

Holmesway apts. in 'remote' fire danger: brass

Residents of the Holmesway senior citizens apartments are in "remote" or "marginal" danger of fire, according to Halton Housing Authority (HHA) officials. The danger has existed for months.

The danger exists because there is no security tenant to keep an eye on the building's secondary fire alarm system panel. The panel is located in the security tenant's apartment and there has been no tenant since last summer.

Seven of the building's 12 apartments are occupied.

The authority hopes to rent the security apartment before it has to string a line to the new senior citizens' apartments on Elizabeth Drive, according to HHA member Dolly Moulden.

Halton Hills fire department recommended moving the fire alarm trouble signal to where it can be supervised. The department made the recommendation after a January 14 inspection, according to fire prevention officer Larry Brassard.

The building has two fire alarm systems. The main alarm system is independent of the secondary one, according to HHA's senior maintenance supervisor Bob Boves.

The main system goes off when one of the pull alarms or a heat detector is activated. The main system, described as a tape-dialer, then telephones its taped messages to the fire department, Boves' home and the custodian at the Elizabeth Dr. seniors' apartments.

"If there was some breakdown in the panel

(secondary system) it could mean a breakdown in the tape-dialer," Boves said Monday.

Boves described the threat of a fire as "remote" while HHA's housing manager Ann Gabriel used the word "marginal".

Boves detailed the regular inspections carried out at the Holmesway Place apartments as follows: there is a daily visual inspection by the custodian of the Elizabeth Drive building; each month one of the pull alarms is activated to see if the system checks. Each year a contractor inspects the entire system.

The security tenant's apartment is rent free. It and four others have been empty since the opening of the new Elizabeth Drive apartment building.

All five vacancies are one-bedroom apartments with stove, fridge, equipped kitchen and living

room, according to Mrs. Gabriel. Heating and appliances are electrical.

One of the tasks the security tenant would undertake, in exchange for the rent free apartment, is dealing with emergencies, such as the fire alarm system, according to Gabriel.

The security tenant's apartment is equipped with the panel which is tied into the fire alarm system. "If anything happened to the (building's) fire alarm system and there was a fire, it (the system) might not work," said Gabriel.

The two-storey apartment building would be safer with a security tenant, indicated Gabriel. Asked if there is a danger to apartment dwellers she said: "I would certainly feel it's marginal."

"It's possible there could be a danger," Gabriel went on to say. "The fire department is concerned

about it."

The housing manager also said that there is a neighbor who locks and unlocks the building.

Apartments in the Holmesway building were described by Gabriel as being ideal for someone who likes to go home and shut the door. "They're ideal for someone who's quiet and independent," she said.

Rent in the Holmesway Place is subsidized. They are based on approximately 20 per cent of the renter's gross income, according to Gabriel. Most apartment dwellers pay the maximum \$225. The least one can pay is \$34, she said. The building is about 10 years old.

Pat Sparrer is the authority's tenant placement officer.

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This quilt made by Lucille Cooksley of R.R. 2 Rockwood is being judged this week in the Canada Packers Championship quilt competition at the Agricultural Societies of Ontario convention in Toronto. She took top prize in the quilt competition at the Acton Fall Fair and then took top honors in the district five competition. Her Pattern of Starflower quilt, which took her a year to make, beat out 21 district entries. Photo by GORD MURRAY

Liberals again pick Reed

Julian Reed, incumbent Liberal MPP for Halton-Burlington, was acclaimed the Liberal standard-bearer for the March 19 election, Saturday night, during a nomination meeting which was more like a love-in.

When riding president Dolly Moulden called for nominations everyone in the hall stood up and in unison shouted "Julian Reed", as they clapped their hands.

Visibly moved, Reed thanked the Liberal gathering and said he could do little without their support. He emphasized that an MPP has to rely on the ad-

vice and knowledge of the people who put him in Queen's Park. He warned it was not time to feel comfortable as he predicted a hard campaign against a formidable foe.

Reed said he was encouraged about the outlook, stating "in the 12 days since the election was called Premier Bill Davis has had 12 bad days while Stuart Smith has had 12 good ones."

He argued people of all political viewpoints were realizing it is time the government in power should be removed and replaced with a fresh, sensitive one at Queen's Park.

The Liberal candidate contended the Liberals had gathered a core of reasonably young, keen people who are not content to languish in opposition.

He maintained any party entrenched for a long time owes too many IOU's and becomes rigid. Reed contended the Premier, who has made leadership an issue, has presided over the decline of Ontario.

Reed cited the confrontations in South Cayuga over the landfill site and the anger over the Remor situation as evidence of dissatisfaction with the Tory government.

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Cutler is NDP's selection

Chris Cutler, a long-time resident of the Flam-borough Township area was acclaimed Monday to contest the Halton-Burlington riding as the New Democratic Party candidate.

Mr. Cutler, a circulation manager with a weekly newspaper west of Hamilton, opened his campaign in Milton's UAW Hall by announcing a three-part NDP plan aimed at easing the property tax burden.

The New Democrats, he said, would "immediately" reduce the education tax by 15 per cent and this would be coupled with "economic value assessment" and a "normal property development program."

Mr. Cutler said education taxes are based on the

property tax and the NDP, by reducing that 15 per cent and taking the money from "general revenues," would cut the taxation bill for the homeowner.

For the person who does not own a home, Mr. Cutler said the normal property development program would allow anyone renting accommodation to get part of the "hidden property tax" they pay in rent back at the end of the year in the form of a rebate.

Mr. Cutler said a person paying \$250 per month could expect \$596 back at the end of the year from an NDP provincial government.

The plan of economic value assessment would im-

pose a property tax on the value of real property so people owning similar homes would pay similar taxes.

Mr. Cutler, who works for Brabant News, is a long-time resident of Waterdown. Following his acclamation, he told how at the age of 10 he would accompany his father through Hamilton-Wentworth putting up signs and handing out pamphlets for NDP candidates.

He said his father had emigrated from England and he noted his grandfather had also been a "laborite." This family history of labor politics has involved him in many facets of his party. He sits on

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Kindergarten

Kids on hold

For as many as 500 Halton children the doors to kindergarten will be locked in September.

Halton Board of Education estimates 500 youngsters will have to wait a year before trying to catch up.

Those children, some of whom are in nursery schools, will not be eligible to enter kindergarten in September.

Some parents are searching for private schools to educate their children while others, in Burlington, are seeking to take their case to Premier William Davis.

Kindergarten children, whose sixth birthdays fall in January or February, will proceed to Grade 1 because they have already started in the school system, according to Halton Director of Education Em Lavender.

The next kindergarten enrolment will only accept youngsters whose fifth birthdays fall before December 31. That is the rule in the Education Act.

Halton permitted children into kindergarten in September when their fifth birthday fell as late as the following end of February. That 11-year-old Halton policy was withdrawn during Thursday's board meeting at Burlington.

Some trustees blamed the ministry for the late change in kindergarten eligibility while others pointed the finger at the board's staff.

"I really feel we should have been watching the situation more closely," Burlington trustee Cam Jackson said. He reminded trustees that a year and two days ago board staff issued a report stating that the kindergarten matter would be "foremost in mind."

Lavender defended his staff by saying that to react to all possible issues from the ministry "would keep this board in a fairly frequent state of uncertainty."

When the education ministry gives a warning about a "program run in open defiance" of the ministry, monitoring of that situation would be easy, charged former board chairman Bill Herd.

There was a suggestion that Halton absorb the cost, some \$100,000, of early enrolment. Most trustees, though, argued that they could then be charged by ratepayers or the ministry with misappropriation of funds.

In a letter dated February 5, Ontario Minister of Education Bette Stephenson suggested Halton consider beginner classes.

"The solution of the minister is really not a solution," vice-chairman Elaine Riehm said. "It means we do in 13 1/2 years what other boards do in 13 and what other provinces do in 12."

Stephenson turned down Halton's January 29 appeal for a year's grace concerning the eligibility age. "We fully appreciate the viewpoints expressed on behalf of those parents who had anticipated having their children begin school in September, 1981. You understand, however, that my responsibility is to ensure that the provisions of the legislation are applied consistently and equitably across the province."

The ministry tried to gauge the degree of differences in provincial boards policies concerning kindergarten ages.

John Storey, Central Region Director of Education, said of a May 6 meeting with county directors of education: "In fairness to the boards, I'd have to

say what we were doing was trying to determine the degree of the problem."

In October Storey issued a memo reminding board directors of the provision of The Education Act.

Halton's staff alerted trustees of the ministry's mind after the October memo, though, education director Lavender acknowledges he knew of the May 6 meeting. He has stressed, as has Storey of the ministry, that no action was required.

Burlington trustee Jackson charges that most of the 16 or 18 school boards which found themselves out of step with the ministry—complied before September.

inside

Read about what the Halton board's decision means to some town children on page 2.

The date for Halton Hills Council's debate on Section 86 has been changed. See why on page 7.

On page 8 read about Rockwood Lions burning their mortgage.

Tory ranks breaking up

A rift in the ranks of the Halton-Burlington Progressive Conservative Riding Association has taken its toll and now includes the resignation of its president, John Belleghem.

In an interview with this paper yesterday, Belleghem confirmed he will leave the Association executive "just as soon as the election is over" due to what happened Feb. 9 during the PC nomination meeting.

Along with Belleghem, several other prominent area Tory members have tendered their resignations.

The resignations come in the wake of bitter charges of unfair voting procedures at the riding's nomination convention in Milton 10 days ago.

Georgetown member Fran Baines won hands down over Milton opponent Brian Penman. Although strongly urged by many Association members to run as an independent, Brian Penman said Monday he will not seek election.

Policeman offers vandalism solution

What works against vandalism? There are two things according to Halton Regional Police Deputy Chief Bob Middaugh. One is deterrence by police. There is, however, not enough money for that.

That leaves the accountability of the child to the family. "The family structure is becoming more sound than in the '70s," said Middaugh.

The deputy chief made his remarks to the Business Improvement Area's (BIA) executive

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Lady luck smiles on locals ten split \$100,000 in Wintario

Just a couple of hours before supposedly unlucky Friday 13 lady luck smiled on Acton as 10 Beardmore workers shared a \$100,000 Wintario draw prize.

It is also widely reported another Beardmore worker shared a \$100,000 Wintario prize with her father. The rumored winner wouldn't confirm her luck for the Free Press and the Ontario Lottery Corporation had no record of her win at press time.

George Harris, R. R. 4 Acton, Doug Weston, 179 Longfield Rd., Jim McDonald, 242 Peel St., John Wagg, 28 Guelph St., Dave Stuckless, 27 Park Ave., Roy McFadden, 350 Orville Rd., Dave Morris, 24 Ransom St., Kevin Perkins, 187 Kingham Rd., David Glenn, 247 McDonald Blvd., and Bruce Saunders, 27 Mill St. East, all work in the chrome department, tanning and dying, at Beardmore. They shared the \$100,000 prize, each receiving \$10,000. They are known as the "fat licker" crew happy winner McDonald said.

They knew of their big win Thursday night, but still showed up for work Friday.

After work they went down to the lottery offices in Toronto to pick up their winnings and then went to a restaurant for a celebration.

Ontario Lottery Corporation official Val Ciccone interviewed each of the winners about their plans for their winnings.

Most said they will pay off loans, mortgages and bills and bank the balance.

Glenn told the lottery spokesperson he'll pay off his car loan, Stuckless will bank what he has left over after paying a loan off, Saunders plans to pay some bills and then bank \$7,000, Perkins' winnings will go towards bills and his mortgage, McFadden will pay the balance owing on his home and bank about \$5,000 and Harris will also pay off his car. Wagg had indefinite investment plans for his winnings and Norris and Weston hadn't decided. McDonald will complete renovations of his Muskoka cottage.

Harris said while they originally told the lottery people the ticket was purchased in Guelph they now think they bought it right here in Acton, at AB Foodland.



Nine of the ten happy workers at Beardmore who shared a \$100,000 Wintario prize ticket in Thursday's draw. The "fat licker" crew picked up their prize Friday and most are planning to pay off bills and loans with their winnings. Photo by ERIC ELSTONE