

Delay in takeover could cost \$1,500,000

Halton Regional Council's decision to delay any activity on a regional road system in Halton could cost the region approximately \$1,500,000 in transitional grants.

Council decided several weeks ago that because of heavy financial pressures in other areas and council's relative satisfaction with the old county road system that plans for a regional system would be deferred.

Council asked the province to extend the deadline for the grants for another five years, but learned recently that the province has rejected that proposition.

A regional road system would have included taking miles of new roads into the system. Most of the roads being considered for inclusion are in Burlington and Oakville.

Under the county system a high percentage of the roads are in the north. Some southern councillors favored the regional road proposal, because they feel their communities are being unfairly taxed to support roads in the north.

Public Works Chairman Jack Raftis was a key figure

Regional Briefs

Among the bills passed and recommendations approved at the Oct. 5 meeting of regional council were:

- a request to the Ministry of Health to increase the subsidy for homemaker services from 80 per cent to 100 per cent;

- a bill providing for standards of installation and maintenance of regional sewer and water services and establishing the cost of these services;

- the award of tenders for road sand and rental of snowplowing equipment and sanding trucks.

Acton man is injured

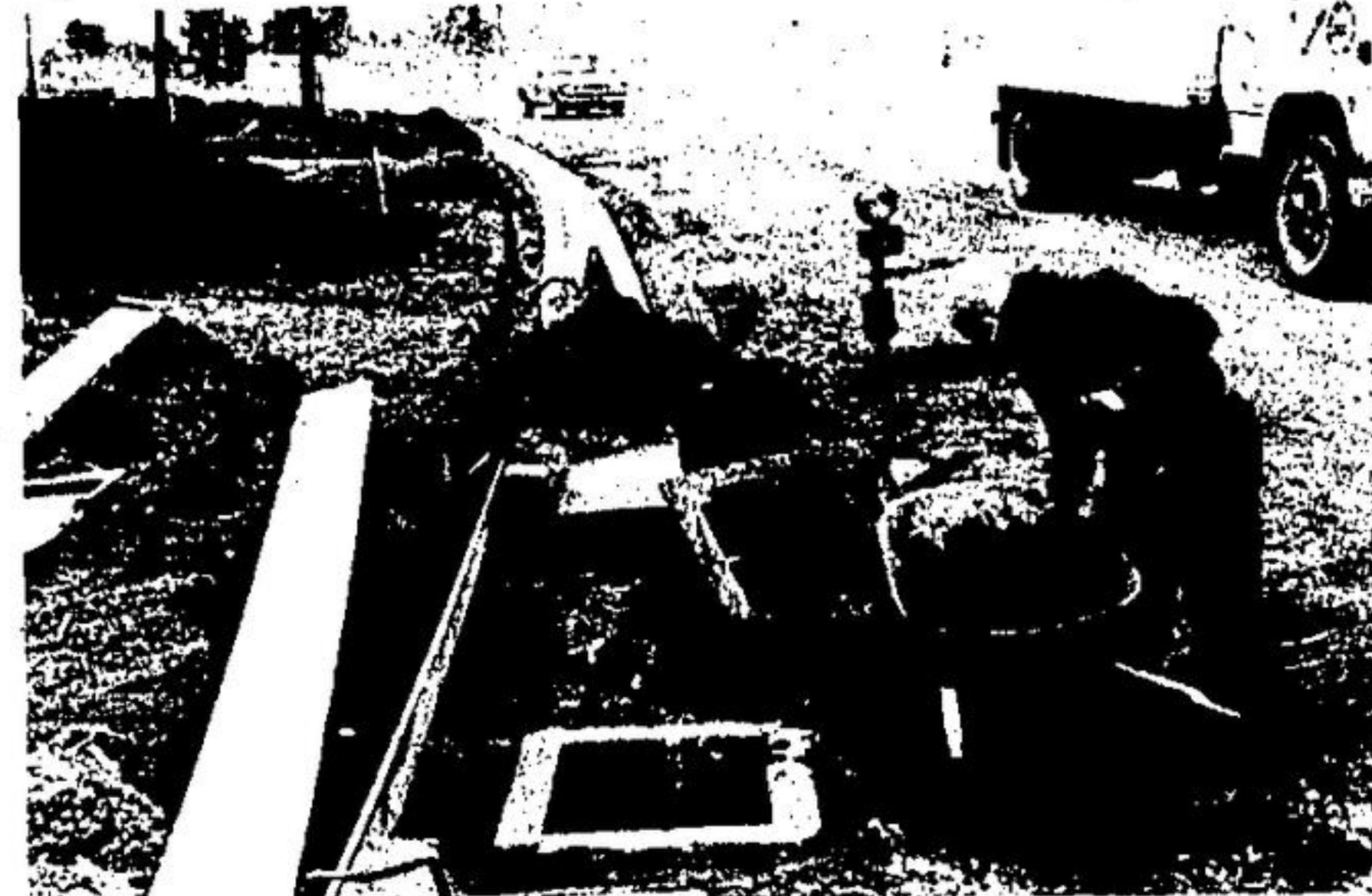
A holiday weekend crash has sent 28-year-old Gary Taillefer of Acton to a Guelph hospital with serious injuries. Mr. Taillefer lost control of his car as he was making a turn on 15 Sideroad, one mile west of the Guelph Line.

The car skidded 54 feet, crashed over a rock pile and turned upside down.

in scuppering the regional road system.

He has argued that any expansion of the regional road system would work against the region under the grant structure. Area municipalities receive more generous grants for some road projects than the regions do.

Raftis cites the heavy costs of improving sewage, water and landfill facilities in the region as priorities for the



CONSTRUCTION WORKER mixes cement for another section of curb along Highway seven. Curbs on Main Street are already in place, awaiting the final paving of the roads.

region. Because of the heavy financial burden caused by these projects, Raftis claims the region should go easy on expanding roads.

The issue has been a controversial one that has been under discussion since regional government was introduced.

Some argue that the only equitable thing to do is to include roads that qualify from the south.

The region's Bill 151 review committee considered scrapping the road system and leaving each area municipality to maintain all of the roads in its own area.

The fear of some councillors is that the region works crew would increase the staff to cover the new responsibility but the area staffs would not be reduced in size.



FULL HOUSE WATCHED THE opening ceremonies of McKenzie-Smith middle school last Wednesday. Seats were nearly full and balcony was crowded for the evening. Speeches were broadcast throughout the school.



LAURA DITTRICH, of Acton, shows samples of her batik work at Georgetown library. She holds a lampshade, while in the background a beautiful table cloth is visible.

Speedy developer's bid trips committee

Two separations bids this summer is one too many, a developer learned last week.

Regional Land Division Committee turned thumbs down on a proposal by Wilgrove Developments Ltd. to get a building lot beside one which they got four months ago.

The property is part of the westerly half of Lot 31 on the Eighth Line. An unfinished house sits for sale abutting the proposed lot, according to committee member Bill Coats.

Lawyer Terry Baines, for Wilgrove Developments, described the proposed lot as not being ideal, but "I'm saying it can be cleaned up". There is swamp land in the front of the property, which fronts on Halton Road 3, but the proposal envisioned a house set back on a rise like its predecessor.

Most of the reports from local and regional government agencies and depart-

ments stressed misgivings about the proposals affect on the environment.

Regional planners discouraged severances in the area of the proposal, except in the case of retiring farmers. The Wilgrove applications does not fit that category.

Sharpest criticism of the proposal came from committee member Tom Marshall who characterized it as purely speculative. He moved to deny the application because a new house would

increase urbanization of rural land.

Esquering wanted to slow development and one way to do this is to discourage developers from coming in and quickly selling. Coats said.

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Unemployment insurance benefits paid in 3 phases

Unemployment insurance benefits are based on how difficult it is for people to find and keep work in the region where they live.

UI benefits are now paid in three phases. A claimant with the required weeks of insurable earnings could get up to 50 weeks of benefit in any 52-week benefit period. Time on benefit varies with changes in regional economic conditions. People in higher unemployment regions now have a right to more weeks of benefit. Time on benefit is also more closely tied to the weeks of insured work a person accumulates.

People are paid benefits in three stages. They start with the initial phase, graduate to the labour extended phase and end with the regional extended phase.

In the first phase, people can get one week of benefit for each week of work. The most one can get at this stage is 25 weeks of benefit. In the second phase, there is one week for every two weeks of work. This phase starts when

a person has at least 27 weeks of work. Up to 13 weeks of benefit are available here. In the last phase, there are two weeks of benefit for each half per cent the regional rate of unemployment is above four per cent.

Annual drive begins next week by Rotary

Rotary Club members and other volunteers will soon be knocking on doors throughout Acton and area asking for donations to the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society.

The annual drive is chaired

by Mac Sprowl with Gary Dawkins as his co-chairman.

Over 200 letters have already been sent to local industry as part of the industrial canvass. Homes will be visited starting next week.

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Meeting

The Acton Business Association is sponsoring a social evening next Tuesday (October 18) so the business community of Acton may get to know one another.

President Alma Swetman stressed there will be no formal meeting or agenda, but businessmen are invited to drop into the Legion hall between 7:30 and 11:30 to meet present members.

The final consultant's report on the Business Improvement Area will be on display with the board of management members present to answer any questions.

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