



JIM SHEWCHUK, new member of Halton Hills planning department.

Planner added to town staff

An intermediate planner, Jim Shewchuk, has been added to the staff of Halton Hills planning department. Mr. Shewchuk, 29, started work Monday morning, and was hired at a salary of \$15,704.

The new planner came here from the town of Richmond Hill, where he was in the planning department for three years, after graduating from York University in 1974. Before going to York, he

attended Leaside High School. Mr. Shewchuk will be concentrating in the area of development control, including plans of subdivision, project planning, land severances and minor policy formulation. He will also establish an information bureau for all agencies.

Mr. Shewchuk and his wife live in Downsview, but plan to move to Georgetown eventually.



REGIONAL DIRECTOR of the Caribbean region of the International Y's Men's club Sam Irving of Spanish Town, Jamaica, visited Acton Y's Men Monday. On the left is club president Rick Aldridge; on the right Rick Coe, district governor for Central and Niagara district, presents him with a leather key case. Mr. Irving's shirt is printed with Y's Men's symbols.

Limehouse

N.E.C. approves kennel Planning Board agrees

The Niagara Escarpment Commission has approved a permit for kennel building on the Robert McLeod property on the Limehouse Road, between the Fifth and Sixth Lines.

In addition, the town solicitor has told Halton Hills council they have no alternative but issue a kennel licence since the application complies with the by-law, according to Councillor Roy Booth.

At planning board, last week, Booth a member of the N.E.C., pointed out the N.E.C. had approved the building permit. A letter was being discussed at the meeting asking if the building would conform to the Official Plan and Zoning by-law.

Booth explained the letter was sent prior to the Commission approving the permit at a meeting the previous week. He said approval was given pending a reply from council.

Planner Mario Venditti explained that if the town recommended against the issuance of the permit the N.E.C. would review the decision and may or may not change their mind.

Councillor George Maltby termed the N.E.C. action of sending a letter asking for comment, then three days later making the decision without having received a reply, "presumptuous".

Chairman Roy Booth pointed out the kennel can operate without a building to house the Siberian Huskies, and claimed the kennel was being erected mainly to alleviate the noise. "The N.E.C.

Halton Regional Solicitor Mike Martin has announced his resignation. He will leave the region to join a firm of Toronto lawyers. Martin joined the region in 1975 as an assistant to Noel Bates.

looked at it that way, too." He said the N.E.C. was simply asking if the dog kennel contravened the Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw. "The planner has already said it conforms with our existing by-law."

Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson said Mr. McLeod bought the land after

receiving tentative approval from council in October that a kennel could be operated, subject to the approval of the health and building departments.

Both Maltby and Serjeantson wanted to set conditions before sending the letter to the N.E.C., but Booth maintained the N.E.C. would

do that anyway.

Planning Board voted to tell the N.E.C. they had no objections, since it conformed to the Official Plan.

Residents in the area presented a petition to council a month ago, objecting to the kennel, claiming the noise was disturbing the neighborhood.

Committee talks tough line on budget

Halton Region's Administration Committee wants to take a hard line on budget increases this year. The committee instructed staff to stay within a 7.8 per cent increase in this year's departmental estimates.

During the committee discussion Wednesday, Chief Administrative Officer Ernie Reid told the committee that the level of service would have to be reduced and he indicated the impact would be a very real one. He had suggested a goal of 14 per cent would be more realistic.

Committee members agreed that 7.8 per cent increase should be the goal and the goal should be met. Burlington Councillor David Coons wanted a commitment from the treasurer and chief administrative officer that the two would take a tough and arbitrary position with department heads when budgets are submitted.

Reid told the committee it should set realistic guidelines and then be ready to accept the cuts when staff recommends them.

He objected to the committee setting a goal and then telling staff that if they need a bit more, come back for per-

mission. "If you say 7.8 per cent it can be done. It will be tough and it will mean a reduction in the level of the service offered but it can be done."

Treasurer Don Farmer said the guideline is a good idea but he suggested there should be some flexibility. "We haven't put pen to paper yet but we know we have additional debt charges for sewage plants that will be coming on in 1978."

On one hand the committee

was adamant that staff take a tough and arbitrary position but on the other hand, the committee suggested, staff shouldn't take an inflexible position.

"I don't want the staff to say it is 7.9 per cent and that is it," Coons said.

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett said restricting new programs and cutting back on existing ones is the only way to control the budget. "We did it in Oakville and it worked and we should be doing it here."

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CAS fights province

About 18 children currently living in homes operated by the Halton Children's Aid Society could be transferred to institutions outside the region if the society is not permitted a 39.7 per cent budget increase according to the CAS director, Ron Coupland.

The Halton agency has rejected a 26 per cent increase offered by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and requested that a Child Welfare Review Committee be appointed to examine the 1977 budget request for a 39.7 per cent increase to \$1,589,616.

The 39.7 per cent increase had been approved by Halton Regional Council. The original CAS request was for a 60 per cent increase.

The Child Welfare Review Committee will consist of a chairman appointed by the province and appointed representatives from the region and the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies.

Mr. Coupland said if the 39.7 increase is not allowed the Society will have to discharge nine employees and send about 18 children currently in homes to institutions outside of Halton because there aren't proper facilities in the region to handle them.

The society is now working on a line of credit and having to borrow money to pay bills based on the 39.7 per cent budget increase which had been approved by the region. If they are held to a 26 per

cent increase Mr. Coupland said they would have to apply for a supplementary budget from the province which covers child care but does not cover any increases in staff salaries or the costs of occupying a building.

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