

Community Pulse Group focuses on challenges of Halton rural life

Summer time country life holds many features city dwellers consider to be Utopian. A home circled by trees. Evening breezes rustling leaves. Distant stars twinkling through the night's pure black sky. And the sun, in full glory bringing light and warmth to all on earth: deer, rabbits, hawks, butterflies and people.

But the sun also warms skunks, snakes and insects. Oh! the wasp nest near the barn. How often have the children howled their way into the kitchen for mother to soothe wasp stings? Utopia takes a step back.

Then when the sun beats a retreat south there's much of late fall and winter to shatter the transplanted city dweller's hopes of a permanent utopian existence in rural Halton. New and real problems rise quickly to test the resourcefulness of the ex-urbanite. There's the plowing out of the long driveway. Getting the kids to class after they've missed the school bus. And what to do when the power cuts out during the night. That's just the start of the list.

Halton is no more utopia than it is the reverse. Its true nature is in between the extremes. One of the tasks of the Community Pulse Group is to present this region realistically as a good place to live.

The Community Pulse Group is made up of local citizens, some old time residents, some still scrubbing off the city's grime. They were given their head by the University of Guelph to define Halton. And from that definition discover ways in which the university can help communities.

Guelph University two years ago organized the Rural Development Outreach Project, an umbrella organization for Community Pulse Groups. The university wants to help Halton, much as it is already doing in Huron County.

There for instance, the Huron County Federation of Agriculture asked the outreach project to check the implications of foreign ownership of farm land. Rural Development Outreach Project, according to assistant director Valerie Gilmor, is sending an agriculture economist to explore that problem.

The University of Guelph selected Halton for a CPG because the region contrasts Huron County, said Mrs. Gilmor. Huron represents the traditional agriculture area. Halton, on the other hand, represents the rural-urban fringe. "We thought working in both would give more ways of learning," said the assistant director.

Halton's Community Pulse Group is putting shape to two ideas which will draw upon the university's expertise. One idea is just getting off the ground under chairmanship of Robert Lovelace, of Norval. His task force is likely to perform some research and make demonstrations on ways average homeowners can save money on the cost of energy.

The second task force is the one mentioned earlier. Its project is to portray Halton realistically, but by stressing the region's good points.

Searchers find Halton studies

Halton's Social Planning Council is casting a wide net to discover any research that may have been performed on Halton.

Pawliuk Nikki and Janice Tyrrell, from the council, spent a day going through the Rural Development Outreach Project's files at the University of Guelph.

The pair are noting the locations of all kinds of reports and studies. They are also preparing a descriptive bibliography. The information will be distributed to a number of Halton agencies.

And what are they finding? Some things they had only heard rumored existed. For example, an empirical enquiry by Maurice Kelly titled Halton Regional Services for Children. "We've heard of it, but couldn't find it," said Miss Nikki.

Another gem uncovered is a 28-page analysis of the human services delivery system in Halton.



Val Walters co-ordinates activities of Halton's Community Pulse Group.



Valerie Gilmor is the assistant director for Rural Development Outreach Project.

Sheldon, saw a recurring theme of conflict between farmer and ex-city dweller. "There is an underlying current of antagonism on life style in Halton."

The idea of a brochure emerged because the CPG always returned living brochure to CPG members Mrs. Sheldon wrote: "The purpose of this task is to minimize the stress of change...through a positive approach to the realities of rural living in Halton."

"This should ultimately benefit the community by creating a more harmonious understanding between community members of differing lifestyles," states the submission.

The outreach project hopes to firmly establish a Community Pulse Group in Halton. This one has been going since January. Task forces, such as energy con-

servation, will fade away once it's served its purpose.

Members of the Halton's CPG are: from Milton and area Tom Chudleigh, Rev. Peter McKellar, Maurice Newton, Bill Tom, Joyce White, Marilyn White and Campbell Thompson. From Norval Paul Laidlaw, Robert Lovelace and Rev. Walter Ridley. From Speyside, Pam Sheldon. From Acton and area George Maltby, Pat McKenzie and Mansell Nellis.

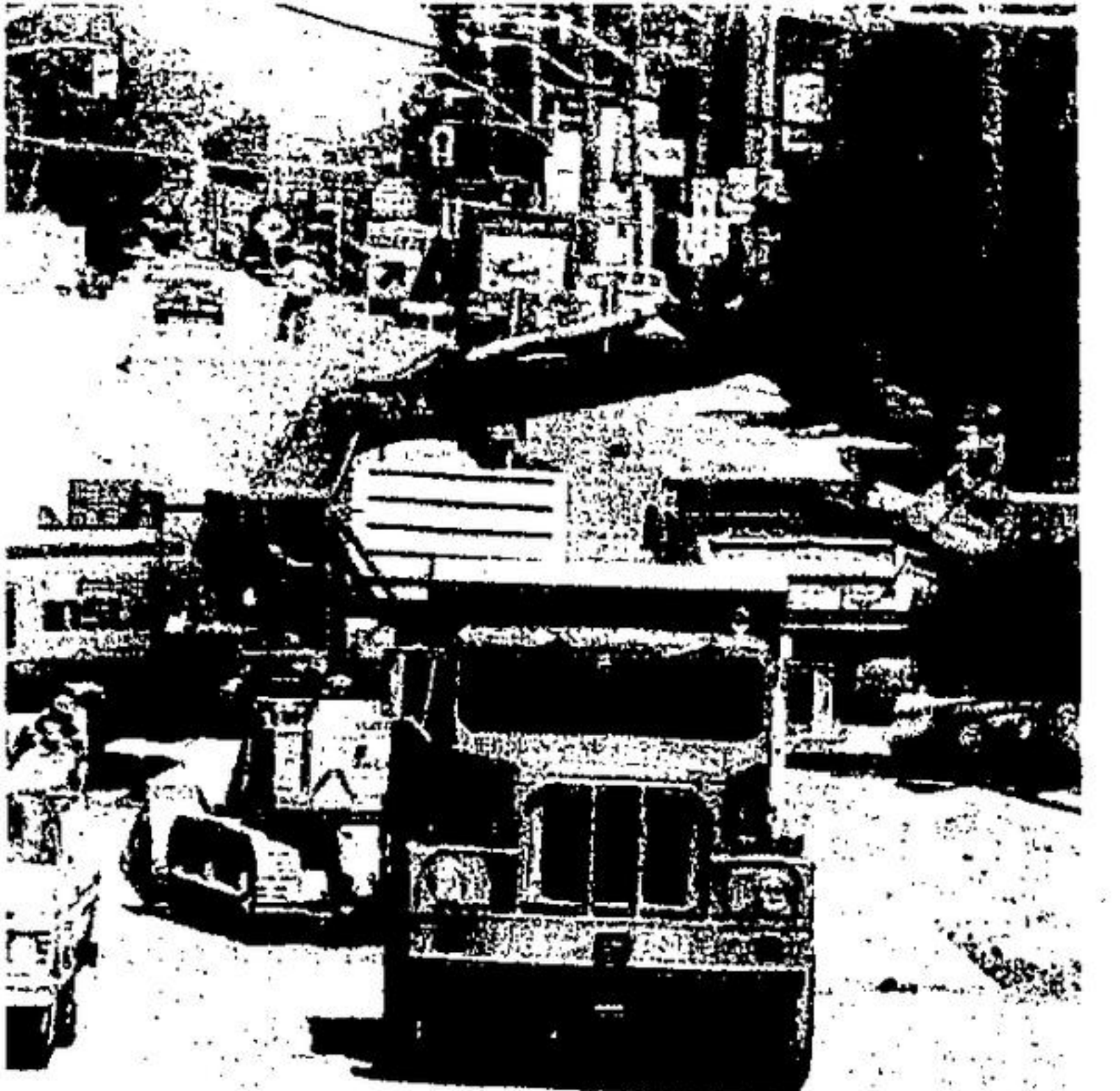
Under the Rural Development Outreach Project Guelph University makes available its considerable library, scientific and other resources to Halton. In return the U of G learns how to relate to communities. And that in the opinion of CPG co-ordinator Walters is a fair exchange.

The university stands to gain by beefing up its

knowledge of rural matters. Mrs. Gilmor, the rural project's assistant director, indicated Guelph's sociology department is looking to establish pre-eminence in rural sociology. And also among other examples there is a proposal to start a rural planning course at Guelph.

The university has set up a director, an assistant, a secretary and three part-time staff for rural outreach. Also other staff members may be attached some projects.

Rural Development Outreach Project is funded by the Kellogg Foundation. Outreach receives \$500,000 to cover all expenses for the first four years. In all, Outreach will be supported by Kellogg for seven years. The foundation was established 49 years ago "to help people help themselves."



New sewer and water work on Main St. S. is expected by officials to be finished by the end of November. A final coat of road top will be laid down in the spring. The project will stretch about 2,900 feet from Church St. to just south of the Campbell farm. About 15 men were working last week. Two steam shovels, a bulldozer and other equipment at on the site. The bridge south of Agnes St. is to be widened to accommodate sidewalks.



Staff Sergeant Eric Bullock is launching a new firearms training program for the 275 police force members of Halton Regional Police.

Halton police aim to be top shots

An increase in violent crimes has prompted the Halton Regional Police force to launch a new firearms training program to improve officers' ability to handle

dangerous situations. "The use of weapons in violent incidents is definitely on the increase", according to Staff Sergeant Eric Bullock.

The former head of the Milton police precinct is now spearheading the firearm training program for the region's 275 officers.

Aimed at upgrading policemen's marksmanship, the course also emphasizes the need for officers to know when to shoot and the gun laws governing police.

"The incidents of shooting are increasing and officers must know how to protect themselves, but most of all, when to shoot," S.Sgt. Bullock said.

He said the majority of the force has had spot gun training, but little regular practice. Under the new program, he hopes to have officers training at least once a month.

Police use their own service revolvers, a .38 special calibre. They will practice with a man size silhouette target at the Halton Regional Police rifle range at police headquarters in Oakville.

S. Sgt. Bullock said he expects the course to begin Sept. 1.

New officers for health council

Halton District Health Council elected a new slate of officers for the coming year with retiring chairman Georgetown lawyer Terence F. Baines, Q.C., succeeded by Estrid Manore of Oakville as Chairman.

Halton District Health Council, one of 21 in the province, is a voluntary body whose main task is to provide advice to the Minister of Health on the planning, development and co-ordination of health care resources for Halton.

Mr. Baines, the first chairman of the Health Council since its inception in July, 1976, was in a large part responsible for the organization and

development of the council.

Mrs. Manore, an Oakville resident since 1960, graduated with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Toronto. She is a partner with her husband Donald of Manore Pharmacy on Kerr Street. She is an active member of several local organizations and has worked for a considerable number of years with the University Women's Club and the Girl Guides.

Other officers elected were Mrs. Diane Ball of Oakville as vice-chairman, Robert Martin of Milton as secretary and Edgar W. Foster of Milton as treasurer.



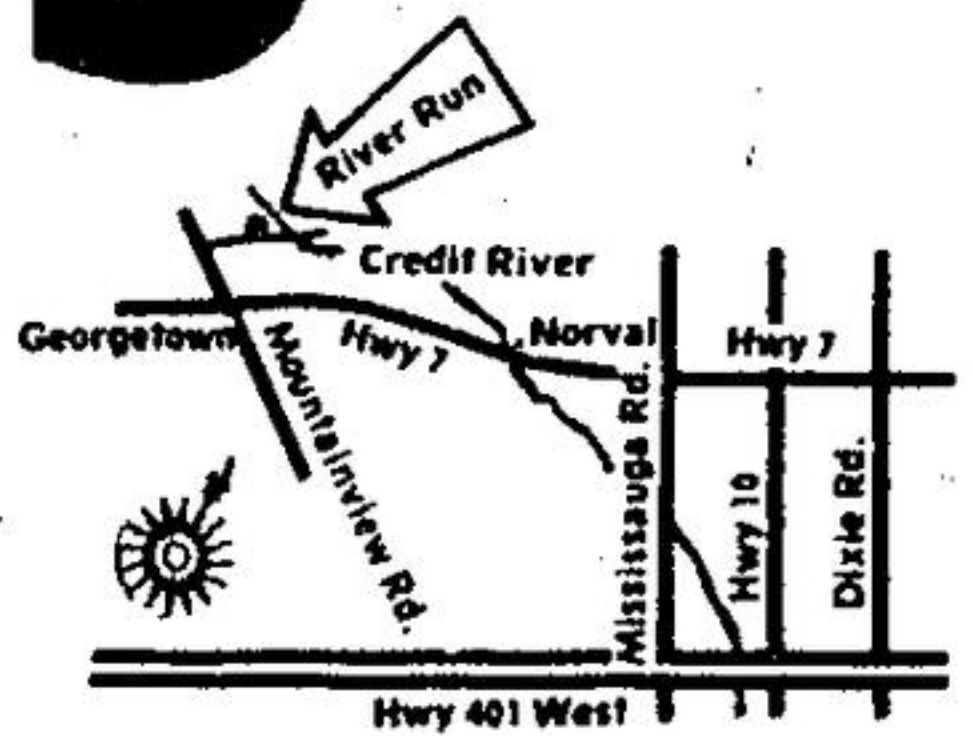
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