



Cookie Monster visits MZ Bennett

Cookie Monster replica, courtesy of High school principal Wally Watkins, was on hand M.Z. Bennett Thursday advertising the next day's Cookie Monster Day. Marlene Titon's morning kindergarten students were overjoyed at the sight of their favorite monster. Some didn't even want to let him go. Photo by HELEN MURRAY

Halton compares favorably in jobs, opportunities

Halton has one of the lowest unemployment rates in Canada, according to the Halton Labor Force Survey released last week.

The survey shows that five per cent of women are unemployed and 1.7 per cent of males are unemployed.

In addition, more than 50 per cent of those unemployed women surveyed said they would gladly enter the labor force if daycare facilities were provided.

Regional Business Development Director Bill Marshall said the results of the survey are already being used in the region's major strategy to shift incoming new business and industry away from the other giants in the field, notably Peel Region.

"This survey will be playing a key role in our whole marketing strategy," Mr. Marshall said.

The survey involved mailings to 72,000 Halton households and was designed to assess the types, quantities and availability of the labor force in the region.

There was a high (15.3 per cent) return rate which has allowed Mr. Marshall to state percentage statistics are 95 per cent correct.

There are approximately 112,000 people employed within the region and beyond its boundaries. Of these, about 48,000 commute to work outside Halton. Halton Hills has the highest (46 per cent) working outside the region and Milton has the lowest (35 per cent).

The out-commuting residents tend to be highly skilled in managerial, clerical, metal processing, engineering, and other high technology fields.

The survey estimates we have 5,300 people in the region looking for work, of which 3,550 have occupational skills.

At the Administration and Finance Committee meeting where the survey was announced, chairman Mac Anderson said the highly skilled people are a key.

He said there are many top-flight people who work in Toronto because of the high wages, who would

gladly relocate their place of work to Halton if the chance presented itself.

At present the productivity of Halton workers compares favorably with other regions. In terms of number of man hours paid, Halton is at \$15.41 overall, with the high in Oakville reaching \$17.58. In other regions the wage per hour rate is Hamilton-Wentworth, \$15.03; Cambridge, \$11.53; and Peel, \$16.35.

In conjunction with the labor survey, Mr. Marshall asked committee to recommend a three-part program to go after industry for Halton Region.

Mr. Marshall said he wanted to prepare an index of location factors along with an industrial analysis which can determine the best way of getting new employment.

While the region compares "favorably" with Brant, Niagara, Hamilton-Wentworth and Waterloo, Mr. Marshall said Halton "is being overshadowed by neighboring Peel Region."

He said he didn't have a reason for Peel's success, particularly regarding the wide-range of industry on the move to Peel.

"In terms of diversity of new industries coming into Halton, there is some evidence the region is attracting a relatively narrow range of industries."

"The major industrial sectors providing new industrial establishments for the Region are predominantly metal fabricating, machinery, electrical products, rubber, and plastics industries."

Another thing worrying Mr. Marshall is "52 per cent of firms locating outside Halton had not considered it as an alternate location."

One reason is the active person-to-person follow up by areas such as Peel which Mr. Marshall hopes to correct with a new brochure just off the press and which can be sent out to any potential new industry.

He said the fastest growth area in Canada is the services industry which he hopes to pursue.

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Twenty Pages—Twenty Cents

Region unveils details of water-sewer rates

Water and sewer rates will be coming down, but don't expect to see that change the bottom line figure when tax time comes.

Regional Treasurer Don Farmer told a press conference Monday that Milton, for example, will receive a 30 per cent residential discount on water rates and a 15 per cent discount on industrial-commercial water rates effective Jan. 1, 1980.

Despite these decreases, inflation and the need for the part of the region to pay for debentured services and pay for new services would just about wipe out any savings.

On the plus side, the movement to equalized water and sewer rates plus a \$1.8 million Provincial grant to ease in the system has cancelled out what Mr. Farmer estimated would have been a 30 per cent to 50 per cent increase in the taxes paid under the 1979 system.

Under the 1979 system of water rates, Milton residents paid \$3.75 per month for the first 3,000 gallons; 68 cents per 1,000 gallons for the next 7,000 gallons; and 77 cents for every 1,000 gallons used after that.

Under the new system, Milton residents will pay \$2.63 per month for the first 3,000 gallons; 47.6 cents per 1,000 gallons for the next 7,000 gallons; and 53.9 cents for every 1,000 gallons used after that.

This figure for the new system is lowered due to the Provincial assistance grant. This grant runs out in 1982.

Mr. Farmer said the decrease in actual rate, unfortunately will not show for inflationary and debt responsibilities and therefore "the water bill should be just about the same in 1980 as 1979."

The old sewer system was predicated on assessment and taxes paid. In Milton, a home paying \$1,000 annually in taxes would contribute 7.9 per cent or \$79 for sewers. In Acton for \$1,000 in taxes the rate was 9.9 per cent or \$99; and in Georgetown, 7.8 per cent or \$76.

Under the new system, the home using the "average" of 66,000 gallons of water a year will pay \$80.37 in Milton, \$94.58 in Acton, and \$94.58 in Georgetown for sewer services.

As for the water discount, Milton residential users will get the 30 per cent cut along with 15 per cent for industrial-commercial. Halton Hills receives no discount because it has a water and sewer arrangement which is different from the region.

Industrial-commercial users in Milton will be paying \$22.37 for water and \$40.23 for sewers for a total of \$62.60 based on a one-inch water pipe and the usage of 50,000 gallons per year.

In Halton Hills for the same service the bill will be \$26.23 for water, \$44.67 for sewer, for a total of \$70.95.

In Peel Region the cost for similar service is \$46 for water, \$53.50 for sewers, for a total of \$99.50. In

Hamilton-Wentworth the cost is \$37.89 for water, \$37.89 for sewers for a total of \$75.78.

Mr. Farmer said Halton is switching to equalization because "we have to recognize that water is our most precious resource."

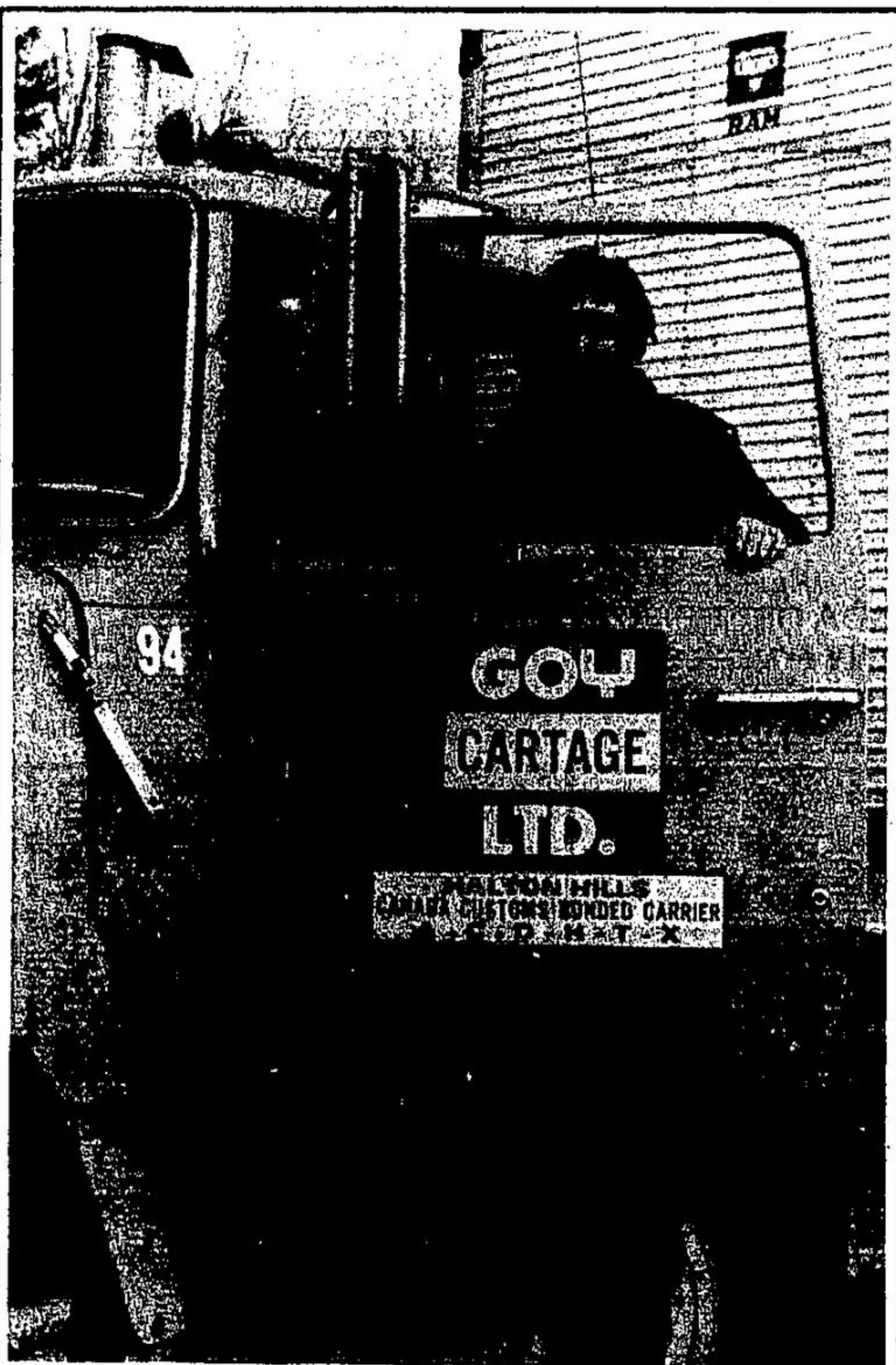
As equalization is based on the principle of a user paying for what is consumed the system has the inherent quality of penalizing those who use too much water. Conserving water, therefore, pays off, he said.

Any person or business concern currently not receiving sewer service will not have to pay the sewer rate. However, if sewer service becomes available, it will require the user to pay for the service whether it is used or not. If the user decides to

connect, the user will pay for the hook-up and will have to hire a contractor to build pipes into the home or business area.

A committee to hear appeals will be set up consisting of five persons, including Regional Chairman Jack Rafitis. The committee will be empowered to recommend a cash rebate to Jan. 1, 1980 for any person or business proving it is being overcharged. Such proof would require the applicant to submit a report prepared by a recognized engineer or similar authority.

Next week the region will be mailing out its brochure which is designed to explain water-sewer equalization.



Don Van Fleet marked 30 years with Goy Cartage recently and was recognized at the firm's annual Christmas dance last week.

30 years service marked by Don Van Fleet

Thirty years of "faithful service" was recognized recently when Goy Cartage presented Don Van Fleet with a plaque in appreciation of his work.

In addition to the plaque, according to John Goy Sr., the company is assisting Mr. Van Fleet and his wife to take a winter vacation.

Mr. Van Fleet came to Goy Cartage from Beardmore and Co. in 1949, and has been driving tractor trailers for 26 years. Of his 30 years of service, 22 have been accident free. Mr. Goy stressed.

The plaque was presented at the company's recent Christmas party.

Hockey gear sold but needed back

The Acton Salvation Army is making a desperate appeal to whoever purchased hockey equipment at their Thrift shop last Wednesday to please return the merchandise to the store.

Lieutenant Lorne Pritchett told The Acton Free Press the equipment was sold by accident and did not belong to the Salvation Army. It had been inadvertently left at the Elgin St. store.

The owner of the equipment is obviously very anxious to have it returned to him.

Whoever made the purchase can call 853-3321 or 853-1140.



Only 98 years young!

It was a happy 88th birthday for Martha Jackson of Maple View Lodge Wednesday. One gift she received was a color photo taken of her 87th birthday with three of her favorite Toronto Maple Leafs, Darryl Sittler, Tiger Williams and Lanny Mc-

Donald. The spry old lady is well known for her enthusiasm for the Leafs and sat in on a practice last year. Mrs. Jackson celebrated her birthday surrounded by family and friends.