

Health Unit may face layoffs

Halton Regional Board of Health as well as other boards across the province may have to face layoffs due to provincial cutbacks in health spending.

During a meeting Wednesday, the board froze staff at its current level and with one exception told key staffers that even replacements for people leaving the Health Unit could not be hired without the consent of the board.

One exception to that rule was made Wednesday when Director of Nursing Dorothy Craig explained a data control person had resigned and that program depended on another person being hired. It could not continue otherwise, she felt.

A memo from the Ministry of Health spelled out the problem for the board. Deputy Minister S. W. Martin said, "In planning for 1976, you should work from the concept that the Ministry will be making every possible effort to contain operating costs at the lowest possible level."

The Board of Health directive is accepted as an example of what is expected to become a trend across the province in many departments.

However health seems to be singled out along with education as two fields eating up more of the provincial funds than considered reasonable by officials in the provincial treasury department.



ACTON HYDRO Commissioners held a retirement presentation for custodian Herbert Ritchie during their December 11 meeting. Front row, left to right, Ted Tyler Sr., Herbert Ritchie, Wilf McEachern (chairman). Back row, Orville Brown, Bob MacArthur and Les Duby.

Limehouse resident

Wrecking yard still a problem

The wrecking yard in the village of Limehouse is an unresolved problem to the residents. Jim Stansbury, Fifth Line, told Halton Hills council, Monday night.

He said a committee was formed after a public meeting, and a 260 name petition was drawn up. "We didn't want to come as a large delegation loudly protesting, we wanted to act in a reasonable manner."

He listed the objections to the wrecking yard, originally included in the petition, and cited danger to children because of traffic and encroaching fence, the location on top of historic lime kilns, and on the Niagara Escarpment, and the eyesore in the middle of the village. He said the residents had tried to stop the present expansion and asked council to reconsider renewing the licence.

"We were told the matter was being studied by the solicitor, and were asked to hold off in the best interest of the town. We did this, but four months later nothing has happened."

Mr. Stansbury said he read in the newspaper that council had stopped any further action against the owner, because the fence had been moved back and now conforms with the bylaw.

Mr. Stansbury said the fence was not the real problem. "The fence is as ugly as what it contains." He said he was not urging council to put anyone out of business, but asked for a long term solution. He said he would like a committee of residents to work with a committee of council to work out a long term solution. "We'd like to know what his solicitor's report said and what is happening."

Mayor Tom Hill pointed town solicitor Ray Steele was in the council chamber and could answer.

Councillor Ern Hyde claimed it was improper to ask the solicitor. He said council meeting was no place to get into a legal matter.

Councillor Ric Morrow agreed with Hyde, and suggested it be referred to the administration committee.

Councillor Harry Levy said he would repeat his previous warning, and asked council not to prejudice anything they can do by airing the subject in public. He agreed the matter should be dealt in committee.

Councillor Les Duby, said Mr. Stansbury would be welcome at the administrator committee, and promised they do their utmost to help him, but warned there is a limit to what can be done.

101,926 people in Burlington

BURLINGTON—City ward boundaries could be changed for the next municipal elections this fall to reflect population changes in Burlington. Since the time of the last election population has risen by 8,268. In 1973 the population of Burlington was 93,658 but two years later it has grown to 101,926. The city is going to investigate the population of each of the eight wards.

Drive? Don't drink police give warning

"We hope everyone will abide by the rules of the road and be vigilant in their approach to drinking and driving." Staff Sergeant Bernie Ward said Tuesday.

His men on the Acton detachment will be making their normal patrols, maintaining their usual policy—people apprehended driving under the influence of alcohol will be charged.

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Receives plaque at meeting

Acton Hydro Commission sent Herb Ritchie's retirement off to a flying start during Thursday evening's meeting.

Mr. Ritchie retired last month after serving with the Commission as custodian for eight and a half years. Now in his 70's, he refused to sit still after reaching the usual retirement age and worked at Prospect Park in the summers before finding contentment in the then-new Hydro office.

At their annual Christmas meeting, chairman Wilf McEachern read a dedication to Mr. Ritchie which outlined his past life. The gentleman was astonished hearing some of the parts. He explained that he did not think anyone knew a lot of the information, and queried Mr. McEachern as to his source, but received no answer!

The dedication included a picture of Mr. Ritchie in his working clothes, the address and the signatures of the Hydro Commission and all the staff.

A plaque was also presented to him in honor of his years of service for the Hydro. His wife, who did not attend the meeting, received a bouquet of flowers.

Taking Mr. Ritchie's place is Jim Paton.

Minor injuries car collision

An Acton housewife and three of her children suffered minor injuries Saturday morning when her eastbound car struck a parked car on Highway 7, one mile west of the Seventh Line.

Police said Mrs. Haefner was passing another car in a 1973 Mazda when she lost control and swerved into a parked car owned by Clarence Rognvaldson of 265 Main St. N. in Acton.

Police estimated damage to the Mazda and the parked 1974 Ford at \$1,200 combined.

The St. Clair River Tunnel, linking Michigan and Ontario, was built in 1890.

Hopefuls on hustings

About 75 people, many of them delegates to the Ontario Liberal leadership convention, gained some exposure to four of the candidates anxious to take over the reins from Liberal leader Bob Nixon.

Lawyers Mark McGulgan, Albert Hoy and David Peters and psychiatrist Stuart Smith each spoke to the candidates, alternates and others interested enough to kick in \$25 for the dinner and evening of political entertainment, Thursday in Oakville.

McGulgan flew into the meeting late, having announced his candidacy in Toronto that afternoon, flown to Ottawa and back in time to be in Oakville by about 10 p.m.

Having a decision on oratorical excellence, Dr. Stuart Smith would walk away with the leadership trophy. Smith said the Liberals had not made their message clear during the last election.

He said a Liberal government under his leadership would support small business. "The big guy has got it all his own way. There is no genuine free enterprise anymore," he said.

Smith said the Liberal party was the only one that could protect the public from large unions and large corporations.

On education, Smith said higher education should be available to more people than just those leaving high school. "The idea of university and college as an extension of high school should have gone out a long time ago."

He said it might be a good idea for people to work a year or so before going on to university. "University should be for those training for something or wanting to learn something. They should not be there because they need a certificate for a job."

Smith realized that the government move to close some hospitals throughout the province was a necessary one, but he felt it was being done all wrong.

government had no plan or criteria on which to base the closing of hospitals. He said the government plan would see across-the-board cuts.

Smith was of the opinion that under the current health care system there was no reward for a doctor who did not put people in hospital for longer than necessary, or for a hospital that operated efficiently.

"Offended" Dave Peterson, a London

lawyer and rookie MPP, continued to pump away at government spending. "You don't have to be in the legislature long to be offended by the waste. Many people there can be replaced by signs."

A Liberal critic on energy, Peterson said the Tory \$30 billion expansion program was based on a finite resource and would bankrupt the province.

"There is no rationale

behind so many of the government decisions. The only reason the seatbelt legislation was introduced was because Jimmy Snow got hit by a car," he charged.

Albert Hoy of Ottawa said the provincial health programs had mushroomed because hospitals are set up to be paid on a per patient day basis. He said there was no sense of accountability, no cost benefit analysis.

Levi's

GWG

Lee

Seasons Greetings

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Acton Community Centre	Georgetown Memorial Arena	Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena
PUBLIC SKATING	PUBLIC SKATING	PUBLIC SKATING
Dec. 21, 22, 24, 29 & 31/75 Jan. 2, 1976. 1:40 p.m. until 3:40 p.m. December 27, 1975	Dec. 23, 26 & 30, 1975 January 2, 1976. 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. December 27, 1975 & January 3, 1976 8:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m.	Dec. 22, 24, 29 & 31, 1975. 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. December 27, 1975 & January 3, 1976 2:15 p.m. until 4 p.m.
Admission: Children: 25¢ H.S. Students: 35¢ Adults: 50¢ Family: \$1.00	Admission: Children: 25¢ H.S. Students: 35¢ Adults: 50¢ Family: \$1.00	Admission: Children: 25¢ H.S. Students: 35¢ Adults: 50¢ Family: \$1.00
FAMILY SKATING	FAMILY SKATING	FAMILY SKATING
December 23 & 30 1975 1:40 p.m. until 3:40 p.m. \$1.00 per family	Dec. 22, 24, 29 & 31, 1975 1:15 p.m. until 2:45 p.m. \$1.00 per family	Dec. 21, 23, 26, 28 & 30/75 January 2 & 4, 1976 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. \$1.00 per Family
SHINNY HOCKEY	SHINNY HOCKEY	SHINNY HOCKEY
Dec. 22, 23, 24, 29, 30 & 31 January 2, 1976 10:25 a.m. until 12:25 p.m. \$1.00 per person	Dec. 24, 26, 29 & 31, 1975 January 2, 1976 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. \$1.00 per person	Dec. 22, 23 & 30, 1975. 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. \$1.00 per person

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