

# Halton Deer hunt not needed — Halton Hills woman

Debbie Kilmer on a Limehouse rural route appeared before Halton Region council last week to dispute the need for a three-day deer hunt in Halton, objecting to three statements which emanated from region council on the need for one.

Following is the complete text of her presentation:

**Honorable Council Members:**

The issues, discussed in order will be: firstly, the "hopes of cutting back the high numbers of deer in Halton and Flamborough Townships"; secondly, that the "controlled hunt remain with the same standards of supervision as in the 1980 hunt"; and lastly, that there "was little or no objection to another three-day deer hunt".

"Cutting back on high numbers of deer"

It is unfortunate that Terry Mannell's recommendation that the decision be deferred until a meeting was set up with the Ministry of Natural Resources. To save you time, I have taken the liberty to research the situation with greater detail. Quoting Mrs. Nancy Tilt, the Ministry's biologist on deer management, "there is no way of estimating the number of deer in this region." Also, "there has not been a study done for a long time on this topic". (Cumming and Waldon, 1978). Nevertheless she intends to conduct a "crude" report for 1982.

The only two criteria by which the Ministry assumes that there are herds of deer, is by road slaughter and by business farmers' complaints.

Nancy Tilt agreed that she had not taken the variable of increase of traffic volume into consideration when providing me with deer road slaughter counts. My investigation found these parallels interesting:

Deer Road Slaughter (Nancy Tilt) (jurisdiction of MNR Cambridge branch)—1980—350 deer; 1979—270 deer; 1978—350 deer; 1960—75-100 deer.

Traffic volume increase (Fit Harris) (Ministry of Transportation and Communication) Road Section: Halton Road 3 to Churchill Blvd. Acton—(random sample, 24 hr count)—1980—5,500; 1979—5,400; 1978—5,300; 1960—2,400.

Road Section: 401—Trafalgar Road to 25—1980—40,000; 1979—37,000; 1978—35,000; 1960—10,000.

Mr. Hunter of the MTC, approximated that there were 689 accidents to inebriated drivers in Halton in 1980—33 were fatal (drivers only). Both employees did not feel that there was substantial evidence to create an exaggerated fear of fatality.

to humans due to deer. In fact, there are just as many cattle, large and small animals that cause "collisions". Most deer collisions occur at night, owing to the data that the deer are hypnotized by headlights of vehicles, and bolt towards the source. It is not because there are herds of deer roaming our highways, and by chance collide with a car. All roads are posted for deer areas, hence, drivers should take caution.

"Cutting back on high numbers of deer"

The second reason for the assumption that there is a large population of deer is founded on two noted farmers' complaints, namely Chudleigh farm and a nursery. It is my understanding that it was because of these complaints, that the 1980 hunt was initiated. In the past Mr. Chudleigh had reported herds of 60 deer eating spring buds off fruit trees. Henry Stanley, a past hunter himself, has spoken to him recently, and learned that fewer deer have been seen in his fields this year—approximately 20.

Mr. Stanley, points a very bleak picture for the future of agriculture in Halton. He said that if these herds of deer are not controlled by at least five years of hunting, most of the farmers in Halton will leave. After a five year period, then, a study should be done on deer population.

Mr. Stanley, who lives on 10 acres in close proximity to Mr. Bill Johnson, has seen "herds of 20 deer" on his land. Whereas, Mr. Johnson has not. Mr. Stanley also expressed his concern that the deer are spreading Leptospirosis, and are killing livestock. This suggestion cannot stand as another reason to hunt the deer, as any mammal, such as muskrat, coy dogs and cattle themselves spread this disease.

I should remind council that the MNR report on 1980 hunt provided information that the deer taken and examined were healthy.

A more serious concern that the council should consider is that if the unknown population of deer are "hunted out" drastically, the coy dogs and coyotes will turn to local farmers' livestock for a food source. Then there will undoubtedly be a greater hue and cry.

"Controlled and supervised hunt"

To clarify to the council what "supervised" meant to the MNR, "for all the region for Halton and Flamborough Townships in the 1980 hunt, there were five conservation officers with an

accompanying deputy, (two to a car), and one helicopter, (stationed at Morrison check station). As well, only 108 deer were reported killed to the Ministry, the other 20 were result of random phone calling. Yet, they are aware that at least 800 deer have been poached, not to mention how many hunters took two deer or did not bother to report their kill.

Mrs. Tilt also clarified that the regulations for obtaining a licence for a hunt are a written and gun handling tests. She admits that there is no testing of marksmanship. Therefore, one might question how many incompetent hunters are roaming our properties.

My husband is a large animal Veterinarian, and has had the grotesque experience when a deer had dragged itself to a citizen's back yard with its face blown apart by poor marksmanship. There are also many farmers who have their livestock shot at by such inept hunters.

Could the next accident be a human? Whose shoulders does that fall upon?

"No objection"

With less than one week to prepare opposition to council on their decision for yet another deer hunt—we have collected letters from those who are less fortunate to be here today. If need be, we will put together a petition to further prove to council that there is a major concern. Therefore, we appeal for an extension to present the council and the MNR a poll against the 3-day deer hunt proposed for 1981.

Perhaps the council could consider another means of keeping all taxpayers happy by controlling deer on those farms who are afflicted by the deer's presence.

Game wardens could skillfully control the deer in these afflicted areas. By doing this, those residents and farmers who welcome the deer will not have to put up with their fences being trodden down, yards littered, intimidation by hunters, not to mention fear for their lives.

In closing, I would like to assert that urban sprawl has forced the white-tailed deer to a favorable reservoir—the Niagara Escarpment. Hence, a population of deer in Ontario have found refuge in our woods. We must consider that the Ministry at present, has no way of knowing deer mortality due to predators, peaching and attrition.

I sincerely appreciate the grievances of certain farmers, but to open another three-day deer hunt to the entire area, may weaken or destroy

the unknown number of deer. To quote the Nature Conservancy of Canada: "man has abused nature to the point where very little remains... Man courts ecological breakdown as if he were impelled to it's consequence. He acts as if he were not a member of the system." In order to maintain the diversity of wildlife, in particular the deer, I feel impelled to appeal to council to review these issues which I have presented. It is obvious that more substantial evidence and scientific study is required. The decision is now yours.

Mrs. Debbie Kilmer



Left Kevin Tribe and Karen Pitt blow balloons, part of the St. Alban's Sunday School refreshment stand at the Church's rummage sale Saturday. The school was raising money for the Foster Child project.



Robert Little Public School's primary choir did its part in the entertainment for the Acton Family of Schools' yearly concert. The choir sang two selections.



The Acton High School Orchestra, under the direction of Dave Sale, joined the Acton Family of Schools' concert for two selections last week. The concert was in connection with Education Week.

## Bid for town's broker

Interested area insurance agents should have a chance to bid for the Town of Halton Hills business according to London Life Insurance representative William Carney.

Speaking to members of council last Tuesday evening, Carney said he read in the paper that Rick West was the town's broker and felt other interested agents should have a chance to quote on the contract.

Mayor Peter Pomeroy said it wasn't council's intention to preclude anyone from making a bid.

He noted West engages a consultant to assist in reviewing policies and the town needs outside experience to determine which policies give the best value for the money because insurance is such a complex field.

Pomeroy said they would not reconsider their 1981 choice but would allow bids from the market for 1982 and offer the business to all agents on an equal basis.

Carney said he was speaking as an individual and as a representative for London Life but not for other agents who had spoken to him but did not offer him any support during his presentation to council.

"There wasn't any favoritism and I don't respect any insurance agent who won't come forward and air their views rather than talking behind our backs. That really makes me boil," Pomeroy said.

## Knox Alert

### Bake sale planned

The Knox "Alert" Evening Group met in the Mary Ellen Anderson Room.

The president, Isabel McDonald, opened the meeting with a poem.

Following the Easter service in the Glad Tidings, Gladys Davidson, as leader gave a short reading and read the Scripture—Luke 23: 33-37 and 44-46, followed by another reading.

Hymn 192 "Blest Morning Whose First Dawning" was sung.

Welma Coles read the Scripture, Luke 23: 55-56 and 24: 1-12, and also gave another reading, followed by another Scripture reading Matt. 28: 16-20.

Hymn 193 "The Day of Resurrection" was sung, followed by prayer by Gladys.

Wilma led all in the repeating the Apostles' Creed. Gladys gave a reading followed by Hymn 201 "Thine be the

### Monte Carlo night raises about \$2,200

It would appear Acton Chamber of Commerce's Monte Carlo night in aid of Leathertown has raised in the neighborhood of \$2,200.

Leathertown chairman Chip Petrillo reports final calculations on the revenue and costs of the event on May 1 at the Community Services Centre aren't in yet, but it looks like there will be \$2,200 or less for Leathertown projects.

He said 509 of 1,000 tickets for the event were sold and revenue from ticket sales, games of chance and the bar were just shy of \$13,000. However, Monte Carlo night piled up expenses for food, printing, advertising, band, games equipment rentals, and the hiring of dealers and arena rental of \$10,500.

"The cost of oil and gas will probably increase by at least 20 per cent," said Senior Policy Advisor Hank Galka of the Ministry of Energy.

"It's difficult to say but looking at the current trend, things are only go-

**\$129,726 computer for town**

A computer costing \$129,726, plus another \$2,000 for extra equipment will be installed in the Town offices.

Monday night, Halton Hills general committee recommended the purchase from M.A.I. Canada Limited, the lowest tender.

## Propane for police cars — savings expected

A realistic assessment of fuel costs may have been overlooked in this year's police budget.

The question of whether or not the Halton Police Commission budgeted realistically for rising fuel costs for an expanded fleet in 1981 was brought to the fore with a presentation on the possible benefit of converting the patrol cars to propane.

Research and Planning Officer Dave Richards, in explaining the cost savings of converting the patrol fleet to propane, noted that according to his figures "there is a real possibility we under-budgeted in fuel."

Chairman of the Police Commission Mayor Harry Barrett responded that the money budgeted for oil and gas was based on a historical figure.

The money allocated for oil and gas amounts to \$300,000 for this year, a 22 per cent increase over what was spent in 1980.

Seven or eight new patrol cars will be added to the fleet, but those cars were taken into account when the budget was made up, said Mr. Barrett.

"The cost of oil and gas will probably increase by at least 20 per cent," said Senior Policy Advisor Hank Galka of the Ministry of Energy.

"It's difficult to say but looking at the current trend, things are only go-

## Church Services

- TRINITY UNITED CHURCH ACTON**  
Rev. Charles Boston B.A., B.D.  
Dr. George Elliott M.S., Ph.D.  
Director of Music  
10.00 a.m. — Morning Worship  
Sunday, May 17, 1981  
10.00 a.m. — Sunday School  
Baby Fold and Toddler's Care  
All Welcome
- ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH**  
9.30 a.m. — Sunday School for all ages  
11.00 a.m. — Morning Worship  
7.00 p.m. — Evening Fellowship (in homes)  
Tuesday Y.P. at church
- THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR**  
corner Willow St. & St. Alban's Dr.  
Rev. Arthur Tribe B.A., M. Div.  
Director of Music Mrs. Frank Oakes  
Sunday, May 17, 1981  
9.00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist  
10.30 a.m. — Choral Eucharist  
10.30 a.m. — Church School, Nursery and Baby Care  
WEDNESDAY  
10.00 a.m. — Holy Communion  
ALL WELCOME
- PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA KNOX CHURCH ACTON**  
Rev. John A. Robertson M.A., B.D.  
Organist & Choir Director  
Mr. E. A. Hansen, B.A.  
Sunday, May 17, 1981  
11.00 a.m. — Sermon Subject "The Magic of Thinking Big"  
11.00 a.m. Church School, Nursery & Baby Care  
All Welcome
- SALVATION ARMY**  
Gospel Service every Sunday at 7.00 p.m. at Trinity United Church, Acton.
- CHURCHILL COMMUNITY**  
Riv. E. M. Jenkins  
14161 820-8022  
Sunday, May 17, 1981  
11.00 a.m. — Worship Service  
The Church on the Hill is an interdenominational congregation ministering to the needs of the community.  
Welcome

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