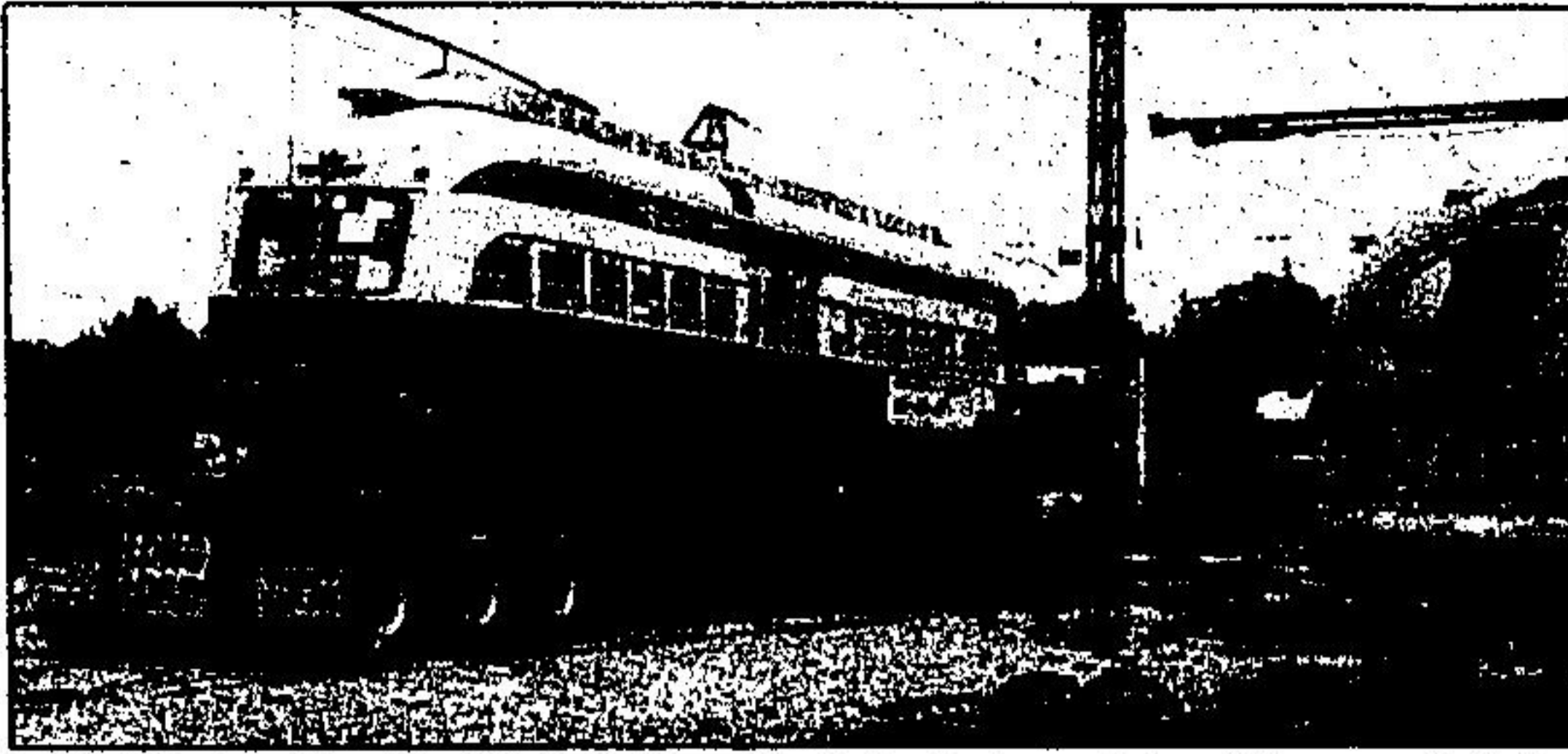


A
street
car
desired
for
museum



A streetcar on a flat car? Some people took a second look when this vintage Pullman car, made in Cleveland, Ohio, passed through Halton Hills along Highway 7 recently. The car was bound for the electrical railway museum on the Guelph Line between Acton and Eden Mills, where it will be part of the unusual display of electrical railway equipment. The car carried passengers on the Cleveland system until it was sold to the Toronto Transportation Commission (TTC) where it operated for many years. The museum has the old cars in operation along a mile and half stretch of track on the old radial railway bed which went from Toronto to Guelph through Georgetown and Acton with stops at Limehouse, Dolly Varden, Blue Springs and other hamlets.

Foster home crisis in Halton—CAS

By Robert Ashe

A member of the Halton's Children's Aid Society board of directors who opened her doors last week to homeless children during a foster home crisis did so because of "a moral obligation."

Halton—with only 57 foster homes and 219 children—has fallen into the crisis situation caused by low daily payments to foster parents. Rates in Halton range from \$6.78 for a newborn to \$8.09 for children 13 and older.

As is the case with all CAS organizations, Halton CAS supplies some children's clothing and gifts on special occasions such as birthdays and Christmas.

Toronto CAS has rates 35 per cent higher, while Hamilton is also far ahead of Halton. In fact, Halton is thought to be the second or third lowest paying CAS in the province.

Mary Walker of the 24 member board said the whole issue needs to be addressed as one of funding shortage, and not one of emotion. With the pending meetings with the Ministry of Community and Social Services, it is hoped more money can be made available to Halton CAS, she said.

"It's a difficult situation with so many people working," Mrs. Walker

said, noting the number of double income families could be a factor in the lack of foster homes. "The foster child obviously needs attention. If both parents are working... I think the foster child needs extra attention."

Meanwhile, Halton Regional council approved the formation of a special joint committee to study the relationship between the region and the CAS. The CAS gets 20 per cent of its funding from the Region. The newly formed committee will make recommendations to council by Nov. 15 on how to improve several matters relating to the CAS.

The joint committee is comprised of five citizen members and four councillors: Walter Mulkewich and Ted McDonald, both of Burlington, Brad Clements of Milton and Regional chairman Jack Raftis of Oakville.

Halton CAS executive director Ron Coupland said a tentatively scheduled meeting with representatives from the ministry of community and social services has been postponed. Mr. Coupland said a shakeup in ministry personnel has caused the delay, however it is hoped a meeting to discuss extra CAS funding can take place within two weeks.

Increase loans for physically disabled home owners

Maximum loans under the Ontario Home Renewal Program (OHRP) are being increased to \$9,500 for physically-disabled relatives living permanently with them.

Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Claude Bennett says that the funds to qualified applicants would be used for upgrading their homes to minimal municipal standards and making modifications that would lead to dwellings being more accessible to disabled persons.

The \$9,500 maximum is \$2,000 more than the amount generally available under the program.

A physically-disabled person is defined as one with a permanent, major physical disability who can produce medical evidence to verify the condition.

Generally, OHRP, which is administered by municipalities, assists homeowners to upgrade their homes, with the emphasis on faulty structural and sanitary conditions, and on plumbing, insulation, heating and electrical systems.

Loans of up to \$7,500 are made to eligible owner-occupants who wish to bring their homes up to standard. A portion of the loan may be forgiven, depending on the recipient's income. Interest rates range from

zero to eight per cent, again depending on income.

For applicants, including those who wish to make disability-related alterations to their homes as well as carry out upgrading work, the maximum annual qualifying income is \$15,500 after allowable deductions are made.

In order to qualify for special funding for modifications, dwelling units occupied by physically-disabled residents must be below minimum housing standards established by municipalities. Modifications must be made while upgrading work is being done.

Areas for alterations include stairs, ramps, doors, bathrooms, kitchens and windows. A ministry brochure gives details of planning and design requirements for physically-disabled residents applying for assistance.

Details of the change in OHRP are being sent to all the municipalities administering in the program.

Since OHRP was launched in 1974, more than \$147 million in provincial funds have been given to more than 700 municipalities and to individuals in unorganized communities. Repairs have been made to more than 35,000 homes.

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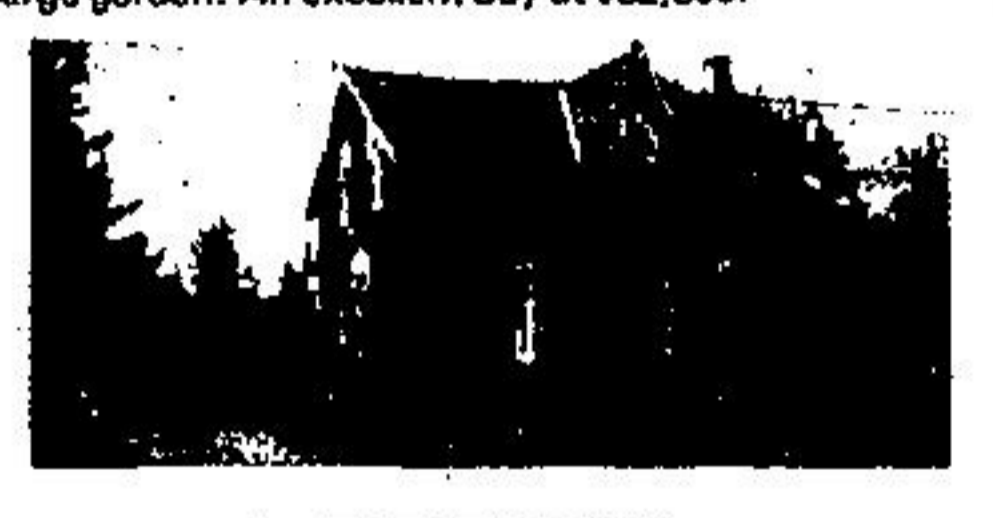
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