



YOU'VE HEARD OF GROUNDHOGS, but these are groundcows. Determined not to allow their barnyard rival to corner all the winter publicity these bovine beasts have started groundcow day. It comes one day before groundhog day, giving the cows a scoop, and if a cow sees its shadow it means that the sun is out. They haven't quite worked out all the details of their scheme yet, but all concerned agree the idea has promise even if the conclusions are a little less than stunning.



BOB AND PHYLLIS ANGELL, left, presented a new portrait of the Queen to the Legion Saturday. Helen Fowler accepted the portrait on behalf of the Ladies' Auxiliary and branch president Ab Irwin accepted for the branch.

Baetz hopes to explain hydro line to people here

Ontario Energy Minister Reuben Baetz indicated he is interested in meeting people concerned with the Bradley-Georgetown hydro corridor. Baetz (Conservative-Ontario West) said in a telephone interview Friday he was preparing for the select committee questions concerning uranium. As soon as I

get out from under the flurry of this other stuff, I'd like to meet the people, he said. In the major cabinet change last week Premier William Davis made Baetz the minister of energy to replace James Taylor who resigned from the cabinet. The post is the first cabinet position Baetz has held.

Bus depot needed for Acton service

Acton is, once again, without a Go Bus agency. According to Go spokesman Tom Henry, Chance Dry Cleaners in the Beckers Plaza gave up the job around Christmas. They had been the bus agency in town for several months.

Mr. Henry told the Free Press a new agency will have to be found, but they have, in the past, had difficulty in locating a business to take over the job. He explained GO officials will look for another person or merchant who is willing to house the agency. In the meantime, parcels

Police charge fraud suspect

Halton Regional Police charged a Main Street South man in connection with a \$122.50 fraud and forgery case.

The man apparently cashed a cheque for that amount at the A & B Store. He used part of the money to buy some cigarettes.

The cheque was later found to be worthless and a forgery. The man is also suspect in connection with a \$125 fraud against the same store. The cheque used in this case was returned by the Toronto-Dominion Bank marked "no account."

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Committee approves 1978 police budget

Halton Region's Administration Committee approved a police budget of \$9,122,500 at its meeting Wednesday morning.

Oakville Councillor Carl Eriksen said the increase in the order of 7.6 per cent exceeded guidelines other departments were forced to adhere to. He asked the committee to refer the budget back and suggest the commission look for further areas to make reductions.

Eriksen found no support for his motion, however. The budget was passed without cuts and in fact Regional Chairman Ric Morrow suggested the commission had been put to some hardship by preparing the budget early and he indicated the commission should return to council if the budget proved to be insufficient.

Commission Chairman Bill Hourigan said the police force had hired 12 civilians and 13 officers last year but rejected the request of Chief Ken Skerrett for 12 additional men this year.

Eriksen noted the cost of merging police forces and taking over the rural areas in Nassagaweya and Esquevas had been expensive. He claimed the cost of policing is staggering.

Burlington Mayor Mary

Munro said the force had no choice about going regional. It had no choice but to accept tremendous urban growth in the region which generates the need for more policing. She said the commission had no choice but to try to deal with the problems and they shouldn't be faulted for things they have no control over.

Eriksen dismissed the argument as emotionalism and suggested a similar argument could be made if the increase in the budget had been 10 or 15 per cent.

Burlington Councillor Walter Mulkevic said the force had to be given the human resources to do the job.

"Yes, a blank cheque," Eriksen interjected.

Chief Skerrett said he hadn't analysed the summary of occurrences during the year yet but did note that calls for service had increased from 51,000 in 1976 to 62,000 in 1977.

He suggested that after his analysis he might have to recommend extra dog catchers be employed, to take complaints of barking dogs off the list of routine matters police are bothered with. "I might have to recommend that (Director of Social and Family Services) Renne

Vivian put one of his people on duty 24 hours a day because we can't keep up with the family fights."

"There have been benefits to the region because police are now able to cross municipal boundaries and there is no longer different levels of service. We should recognize the actual and potential benefits of a regionalized force and I hope that the chief will present figures if he has problems later and come back and ask for more," Morrow said.

Skerrett said it was difficult to say whether the level of service had improved from what Burlington had enjoyed to what Halton now enjoys. He indicated the police had failed in efforts to prevent vandalism, but suggested that the problem of vandalism couldn't be blamed solely on the police but responsibility has to be shared by parents, schools and society in general.

Chairman Morrow said government at all levels and parents had to accept the blame and he claimed it wasn't fair to blame the police with the errors of the past. "It's not fair to say the police have failed dismally to prevent vandalism."

Moments split two accidents

Two Main Street traffic accidents occurred within minutes of each other Monday morning.

At two minutes to 8 a.m. the car driven by Laurie Mellor of 92 Wallace St., and the auto driven by John Jacob Krul of 121 Churchhill Rd. South collided near Vimy Street.

Damage to the Krul is put at \$500, by police.

Moments later a car driven by Joyce Cutting of R.R. 4, Rockwood and one driven by John Crans of Burlington collided not far from the first mishap.

Damage to the Crans vehicle is about \$300, police say. Property damage to the Cutting car is \$200, officers estimate.

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Approve trailers for hired help

All members of Halton Hills Planning Board wanted to let Clarence Coles, and Walter Scott put a trailer on their respective farms for hired help, but it took over an hour to arrive at a way they could do it.

Assistant planner Brian Kropf pointed out the policy had been established allowing a second residence for bona-fide farmers, but an individual amendment is needed for each application. This would take up to six months to be processed.

Councillor George Maltby

pointed out the time lapse and suggested they be allowed to place the trailers as long as an application for an amendment was made by June '79, and agree to remove the trailer if this was not done. Councillor Peter Morris said it was ridiculous to hold anyone up that long since permits for mobile homes or second houses had been issued for farmers in the past.

Finally, planning board agreed to allow Mr. Coles and Mr. Scott to move the trailers on to their farms and process the planning amendment later.

Fall through ice

At least two people fell through the ice on Fairy Lake in the past few days.

Morley Ellis of Main St. went through Monday night while walking to visit a friend. He said the ice gave way where the culverts at the far end of the lake drain out of the subdivision.

Morley says a friend's father also fell through the day before. It was his second time. He went in up to his waist.

Morley thinks there should be a sign at the spot, warning of the danger.

He doesn't think the lake is too deep at that location.

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