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# Nursing funds almost gone, seek alternatives

Steve Arnold  
Sick and elderly Halton residents who rely on visiting nurses and homemakers for part of their care could find themselves waiting in line as Halton Region grapples with budget problems.

The regional's Health and Social Services Committee was told last week the budget was drastically reduced earlier this year and is now almost exhausted but the need continues to mount.

Rennie Vivian, Administrator of Social Services, told committee members demands for visiting nurses and homemakers throughout the region is continuing to climb while funds dwindle.

He said 452 residents last year required the services of such professionals, as an alternative to longer stays in hospital. The region is required to pay 50 per cent of the costs of such services.

"This year we have more longer term cases that require much more care," he said, when committee members noted that costs are up this year while the number of patients receiving the service is down.

To the end of June, the region was assisting 261 patients with visiting nurse and homemaker services.

Councillor Carol Gooding (Oakville) requested Mr. Vivian report to the next meeting of the committee with further statistics noting how many clients are being served by the region, the source of referrals and the possibilities of instituting user pay charges.

Mr. Vivian told the committee that by the end of the year it is expected that the service will be \$7,150 over budget, if demand continues to grow at the projected rate.

The only available alternatives, he said, are to transfer funds from other accounts, or decline all further applications for service and cut off all those clients currently receiving assistance in mid-September.

He also said some money could be transferred from a fund out of which the region pays its share of the costs of keeping children in private group homes.

"We could take money from the juvenile commitments fund, which is in reasonably good shape, but that has a certain amount of jeopardy to it," he said.

According to provincial law, if the local Family Court judge chooses to send a child from Halton to a private group home rather than a provincial detention centre, the region is obliged to pay half of the costs.

To date, that fund still has \$14,000 of the \$15,000 budgeted to it, but the demands on the fund could increase without warning.

Councillor Jim Grieve (Burlington) wondered if there wasn't a "middle ground, where we don't have to be whoopee or miserly," in dealing with the problem.

"I don't think it's reasonable to terminate service to people who are depending on it, but it's also not reasonable to keep spending money like this either," he said.

Mr. Vivian explained that when a patient is released from hospital, the doctor will dictate the amount of home care that he thinks is needed. If the patient meets the region's criteria, assistance with the cost of care is provided.

He suggested, to the delight of regional chairman Jack Raffis, that a user pay charge could be instituted "so that the patient pays a certain minimum, regardless of how much or how little they have."

Mr. Raffis suggested that many of the people receiving assistance with the cost of such care "may not have much income but they have a hell of a lot of assets."

"I don't think the people of Halton should be paying for a service day after day while these people hoard their assets and pass them on," he added.

"If we had a user pay system then we could provide more help to people who are really poor and disadvantaged. We could help more people."

"If we get a commitment like that from people then we could make better use of the system," he added.

Councillor Ed Wood (Halton Hills) suggested that the number of people being assisted by the region could be frozen and that new cases only be taken on when current ones are closed.

Dorothy Craig, Director of the Public Health Nursing division warned "We could conceivably have someone starve to death in that period because they have been sent home but can't care for themselves."

Mrs. Craig also suggested the demand for this service is going to grow in the future as the median age of the population continues to climb.

Concerning charges about the inadequacy of the food provided to patients, McManus said, "We have the people who are feeding the patients and preparing the food that is given to them and they say there is not enough food."

Staff has also complained that insufficient bedding is available. "So that if a resident fouls the bedding the staff is told to simply put them back into it."

If council does not take the action requested, McManus said, the matter will be taken directly to the provincial Ministry of Health.

Regional Councillors have received a copy to the letter in time for their meeting today.

# Manor problems said verging on labor walkout

By Steve Arnold  
An impartial investigation is needed immediately into the operations of Halton Centennial Manor according to the union representing workers there.

In a special letter to Regional Councillors, union members and two Halton newspapers, the Canadian Union of Operating Professional Engineers and General Workers made several charges concerning the management and administration of the regionally operated home for the aged.

Vince McManus business manager for Local 101 of the union said areas of concern include inadequate sanitation of the home, insufficient food, unjustified lay offs, harassment of employees and insufficient staffing.

"We are taking this action because we are concerned about the complaints we have been receiving from our members there," Mr. McManus said in a telephone interview.

"There are the people who are in a position to know what is needed there."

Mr. McManus explained that the CUOPGW was certified in May of 1979 to represent 240 workers at the Manor.

Their first contract has been in arbitration since December of that year.

"Our members there are new to union activities," he said indicating that many of the workers are women earning second incomes.

"These aren't militants but when I get three calls a day saying something has to be done or the workers will spearhead a walkout I know there's a problem."

"My concern right now is to get someone outside the Region and outside the council to investigate what is going on there."

McManus said that among the many charges being made about operations are insufficient number of staff members and improper training for workers and supervisors.

"The information I have is that if there is a committee formed and they start looking at the things it will be a real horror show," he said.

"I would prefer if (the committee) to be lay people rather than professionals," he said.

# Dairy Princess in CNE

By Cathy Rich  
Good old summertime, indeed this summer has been good so far.

We, here in Halton, can be thankful that we have managed to remain out of the paths of this summer's major storms.

Our hay crops have been good and the corn seems to be well on its way to being a bumper crop. As the summer wears on there is a definite change in the weather developing as well as another change of note to local dairymen.

The end of the summer brings with it the Canadian National Exhibition which will play host to the 25th Annual Ontario Dairy Princess Competition being held from Aug. 20 to 27 in the Coliseum, Exhibition Place. There are 42 entrants for this year's event, representing every corner of this province.

It will be my privilege to represent Halton this year.

I am enthusiastic and eager to do my best for the milk producers, indeed the entire agricultural community I represent.

This year's competition will be broken up into four days of preliminary competition, Aug. 20 to 23. Ten contestants per day will be interviewed by a panel of judges. That same evening, the contestants for the day will be involved in the public portion of the competition to be held at 6.00 p.m. in the small judging ring - Coliseum East Annex. The evening program will include prepared speeches randomly selected from a group of four, previously assigned topics.

Following the speeches a milking demonstration will be performed by the girls. The evening program promises to be interesting and fun for all.

I will be competing on the first day of competition, Aug. 20th. Following completion of all of the preliminary presentations the semifinals will be held Aug. 25 and 26, and the finals on Aug. 27 to coincide with Agriculture Day at the CNE.

Mrs. Pat Thompson, the Dairy Princess Coordinator for Halton, has worked hard to involve me in appearances and events that would enable me to be a worthy representative of this area.

My thanks go out to her and to the members of the Halton County Milk Committee for their encouragement and support.

At this time I would like to cordially invite everyone who is interested to attend the 25th Annual Ontario Dairy Princess Competition.

I will be looking forward to seeing many of you there.



Cathy Rich

# Soccer match a draw

by Doris Fines  
A 1-1 tie was the outcome of a father and son soccer game played at Ospringe school grounds Saturday morning.

The 11 and 12-year-old Mosquito Hillbillies met their match as they took on their fathers for a game. Andrew Smith scored the goal for the fathers, and Leo Rabstein for the Mosquitos. Claudia Rabstein refereed the game.

Janet Sinclair and Connie McKinnon attended First Chance Church Camp at Primrose, recently.

Mrs. Rick Williams, Lee and Victoria, returned on Friday to Fall River, Nova Scotia, after visiting with her sister and family, Mrs. Stuart McKinnon, for two weeks. Mr. Williams was only able to stay for one week. During the same period Mr. and Mrs. Peter Yorke, Jennifer and Kevin of Pelham, New Hampshire, USA, and Miss Sigrid Yorke of Chicoutimi, Quebec, dropped in.

Mrs. Thomas Fines and Doris spent a couple of days with Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Howes of Guelph, at a cottage at Deer Park Lodge at Bayfield.

Sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Stewart and family in the loss of their daughter Carol, also to Mrs. David Stewart and Mr. Andy Johnston in the loss of a granddaughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Barry Clarke accompanied by Mrs. Clarke's two sisters, Ann Whyte and Mrs. Lloyd Grace, and Mr. Grace, all of Georgetown, went on a four day holiday to Rice Lake and the Serpent Mounds Provincial Park.

# Everton cat quarantined

When you enter Everton, enter with your broily raised. An 8-year-old Brampton boy is in Peel Memorial Hospital after being bitten by an Everton cat last week-end.

Guelph OPP investigated the incident which involved Guy Andrews and the unknown cat. The boy reacted to the bite the next day which necessitated his being sent to hospital.

The cat is under observation for two weeks at the Guelph Humane Society.

The Wellington County Health Unit are investigating.



Station Hotel slugger George Garton swings the big bat during Sunday's industrial ball game against Halton Hills Electric. Catching is Danny Allen and looking over his shoulder is umpire Pete Fendley.