

Urban-rural setting intrigues students

Planning duties in the Hills are expected to prove educational, interesting and



RYERSON POLYTECHNICAL INSTITUTE planning student Doug Kostaschuk is working for the Halton Hills planning department this summer.

challenging, two Ryerson Polytechnical Institute urban planning students said in a recent interview.

Doug Kostaschuk and Lee Ann Hall joined the town's planning staff on May 3. They are just two of many planning students sent out to work for municipalities under a provincially financed program in which the town pays 20 per cent of the student's wages and Queen's Park 80 per cent.

Miss Hall, age 21, is about to enter her fourth and final year of studies at Ryerson this September. She is a native of Guelph and so somewhat familiar with Georgetown, Acton and Esquesing.

She says she is taking urban planning because "it is really the only thing that has ever interested me. I don't know why it has always interested me but I know I first got interested while taking urban geography in high school," Miss Hall explained.

She is no rookie at urban planning work, having spent one summer holiday season away from school doing surveying for a firm in Guelph. Last year she was employed by the City of Kamloops, British Columbia.

Halton Hills won't be her first exposure to an amalgamated municipality since Kamloops had gone through the same process just before she worked there.

"In Kamloops I worked all summer on the preparation of a comprehensive zoning by-law," she said, noting that Halton Hills is busy from time to time developing compre-

hensive and consolidating by-laws also.

Miss Hall is delighted to be working in Halton Hills this summer since she says she is a small town oriented.

"I really like this area. I like the open space and green grass which I don't see much of in Toronto. I would enjoy moving here for the summer but can't because I have to stay at my apartment in Toronto so I will still have it next September," she explained.

Halton Hills was her first choice for work of several municipalities to which she applied. She was pleased when she was picked to come here.

"Working in a small planning office is really nice and I expect to receive a different type of planning experience here this summer. It is an excellent educational opportunity."

Both Miss Hall and her partner for the summer Mr. Kostaschuk hope to enter municipal planning following graduation next year.

Like Miss Hall, Kostaschuk will be going into his fourth year of urban planning studies this September.

A native of Ottawa, he is 24 and already has a B.A. in urban geography from

Carleton University. It was at Carleton he discovered a love for urban planning. He switched to Ryerson with advanced standing in some courses after he graduated from Carleton.

"I have a long time interest in urban affairs," he said, explaining why he decided to become an urban planner.

Last summer Kostaschuk was busy working on the formulation of a housing policy and land use studies with the City of Vanier, an Ottawa suburb.

"I wanted to work in Halton Hills this summer since it is close to Toronto. I will be moving here this summer and staying with friends," he explained.

Since he has come here Mr. Kostaschuk has seen quite a bit of the town. He says Halton Hills is scenic. He is equally impressed with the many well kept farms.

"Halton Hills consists of a lot bigger area than I expected. It is almost a mini-region within a larger region. The rural-urban mixture is extremely interesting and should be very educational since our course is mostly urban oriented. I expect my work in Halton Hills this summer will turn out to be a

more educational experience than last year," he observed. Continuing on the same subject, Mr. Kostaschuk said he is pleased to see the enthusiasm people in the planning department have and their willingness to teach him and Miss Hall. He added his work in Halton Hills "should be a good, well rounded, educational experience."

They both think the program of sending planning students out for the summer which Queen's Park has developed is excellent "and a great benefit to both students and municipalities."

Their work in Halton Hills will be two-fold this summer.

They expect to learn much about the day-to-day operation of the planning department and work on land severances and surveying and also busy themselves with some recreation planning, a land severance policy and a commercial study of Georgetown and Acton.



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Human Services way must change — study

Funds for the Halton Human Services Council expire in June, and research director Dr. Maurice Kelly says the council should disband in its present form. He has been evaluating the project since October.

A special conference was held May 10 and 11 to assess the worth of the 18-month experimental project. It is sponsored by the provincial ministries of health, education and correctional services and the region of Halton.

Dr. Kelly, associate professor of social work at Wilfrid Laurier University, sees two options.

"It could become a citizens' advisory group to the administrative organization with a broadly based citizen membership."

As a citizens' group, he said the council should seek regional councillors as members and give advice about the spending of public funds. He outlined successes and failures of the present

council. It was formed in the early 1970's by professionals concerned about gaps and duplication in community services.

He recalled there are several systems of service, including police, health unit, Children's Aid, probation services and education which each have their own histories and communications networks and methods, although they are sometimes dealing with the same people.

He praised the council for tangible accomplishments such as the Acton Community Services Centre, the credit counselling service in Oakville, the ad hoc committee for the district health council, extension of telephone information service in North Halton, homemaker service for North Halton.

Mr. Kelly also reported the council had failed to achieve credibility and there was little support for its continuation. However he said citizens agreed some type of

planning body for human services is needed.

"Those attending the conference and workshop discussed at length various possibilities. Suggestions were to be turned over to the region for consideration."

In his report Dr. Kelly stated that the Halton Human Services Council initiated a community meeting in Acton, which chose a steering committee to pursue development of a multi-service centre. "This centre has been funded and is now in operation."

Peter Marks, chairman of the Halton Human Services Council, remains an active participant in the planning and organization of the Community Services Centre here.

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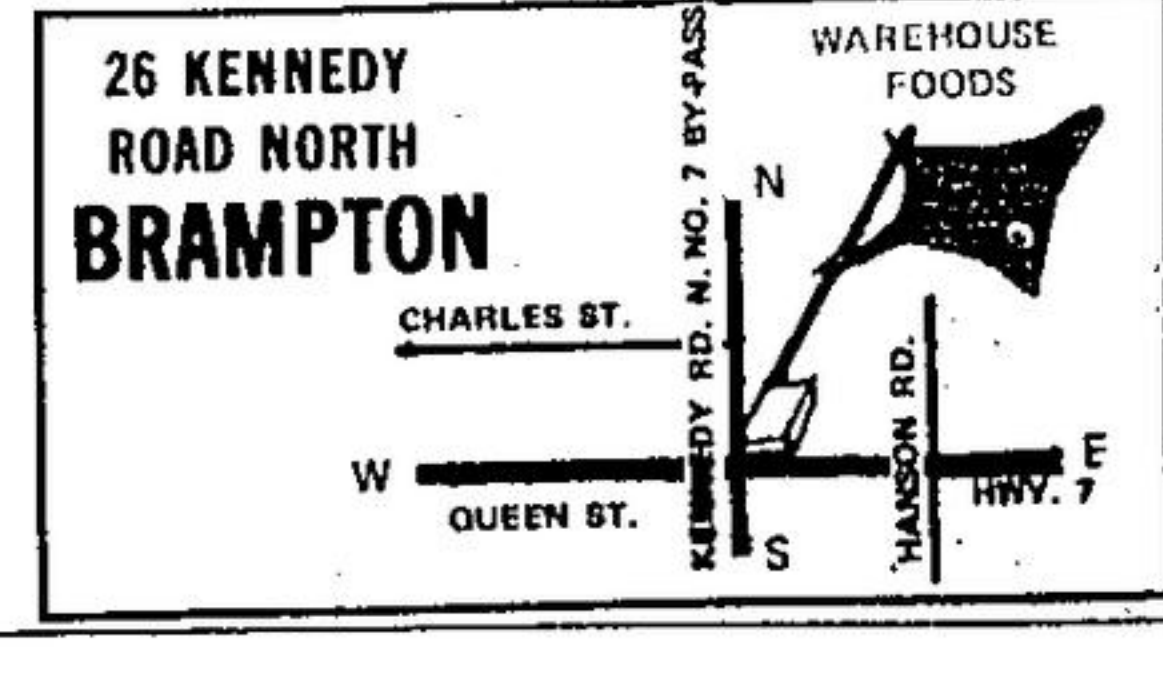
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