



LIBRARY BOARD MEMBER NORM Elliott complained to the board last Wednesday about the overgrown state of the weeds in School Creek. Some of them were four feet high, he said. Mr. Elliott called for a permanent solution to the annual problem. Two days later town men cut down many of the weeds.

Mid-summer mess at library mars beauty of its location

Debris, garbage and four foot high weeds in front of Acton Public Library drew the wrath of Halton Hills Library Board member Norman Elliott at a meeting of the board last Wednesday night.

It's a perennial problem, Elliott said, suggesting the board find some means of clearing the situation up on a permanent basis.

"In August every summer it looks like hell," he told members of the library board. The school creek is low with very little flow, the weeds are high and everyone throws debris into the creek bed, creating an unsightly mess which discourages

efforts of the library board to beautify the library.

"It's a potential beauty spot," Elliott said, "and I'd like to see it changed into one." He noted other communities take a stretch of stream or water and turn it into something worthwhile. He referred to a stretch of the Speed River which runs through Riverside Park in Guelph as an indicator of what he meant.

"Let's approach the town engineer. Maybe it needs a request from us to get the ball rolling," said board chairman Dick Howitt, who said he would speak to him at the first opportunity.

Permanent beautification would also mean contacting the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, members felt, suggesting it would be up to the municipality to cover that.

"It's one of the few public buildings in Acton, now," declared Elliott, noting he would bring a resolution to the next meeting asking for a permanent solution to the late summer mess. Earlier in the year the problem is not so obvious, he said, because of high water, and low weeds.

Friday morning town workers were at the library whacking down the creek bed weeds and cleaning up debris.

Board wants voice in library hiring

Halton Hills Library Board accepted recommendations of the policy committee on hiring procedures, overdue book recovery and summer holidays with one amendment to the first mentioned.

A personnel policy manual will go to all staff members outlining policy and Librarian Betsy Cornwell explained there will also be separate manuals for board members and another procedural manual for staff.

Board members present were concerned about hiring procedures for new staff without consultation with the board and that recommendation was changed so senior employees would have their approval.

Librarian Betsy Cornwell told the board they could ill afford to have any positions vacant. She said if any full time employee quits she would pursue her goal of hiring a professional librarian, and would continue to pursue that policy, regardless of what the board may decide.

Mrs. Cornwell noted that if she and the board disagreed on an employee, she would interpret it as a lack of confidence in her ability and resign.

New member Ken Riley said he favored having senior staff hiring consultations with the board because he felt it was a budget issue as well as a personnel matter.

Mrs. Cornwell agreed but warned it would mean the board has to confirm the selection swiftly and it could mean a special meeting. Members agreed but felt they should be consulted in the matter.

The board also discussed

the practicality of closing the library on the Saturday prior to Dominion Day, Civic Holiday and Labor Day so staff could enjoy the holidays. Members agreed it was feasible.

"It's no different than the rest of the municipality does," chairman Dick Howitt stated, "and only to fair to library employees."

Member Norm Elliott noted Acton library used to be closed two weeks in the summer and it seemed to him three days closing was reasonable rather than two solid weeks.

Outline chairman's position

Halton Regional Chairman Ric Morrow will be asked to set some terms of reference for whoever his successor turns out to be.

During the Administration Committee meeting Wednesday, the committee agreed to ask Morrow to outline the job as Chairman as he sees it.

The committee will try to come to grips with some sort of job description and pay scale for the chairman's job.

The first chairman Allan Masson was earning an estimated \$47,000 near the end of his term as a provincial appointee.

When Morrow took the job he took it on a part-time basis but now acknowledges it is a full time post. He is paid \$25,000 a year.

Morrow continued with his job as an Air Canada pilot when he assumed the chairman's job two years ago.

Morrow has said that whoever takes the job should do it full time or have the type of job where business hours could be arranged around the demands of public office.



FIRE CHIEF Mick Holmes estimates \$200 in damages to a vehicle owned by E. Bilocco, Scene St., after fire started under the hood. He blames a malfunction in the wiring for the Wednesday fire.

Remove easement

Removal of an easement from the Wegman property on Elizabeth Dr. was approved by Halton Hills works committee Monday night.

The engineering department recommended the requested change, since the easement is no longer required by the town.

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Swetman's



TOWN WORKMAN SAM TENNANT cuts grass in front of the library Friday. Library board member Norm Elliott called upon the board to come up with a permanent solution to the yearly problem.

to take a stronger stand, with a comprehensive, truthful and accurate report, Ruelens maintains.

When asked if the region was not getting such reports before, Ruelens implied council ignored reports. "We had no personnel hired last year, though the chief recommended it," he said.

One of the main complaints in the association's morale report centered on the slowness and lack of promotions. Ruelens said promotions will be starting this fall.

When asked why the commission and the association could not have met sooner to settle the com-

munications problem, Ruelens said he did not know why. "I was willing to sit down all the time," he said.

There were many other things, holidays may have contributed to the delay, he said. Also the commission's first reaction to the association's report was negative. Now it is more positive, Ruelens said.

Talks hope to ease police snags

Halton Police Commission and the Police Association will be talking more often to each other, but some problems between the sides are unsolved, according to a police association official.

Not all of the problems have been ironed out, but both sides are aware of problems, Halton Regional Police Association President Al Ruelens said Monday.

Both sides met behind closed doors for six hours to discuss the police association's 61-page morale report for last Wednesday.

The controversial report slammed the police commission for its policies, lack of promotions, poor buildings, cheap equipment, lack of in-service training and administration. It was released in June.

Since then relations between the sides have been cool. The commission enforced strict procedural rules with the association.

Both sides, however, emerged from Wednesday's meetings with words of understanding for the other body.

"We see eye-to-eye with each other and there's no strain or problem as a result of the brief and its recommendations," commission chairman William Hourigan said.

The association will meet once a month with Police Chief Ken Skerrett and at

least one member of the police commission. The association used to meet the chief, but without commission members present, said Ruelens.

The commission and association are looking to Halton Regional Council to help solve some problems. The commission will be presenting a long range budget with priority items, perhaps a five year budget, said Hourigan.

Two of the beefs contained in the association's report concerned buildings and personnel, items which seem to be in the works for remedies, according to Ruelens.

Recently the commission opened talks with Burlington about buying the old Elgin Street court house and turning it into the city's only police building. Two buildings now in use would be closed.

Also there are talks about adding to the police headquarters building in Oakville, Ruelens said.

Finding money to pay more men is something the region is going to have to do, according to Ruelens. Last year's police operating budget was more than \$9-million, mostly in wages.

"We've got to have an ongoing hiring of personnel and regional council will have to face that," said the association president.

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CORNFEST

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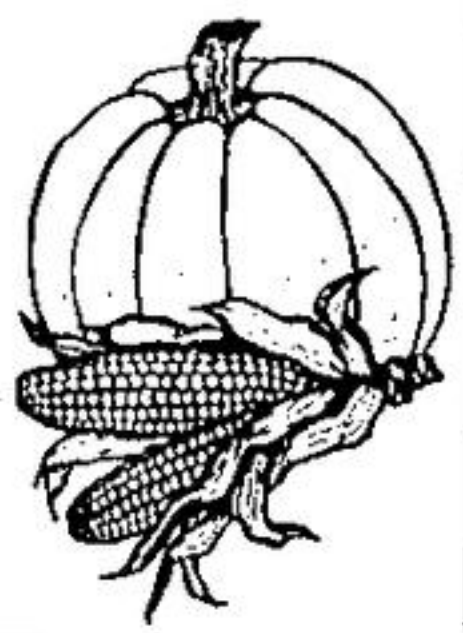
9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

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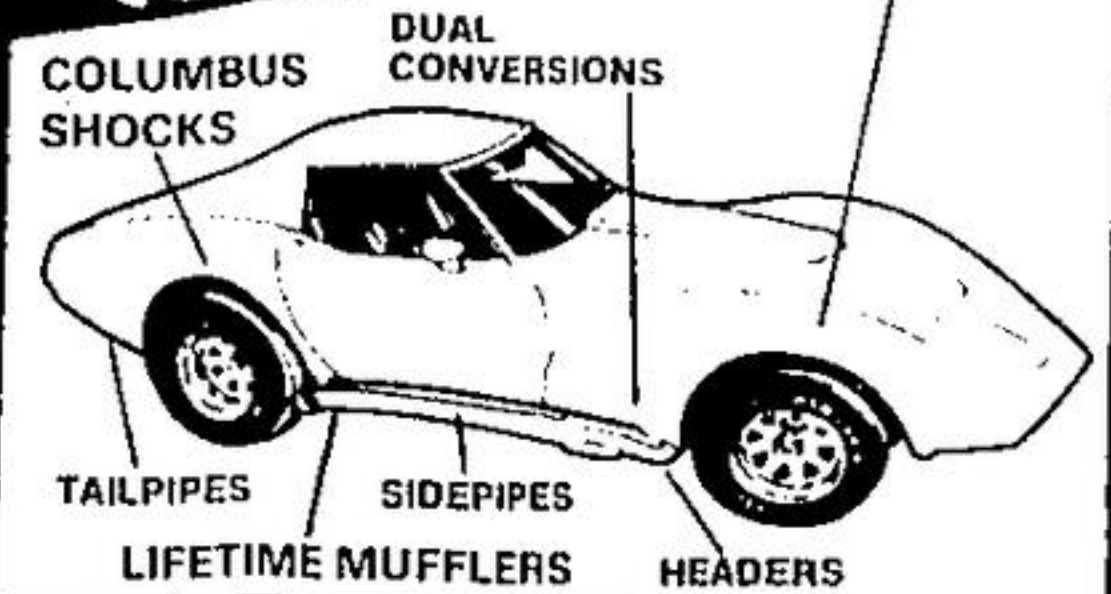
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Flower shop glass broken

Halton Regional Police have a suspect in mind in connection with the breaking of the front window of Robertsons Flower Shop on Mill Street near Main Street last week.

Police put the value of the glass at \$500.

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- 6:30 Ontario Outdoors - Knife Making

