



REPRESENTING MANY nations, Sunday School boys and girls group at the front of Trinity church during the annual Sunday School pageant.

Preliminary approval given for VON grant

Making its pitch the second time around the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) got preliminary approval for a regional grant to cover costs of services to North Halton. The regional community and social services committee at its meeting last week approved the VON's request for \$11,000. The grant request next goes to the regional council for its approval. When the VON made its initial submission to the committee three weeks ago, the committee deferred a decision until it could determine whether the region could avoid an outright grant by having the department of family and social services pick up the tab. In that case, there would have been an 80 per cent subsidy from the province.

However, in his report to

the committee Rene Vivian, administrator of the department, indicated provincial regulations preclude a change in the system of funding. The VON provides nursing care in the home on a visiting basis. The grant was requested to cover the cost of care to those patients in the northern parts of the region who were neither able to pay the full cost of the visits themselves nor qualify for financial assistance. Oakville Councillor Ron Planche suggested it would be more appropriate for local councils in the north to provide the grant. He said residents in the southern part of the region already contributed voluntarily through the United Way and should not be required to contribute again through taxation.

Car hits hydro pole

Three times as much damage was taken on by a utility pole than by the car which hit it Sunday morning at the junction of River and Willow Streets. James Wilson of 24 Ransom St. was north bound on Willow Street North. His car attempted to stop for the stop sign at River Street, however, the vehicle slid across River Street and collided with the hydro pole, according to police. Police estimate damage to the Wilson car is \$50. Damage to the Acton Hydro pole was placed at \$150.

Region reviews green paper

The region's proposed response to the province's green paper on agriculture generated another discussion of agricultural policies contained within the region's draft official plan. The regional planning committee reviewed the response at its

regular meeting last week. At the insistence of Georgetown councillor Roy Booth reference to the Canada Land Inventory (CLI) was removed from a policy statement concerning classification of agricultural soils. Mr. Booth objected to the use

of the CLI as the basis for showing agricultural soil classes, saying the CLI was inaccurate. "Don't tie our kite to that string," he said. "The CLI designates part of the escarpment as class one, two and three soil that is solid bloody rock."

Regional planner Bob White agreed CLI mapping leaves much to be desired but he said accuracy depended on scale. When looking at large areas of land, there was less likelihood of error in classification, he said. Mr. White added the purpose of the statement under question was to designate class one, two and three soil as good agricultural soil.

Mr. Booth also objected to the use of the Agricultural Code of Practice for determining minimum distance separation (between conflicting land uses or activities). He called the code a "two-edged sword". Milton Mayor Don Gordon pointed out the policy statement read the code would be used in such a manner as to protect the agriculture industry as opposed to surrounding non-agricultural land uses.

The committee supported Mr. White's recommendation that the regional official plan be Halton's response to the green paper. The paper, intended as a guideline for area and regional planning, was issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in February 1977.

In his report Mr. White said provincial guidelines as outlined in the green paper may not be sufficient to ensure the continued existence of agricultural industry in view of the Toronto-Centred Region and Parkway Belt plans calling for the development of a Milton East and a Milton West urban areas, and the Ontario Housing Corporation buying thousands of acres of good farmland for future housing.

By contrast, Halton's proposed official plan includes initiative for the development of a strong and viable agriculture industry in the region, incorporating non-food products, he said.

Province cuts grants

Constrained by cutbacks in provincial grants and ceilings in regional spending Halton Region Conservation Authority (HRCA) has been forced to cut back its own budget for next year.

The new provincial system cut grants by five to 45 per cent. As a result, the municipal portion has increased 5.1 per cent over last year despite cuts in the HRCA budget. Major cuts were a decrease of more than \$1.1 million for water and related land management and a decrease of more than \$100,000 in spending for conservation areas.

The authority last week approved a total budget of almost \$2.5 million for 1978. The municipal share was shown at almost \$705,000.

A sum of \$66,000 — half to be raised by levies and half to come from a provincial grant — was earmarked for the office relocation fund.

The cut in provincial funds to Halton and other conservation authorities in the central region reflects the re-allocation of provincial monies to northern Ontario.

In other business the authority, at the urging of Milton Councillor Jim Watson, asked staff to investigate a suitable arrangement whereby visitors to Halton Regional Museum could avoid the Kelso entrance fee. The museum is located on the grounds of Kelso Conservation Area.



SHEPHERDS KEPT WATCH during the pageant at Trinity a week ago Sunday.

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