

Raftis reelected regional chairman

Burlington councillor Walter Mulkeiwich lost his bid for the regional chairman's post at Wednesday's regional council meeting.

In a secret ballot, councillors voted 15 to 7 in favor of Jack Raftis, chairman for the past four years.

In electing the regional chairman, councillors had to move the nomination and then second it. Burlington Mayor Roly Bird nominated Mulkeiwich because he is "a gentleman and a man of no malice." "He's a politician, but not a political animal," he stated. Mulkeiwich seconded his own nomination.

There was some confusion as to who nominated Raftis, but Burlington councillor Pat McLaughlin told council he wanted Raftis to continue as chairman because he has "done a good job the last four years."

"The amount of bashing he's taken, I don't know why he wants the job," he added. A councillor at the region for six years,

Mulkeiwich maintained council needed an alternative and welcomed a change of leadership.

He said the job of regional chairman should be one of "thoughtful" approach, rather than "shooting from the hip and hoping for the best."

"Regional chairman is based on leadership," he claimed, "not on behind-the-scenes politics."

He added the chairman's job shouldn't be part-time, and that the "time has come for full-time leadership."

"Part-time leadership undermines the effectiveness of regional government," he said.

Raftis chose to stay away from the aspects of the job, and spoke of the issues facing council in the next year. "I am at the region every day and I'll work harder if I'm re-elected," he said.

He believes the important issues facing Halton include the Business Advisory Committee Trade Show in 1983 where they will concentrate on assessment, the budget, the landfill site, the Peat/Marwick study on the elderly as well as improved health programs, and the new lights rail transit system to run from Oshawa to Hamilton.



Chairman Jack Raftis

Child abuse up 80% in North Halton area

by Diane Hart

The number of child abuse cases jumped almost 80 per cent in North Halton this year, according to public relations spokesman Teresa Palomo at the Halton Children's Aid Society. Unless there is a dramatic improvement in the economy, she believes that figure can only go higher.

There were 45 cases reported between January and October 1982, compared to 27 in the same period last year.

Palomo claimed that there is no single factor accounting for the increase, but speculated the economy is the big problem.

"The stress of unemployment and additional pressure of being at home all the time makes people lash out at their kids," she commented.

She added that the Halton Children's Aid Society has had workshops dealing with child abuse and the reporting "may be better in Halton."

"But I can't really say why there is such an increase in North Halton," she admitted.

Region-wide, Halton had had increases, although Burlington is the only other with an 80 per cent increase. Oakville has had a 44 per cent jump in cases.

"The average (increases in cases) in the region this year is 67 per cent," she said. "But Hamilton and Peel have also had increases."

Asked whether she thought the situation would improve in the winter, she said she hoped "it will stabilize."

"We're stretching our resources to the maximum now," Palomo said. "All we're doing is coping the best we can."

"The same thing is happening across the country," she added.

Inside

- Six months from Georgetown to Acton..... C3
- Outdoors..... C3
- Fire prevention poster winners . . C6

newsmakers

Georgetown/Acton, Wednesday, November 24, 1982

Region briefs

Painting by Booth

Halton Hills councillor Roy Booth was one of four councillors who were presented with a ring with Halton Region's coat of arms on their retirement from regional council.

Booth, who has been recently criticized for his lack of attendance at regional council, unveiled his present to the region—a painting entitled Communications which he painted himself.

The painting shows a sparrow perched on top of a hydro pole, and Booth told council how symbolic the painting is. "The old pole symbolizes the county—cracked and old, but what the region was based on," he said. "And the wires run both ways, showing communication should be a two-way thing."

Mayor Pete Pomeroy wished him all the best in the future. "His attendance has been the subject of some controversy," Pomeroy commented. "In his defence, the painting is the reason he's missed."

New Region treasurer

Joseph Hinaldo is the new treasurer at Region of Halton and will begin his duties in mid-December. It was announced at Wednesday's council meeting.

According to Chief Administrative Officer, Dennis Perlin, the new treasurer was the Director of Revenues in the department of finance in the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth.

Asks for representation

Halton Hills councillor Dave Whiting believes that there should be regional representation on the Social Services Grants Advisory Committee and added his support to other councillors. The recommendation to add councillors onto the committee was passed at Wednesday's council meeting.

"With the amount of monies involved, it's imperative that there's representation from day one," he said. "Grants are a horrendous job, but you have to have a line on it."

Burlington councillor Walter Mulkeiwich said he thought the grants have "a great degree of political implication" and that political representation is necessary.

The one councillor who vocally disagreed was Burlington councillor Joan Little who thought the only time the councillors would be needed was in "the last stages."

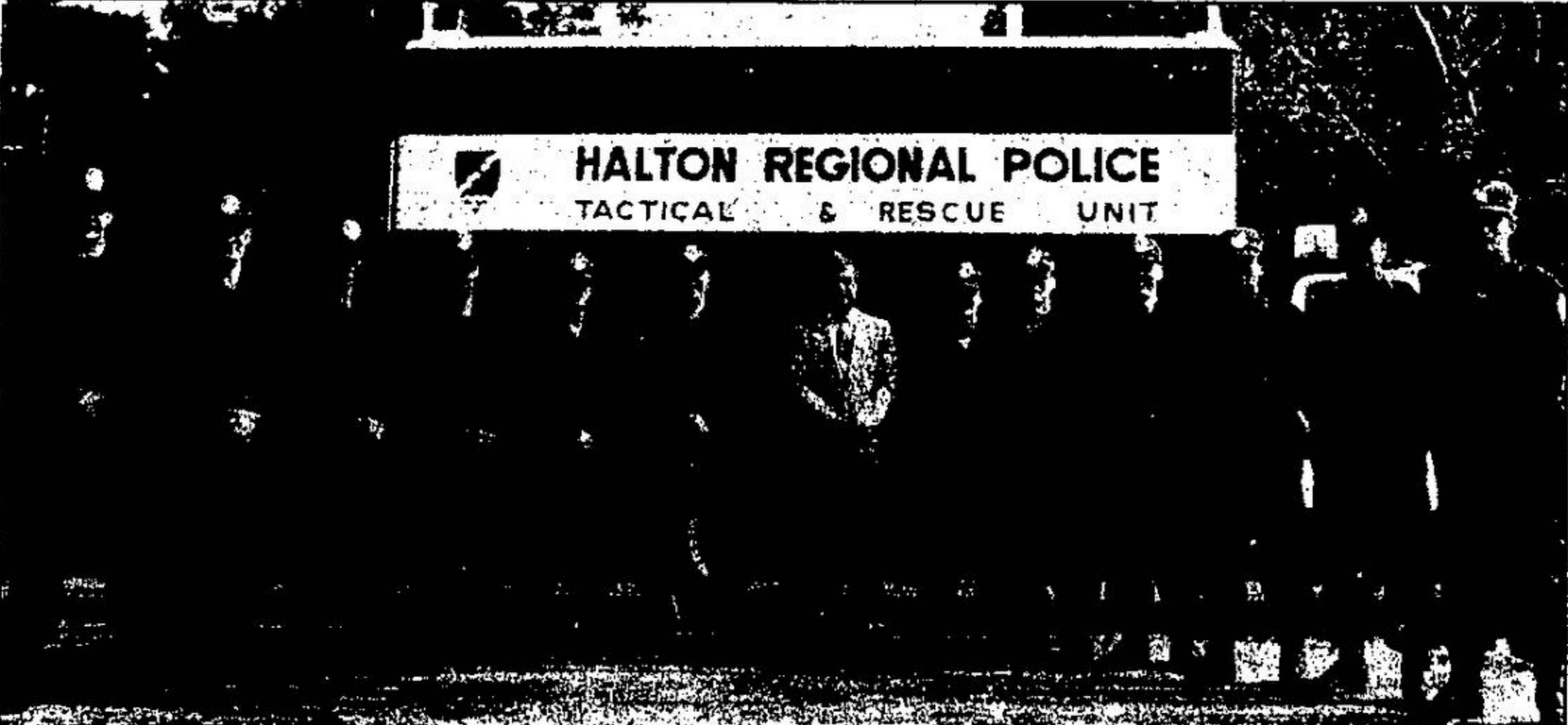
No addition to pension

A request by a regional councillor to add two years to his past service pension plan was unanimously rejected last Wednesday.

Burlington councillor Vern Connell joined council in 1974, two years before the region became part of the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System. His previous two years are not counted in the pension.

Connell said that all his years serving on council should be added in for the pension. "The pension should include all councillors, for all their years in service," he told council.

But Joan Little from Burlington objected on the grounds that other municipal employees may want the same privilege. The extra two years for Connell could have cost the region \$12,700 spread over four years.



Halton Regional Police Chief James Harding (centre) stands with Halton's version of a SWAT team — the Tactical and Rescue Unit. In operation just over a year the unit has been called on hostage taking incidents, snipers and shootings. Four Halton Hills police officers are currently part of the volunteer unit.

We're not a killer squad says tactical unit officer

By Diane Hart

What happens when an armed man runs through an apartment building and police don't know what floor he's on? Or if someone has taken hostages and is holed up in an isolated farmhouse? Or if a man has suddenly fired a high-powered rifle off the second floor balcony then randomly shoots into the apartment?

In any of these cases (and they've all occurred in Halton), local police officers would call Halton's version of a SWAT team, the Tactical and Rescue Unit.

"We're not a killer squad," stresses Inspector Kent Laidlaw, co-ordinator of the Halton unit. "It's not like SWAT (Special Weapons Assault Team) which is offensive," he said. "In fact, no shot has ever been fired in any operation." He added that sometimes the unit's "mere presence helps diffuse the situation."

The unit has been operating in Halton for just over a year, although the 13 men and two commanders trained a full year prior to the actual start of it.

Four constables from Halton Hills 11 Division are on the unit. Jack Poot, Nick Leoni and Alec Fishbein are trained to go at any time. Don Cousins, also from 11 Division, has recently been transferred to the training part of the unit, but is still officially with it. All men on the unit have everyday duties as constables when the unit's not in operation.

The green suited, heavily armed men were seen in Georgetown last weekend after a man had phoned police from the Georgetown Motor Inn, threatening to kill his girlfriend and himself. The drama ended when a police negotiator con-

vinced him to surrender and the man was found to have no gun.

Seven negotiators work closely with the unit, but because of the different nature of their work, they are looked upon separately to the tactical part of the team. All negotiators have been through training at the Canadian Police College in Ottawa.

When the unit is called, they immediately secure an inner perimeter. "That's to say, we cut off all entry and exit to the area," Laidlaw explained.

Then the senior officers meet for a briefing to find out the "intelligence" on the suspect and the particular situation.

"It's essential to first find out if he is holding hostages, is a known criminal or mentally deranged or whatever," the inspector commented. "That way, we know how to approach the situation."

Two commanders control the operation. The on scene commander, of the division handles the ambulance, media and everything other than the tactical operation.

The unit commander is in charge of the tactical operation. According to Laidlaw, there is rarely confusion about the chain of command, because every police officer on the Halton force has a directive outlining the tactical unit's responsibilities.

The on-scene commander has to decide about the next step. "He has many options, other than using us—he can negotiate or throw gas," Laidlaw said. "We're there merely as support—a highly trained alternative you might say."

The need for the unit was not demonstrated by

one particular incident, according to Laidlaw. But the inspector said the Halton Force wanted the unit as more of a support device. "I think we owe it to the community to have the unit," he commented, saying Peel, Hamilton-Wentworth and Toronto all have similar units. "And we owe it to our men as well."

The rescue part of the unit has not been used in the past year at all, although Laidlaw says his men are trained for rescues. "So far they've all been tactical operations," he said.

One problem the unit has encountered is the geography of the region. For instance, it took the unit an hour to arrive at the Motor Inn in Georgetown, from where the van is stored in Burlington.

The training is rigorous and all the men have to maintain the same level of physical condition at all times. As well as a five week training period the officers have to go through one day training twice a month.

No women are on the team, but Laidlaw maintains that if a woman police officer could meet the physical standards, then they would consider the application.

"But none of the women have shown any interest so far," he added.

They also have to pass psychological test, obtain a recommendation from the division commander and pass the oral board. This is on top of the five week training course they have to pass.

Why do they do it?

"They are not paid, it's strictly voluntary," said Laidlaw, adding the challenge is a good incentive. "But it's also the elitist aspect of the unit that appeals to some of the men, as well as the desire to stay in top physical condition."

Evaluation plan draws councillor's angry fire

A plan for secret evaluations of Halton's more than 800 employees ran into stiff opposition from committee members last week.

All three of the Region's standing committees agreed to a deferral of the plan after expressing fears about a system that would catalogue workers as lacking potential for promotion and not giving him a chance to respond.

The plan was presented by Dennis Perlin, chief administrative officer, to all three of the committees.

He explained that it was designed to be an inventory of the management skills of Regional staff, listing the promotability of specific workers and their strengths and weaknesses.

That inventory, he said, would then become the basis for decisions on future management development programs offered by the Region and for future programs.

When the proposal was presented to members of the health and social services committee Burlington Coun. Walter Mulkeiwich raised the first objection.

"There has to be a way to allow the employee to comment on this," he said. "There may be a case where the employee thinks the manager is right off base."

Oakville Coun. Carol Gooding also objected to the suggestion of keeping the evaluations from the review of the subjects.

"I have a great deal of difficulty with a piece of paper in somebody's file talking about their promotion qualities when they don't even know about it," she said.

Regional chairman Jack Raftis said there may be some advantages to an evaluation system, that isn't reviewed by the employee.

Mr. Mulkeiwich made the motion to have the plan submitted to Regional staff for comments before it is approved by council, adding that some form of review by the employees should be added.

"We should at least fly it by them and see what they think. We're trying to eliminate some of the backlash that could happen," Mrs. Gooding added.

Oakville Coun. Fred Oliver was one of the few who praised the system, saying "if this is handled appropriately it could benefit the whole organization by getting the square pegs in the square holes."

"It's taken nine years for this organization to get organized with the most expensive commodity that we have," he added.

Members of the planning and public works and administration and finance committees supported sending the plan to employees for comment.

Did 527 not vote for Mayor's spot?

Did 527 people who cast ballots in the November 8 municipal elections not vote for the mayoralty candidates?

This seeming mystery stems from the numbers of votes tallied for the mayor's spot and the number of voters who voted.

According to the list of results from the Returning Officer Ken Richardson, McKenzie received 2,845 votes and Pete Pomeroy received 8,407. This adds up to 11,052, but the number of voters who voted is stated as 11,579. Either 527 people refused to vote for mayor or some did not vote for mayor and other spoils their ballots.

In the races where more than two candidates sought one seat, the results show a lot of "plumping" went on. This means voters only vote for their favorite, even when two votes for two different candidates are allowed.

In the other straight two people race the number of votes cast add up to the number of voters except in the Acton hydro commission tally, where Doug Mason received 1,311 and Willfred McEachern 1,084, a total of 2,395. But 2,498 voted in that ward, meaning 103 did not vote for that particular spot.

In the global disarmament referendum 7,730 Yes votes and 3,195 no votes add up to 10,925, but 11,379 people voted overall. This shows 654 people either did not vote on this question or deliberately rejected their ballots as a protest against the question itself.

Analysis of the results showed Betty Fisher in capturing the Ward Three and Four school board seat took the highest percentage of the vote. She came out with 72.7 per cent of the votes cast, while Mayor Pete Pomeroy came second with 72.8 per cent of the popular vote.

Obituary

Scotsdale bequeathed to Queen following death of Mrs. Bennett

The community was saddened to learn of the death of Mrs. Violet (Letty) May Bennett at Toronto General Hospital on October 28, following surgery.

For many years she and her late husband, Stewart Gordon Bennett, shared the enjoyment of their beautiful Scotsdale farm and their beef Shorthorn herd which had attained world-wide prominence.

She was predeceased by her husband, Stewart Gordon Bennett, a former President of Beardmore & Co. Limited and a former Vice-President of Canada Packers Inc. and is survived by her sister, Kathleen Tronson of London, England and her adopted brother, Johnny Bole, also of England.

For use by the public

When her husband, the late Stewart G. Bennett, was President of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in 1952, Mrs. Bennett was instrumental in establishing the Overseas Register and meeting place at the Fair for overseas visitors and guests.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Bennett had a great love for flowers and all nature in general. She was a patron of the Georgetown Horticultural Society and donated flowering crab trees for the Georgetown District and Memorial Hospital. The care and preservation of waterfowl was a special interest.

During the Second World War, while she was a

member of the Canadian Golf Team, she made headlines in the Toronto Star. She was runner-up to Ada Mackenzie who won the Canadian Championship. She raised money for a Spitfire and a Mobile Canteen. Her sister, Mrs. Tronson of London, England found, much to her surprise, she was working for the war out of this same Mobile Canteen.

Mrs. Bennett was also a Director of the Ontario Shorthorn Lassies.

The Executors of the Estate of the late Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Bennett have advised that their farm "Scotsdale," together with the contents, furnishings and paintings, have been bequeathed to Her Majesty the Queen through the Ontario Heritage Foundation, for use by the public.



Violet May Bennett