pay \$150, most of that becomes a tax deduction and the actual cost for the delegate in most cases will work out to about \$37.50.

A special tribute to outgoing leader Bob Stanfield is planned for the second day of the convention, with candidate speeches and hoopla on the third day and finally voting on the Sunday.

Jim Singleton wins award

Former Director of Education for the Halton Board of Education Jim Singleton is this year's winner of the Ontario Association of Education Administrative Officials OAEAO Award for Leadership in Education.

Pet of the week



POSING JUST so elegantly is Tammy, a white and gold colored part Collie and Samoyed. Tammy is adapting well to Halton's outdoors after living in Mississauga until the end of October when Tammy's family, the Littles of Rosemary Road, moved here. Tammy was born a year and a half ago in Nova Scotia.

New Democrats in good financial shape

The Halton-Burlington New Democratic Party is in good financial shape for the next provincial election, riding association treasurer Brendan Aherne reported to local party members at a meeting Wednesday night.

Aherne noted the local party began last year's election campaign with \$1,380.69 and with donations, spent a total of \$6,927.79 on the recent election campaign. Aherne forecasted the local NDPs should have about \$6,300 to begin next election with.

"Our position financially," he told the gathering, "is a pretty sound one."

Ron Lewis was acclaimed president of the local riding association at the meeting, while Ruby Armstrong was acclaimed to the position of general vice-president. Bill Johnson, NDP candidate in Halton-Burlington during the last provincial election, was named Acton vice-president while Richard Brochu was named Burlington vice-president, Marj Farrell Milton vice-president and Morley Mills Georgetown vice-president.

Harold Robertson was acclaimed to the post of recording secretary with Aherne continuing as treasurer. Archie Brown will be organizing secretary, Sheila Lippai will be membership secretary while Jean Petrie and Martha Lewis will act as auditors.

In a brief address former candidate Johnson, who trailed present Liberal MPP Julian Reed and PC Gary Dawkins in the September election, told the gathering the party learned a lot from this election and while making gains this time, they will make even greater gains next election.

Johnson noted the need for more campaign workers, acknowledging the work of the people helping him in the last election. "We are growing and we will continue to grow," rationalized Johnson.

\$1.4 million over budget - board deficit \$400,000

Halton Board of Education has exceeded its 1975 budget by \$1.4 million because of large salary increases to teachers and other employees and a fire at an Oakville school.

hadn't expected the huge settlements, which resulted from negotiations, when the budget was struck. The large fire at an Oakville school also threw the books out of kilter.

Superintendent of Business and Finance Bruce Lindley gave the board the bad news Thursday. He predicted that by the end of the month the board will have gone over budget by \$600,000 at the elementary level and \$800,000 at the secondary school level.

He told the trustees that at both levels grants will help reduce the deficit. Lindley expects \$400,000 in provincial grants to help get the elementary panel out of the red and \$800,000 from Queen's Park to help balance the books at the secondary level.

He noted the board is eligible for 60 per cent grants from the province because it operated well within spending ceilings.

Lindley told the board the remaining \$400,000 deficit should be covered by the supplementary assessment on homes built during the year in Halton which should arrive in board hands at the end of the year. He noted the last few years' supplementary assessment has brought between \$400,000 and \$500,000 into board coffers.

He said the board had budgeted for wage hikes but

buildings for horses

Martin

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