



BILL TOM, newly-elected chairman of the Board of Directors of Halton Youth Services Network, chats with Deb Wellwood and Sue Mellor, two young people from Acton who attended the YSN annual meeting.

Listen to youth— YSN speaker advises

"Youth Services Network doesn't exactly reach out and grab you like a Yamaha or a Kawasaki," said community psychiatry consultant Tony McLean in challenging YSN members to find ways of reaching uninvolved youth. Good marketing technique is to look at the most resistant population, Mr. McLean said. "What will turn those kids on will turn on the kids in the middle."

Mr. McLean, a member of the faculty of psychiatry at McMaster University and consultant at Oakville-Trafalgar Hospital, acted as facilitator for the planning portion of the YSN annual meeting.

Mr. McLean advised YSN to listen to the ideas youth have for solving youth problems: "Get the experience and wisdom of adults pushed to the side for awhile and let the enthusiasm, energy and miracle-working of kids take over."

Given this kind of opportunity, youth in the east end of Hamilton ended up forming their own association, putting out a newspaper, finding work for young people and setting up training programs. Residents of

Wesley House, a Hamilton group home of which Mr. McLean was once director, run the home. Two happenings that theoretically are assumed to be impossible, he said.

Rising to the challenge, adult members of YSN listened while young people in the audience brought out their ideas for reaching uninvolved youth — "stoners" (kids on drugs), those who complain there's nothing to do and those who lie around and watch TV after school to the late show.

Among the ideas put forth was a recommendation for personal contact. "If you put up posters in the school, it's almost like a challenge to rip them down," a student commented, adding the posters were sometimes used to set fires in the waste baskets.

Tongue-in-cheek, YSN executive director Peter Gillespie noted the need for non-flammable posters.

"Kids go to the malls to relax and have a good time, so maybe they'd look at posters if they were put up in the malls," another commented while a third advised Mr. Gillespie to mix with

youth at local football games. Organized activities are available for those who want them. What is needed is an unstructured place to socialize, was yet another comment.

Rather than arrange things for people, YSN should make it known it was available to help people who had ideas of their own, members were told. "If it's pushed down their throats, they don't want it," a young girl said while another added: "If you see everybody else having fun, you join in."

A young man complained his latent leadership talents were not developed in school. "I was a stoner," he said. "Not once did a teacher come up to me to say my ideas were valuable to the community."

Young people in the audience wanted activities, such as the conference on youth and the law, to be spread around the region citing transportation problems. They do not want to be bused to activities in other areas.

Ideas gathered at the meeting will be worked on at YSN planning committees and local sub-committees, Mr. Gillespie said.

Planners told

Halton plan too restrictive

Halton's proposed official plan is too rigid and exercises too much control over land in Nassagaweya, regional planners were told during a meeting in Brookville Wednesday night.

Many of the approximately 125 people complained that the plan was far too restrictive for the rural resident — and yet provided a large degree of protection for the aggregate industry.

Maurice Newton wondered how there could ever be any local autonomy. He noted the area councils have the responsibility for zoning, but the zoning restrictions must comply with the local official plan and the local official plan must comply with the regional official plan.

Planning Director Ed Cumming noted the local planners and regional representatives had input into the regional plan. The thrust of the plan is to keep the rural areas rural and to identify urban areas.

One man received cheers from the crowd when he said the province is on the verge of an employment crisis and to combat that, people in Nassagaweya would like the opportunity for some development.

"If you were to put overlays on a map showing the restrictions of various government bodies you wouldn't have one square foot of land that isn't under controls. What we have here is uncontrolled restrictions," he said.

Former Ontario Cabinet Minister John Yaremko said the Niagara Escarpment Commission master plan would bring controls over land to a higher degree than any plan ever before. He said next to it, the region's plan

represented the most stringent control over private property.

He criticized the plan for saying what can't be done — but not what can be done. He said residential development hidden among the trees hurts no one and is a benefit to the township. He objected the restrictions on development in the rural area of the region that limit building to 100 lots per year. Yaremko owns large tracts of land in Nassagaweya.

Milton Councillor Brian Penman said the frustration expressed by others was because of the restrictions implied in the plan.

"It controls our lives, our livelihoods and our property. There is too much government around us each and every day and this plan doesn't do anything to alleviate it," Penman said.

Planning Committee Chairman Pat McLaughlin agreed with Penman, but suggested it was a fact of life and wasn't

going to go away.

Mrs. White of North Burlington said people were frustrated because there had been so many years spent in the preparation of so many plans that people didn't know what they could and couldn't do.

Brian Donat told the planners they'd have to forgive residents for seeming sceptical. After four years, regional government is hitting us where it hurts — in the pocketbooks. Four years ago my taxes were \$400 and now they are \$1,200, he said.

Gordon Sims drew laughter from the crowd when he said he had 50 acres of land that under the plan would be frozen as farmland.

"I've broken plow shares and mowers trying to farm it. Milton Equipment won't even rent me a post hole digger because they are afraid I'll break it. You'd do me a favor if you allowed some development."

Youth Services names board of directors

Milton resident Bill Tom has been elected chairman of the Board of Directors for Youth Services Network, Halton Region (YSN). Mr. Tom is a vice-principal at Georgetown High School. He was vice-principal at Milton High School for several years.

YSN is a region-wide organization whose primary purposes are to provide a vehicle of communication for and among youth, youth-serving agencies and the public, and to take part in determining the needs of youth. The YSN annual meeting last week marked its entry into its second year of operations.

Other residents of the northern part of the region serving on the 28-member board are Irene Harrison of Milton and Ann Pickering, Marilyn Searjeantson and Pat Mason of Halton Hills. Colton Roberts, vice-principal of Robert Baldwin School in Milton, is a new member of the board as well. The constitution calls

for one-quarter of the board members to be youth under 25 but of voting age.

The YSN annual report notes the network completed its objectives for 1977. It is publishing a monthly newsletter, has compiled a youth directory for the region, sponsored a community forum regarding the reorganization of children's

services and was instrumental in setting up a children's services steering committee for the region, held a conference on youth and the law, and established liaison with many community groups.

A full-time co-ordinator, Peter Gillespie, was appointed last June.

Current activities include planning for a spring conference related to youth and employment, working with student leaders in Burlington and assisting in the development of a handbook for student governments in Halton secondary schools.

The development of area sub-committees continues. Milton and Halton Hills lag behind Burlington and Oakville in this respect but the network hopes the more equitable regional representation on the new board will strengthen the local groups.

The new chairman, Mr. Tom, said priorities for 1978 include expanding the membership of YSN, expanding sub-committees in the north and developing a means of communication to bring an exchange of ideas between the adult and youth worlds.

YSN receives one-third of its budget up to \$10,000 from the province, provided the amount is matched locally by cash or in-kind services.

(YSN delegates told the regional community and social services committee last week they will be looking to the region for grants in the future.)

Burlington Regional Councillor Don Carter told the membership he would support YSN's requests for financial assistance.

Closer look for Arts Council

Halton Hills Finance Administration Committee postponed detailed discussion of the needs of Halton Hills Arts Council until after the committee gets a full report.

Town recreation director Glen Gray wrote a one page report about what municipal resources are available.

Councillors Russ Miller and Peter Morris agreed the report did not tell them very much. Morris said he was

looking for what services are available and how much they would cost.

Town treasurer Ray King estimated the liability insurance would be \$500. However, King said he felt strongly the town should not include any outside groups under its liability insurance.

The cost to Halton Hills Arts Council would be between \$50 and \$100, King said.

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