

Region defers lot levies

Bending under pressure from about a dozen developers, regional council opted to defer the controversial \$2,580 per acre industrial and commercial levy, originally slated to begin on January 1.

The 90-day deferral was met with strong opposition Wednesday afternoon from a Burlington councillor who called council's move one of "dynamic inaction."

"That's when you do nothing, but you do it with style," said Councillor Joan Little, who has supported the imposition of the levies from the time they were introduced in October 1982.

But she and eight others were outvoted and the 90-day deferral went into effect.

"They're just using it as a scare tactic, telling us

there won't be any new development," said councillor Pat McLaughlin, also from Burlington.

"Let's stick to our original policy," he added.

But Mayor Pete Pomeroy and other Halton Hills councillors favored the deferral. "Why do we have to be a leader in the very thing that is detrimental (to new industry)?" he asked. He mentioned that if the levies were imposed, Halton region would be the only region to have such a policy.

Councillor Carol Gooding, from Oakville said she "couldn't believe the time spent on the levies" in the present bad economic climate.

"Are we so insulated from what's going on that we're willing to put even a psychological impediment to development?" she questioned council. "It's absolutely incredible."

A surprise in the recorded vote was Halton Hills councillor Mike Armstrong voting in favor of the deferral when he opted for the levies in October.

"I haven't changed my opinion," commented Armstrong during a break in the meeting. "But I must admit I was swayed by the developers."

He said developers better have "very strong reasons for no levies" if he was going to alter his position. "I think the deferral is the way right now."

During the 90-day deferral a sub-committee will be formed to evaluate the effects of the levy on the region. Consisting of the chairman, the four mayors, the Chief Administrative Officer and four representatives of the development industry, the committee will report back to council about any implications.

Georgetown/Acton,

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newsmakers

VON—St. Elizabeth's

Home care issue is deferred six months

The Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) were successful Wednesday afternoon at the region in putting off the controversial issue of a second nursing service being allowed into Halton. The Hamilton-based St. Elizabeth Visiting Nurses Association was requesting an agreement for an expansion of their service into Halton, but the issue was deferred for six months.

Executive Director for St. Elizabeth's Sharon Campbell called the request to move into Halton a "logical" extension of their service. "Does VON have exclusive rights to visit in Halton? We don't think so," she told council, saying St. Elizabeth's prices for home care would match those of the VON.

But Milton councillor Bill Johnson saw things differently. Apologizing for his customary bluntness, he accused Campbell of setting her sights on Halton because she thought it was "ripe for picking."

"The VON service is excellent and I'm concerned about your motives," he said to Campbell.

Johnson told Campbell in no uncertain terms that he was suspicious of anyone who said they were going into business to lose money, after she told him St. Elizabeth's would "not make any money servicing Halton."

"But I certainly don't see Halton as ripe for the picking," she commented. Instead, she thought it was a way to offer residents an alternative in nursing services.

President of the VON, Halton branch, Thomas McLaughan, claimed the VON was "not opposed to competition," but he believed there was no need for a second nursing service as the volume of his clients dropped in 1982, compared to last year.

"If the volume increased, then we could see a second nursing service at that time," he said.

Halton's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Peter Cole, strongly supported St. Elizabeth's bid to extend their service into Halton at a Health and Social Services committee meeting before Christmas.



"I'm not saying they're (VON) inefficient," he told committee, "but I think it's a positive thing to have two services. If St. Elizabeth's can't do it on their own, that's their problem, but the VON has always had the region to come back to."

Mayor of Burlington Roly Bird said that although he did not believe anyone should have exclusive rights in Halton, he would phone the VON if he wanted home care.

Halton Hills councillor Dave Whiting, opposed to the deferral, believed that competition was beneficial. "My phone was out of order for a while—I'd like to see Bell have some competition," he commented.

Oakville councillor Keith Bird opted to defer the issue because there was not enough information and the six months would allow the VON to "have an idea of their case load."

Set Pope's Acton date for late in February

The date Alan Pope will appear in Acton for a public meeting on the aggregate issue won't be known until after the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources returns to Canada on January 17.

Halton-Burlington Progressive Conservative Youth President Saskia van Tetering, of Nassagaweya, said word from Pope's office last week had the meeting hopefully being

arranged for late February.

Van Tetering, who is also sixth vice-president of the provincial Tory Youth wing, was asked by Pope to arrange a public meeting for north Halton residents so the minister can explain the government's aggregate policies, when the pair met at a convention in November.

Originally she had booked Pope to appear

at Acton High School the evening of January 17, but that date had to be cancelled because the minister must be in the Legislature that night when an important education bill is voted on, van Tetering noted.

"The postponement is legitimate," she hasn't been able to reach Pope the past few weeks, most recently because the minister is out of the

country. She said she has been assured by an aide to Pope, Marc Perrault, that a date will be arranged, likely a few days after Pope's return on January 17.

Perrault apologized for the confusion and delay in setting a date, she reported, adding the minister's aide said there is no way Pope will be coming to Acton just to talk to the party faithful.

Board-teachers

PTR big issue in talks

Negotiators for the Halton Board of Education and its high school teachers met Jan. 10 in the first 1983 session of the current contract talks.

The teachers, who have been working without a contract since Sept. 1, are bargaining for changes in the current pupil-teacher ratio.

Robert Filman, president of the Halton Elementary Teachers Association, said he expected the meeting with high school teachers would produce some results for his members as well.

"I think a salary settlement is definitely within reach," he said, adding money is not the teachers' major concern.

"Right now the board has a PTR of 20.4 to one and they just can't operate the system properly with that," he said.

He added negotiations so far have produced a salary offer from the board which excludes the raises teachers are paid for improvements in the qualifications and experience.

"That's something we have to go through every year," he said. "We always start at that point."

Mr. Filman said his members are especially concerned about Halton's PTR because they expect the provincial special education act will have a major effect on them.

"Bill 82 is going to have a major impact on the classroom and the board has to realize that."

"You have to remember," he said, "that when we are at the bargaining table for staff, we are there for the kids. We're child advocates then."

Special programs required under the new law, he said, are going to mean more teachers are taken out of regular programs to meet the new demands and if the board does not increase the number of teachers it has regular programs are

going to suffer because of ever increasing class sizes.

He stressed that teachers are not simply trying to protect their jobs when they argue for a smaller PTR.

"Teachers aren't just trying to feather their nests. This isn't job protection because we realize that some jobs are going to be lost," he said.

To date, no teachers in Halton have been fired because of declining enrolments, although some jobs have been lost through attrition.

Region, Board of Ed. start budget process

by Steve Arnold

Officials are busily preparing budget submissions for elected bodies now and restraint is the key word. Staff at Halton Region, and the Halton Board of Education are striving now to prepare budgets which will both pay for the services they have to provide and keep tax increases as low as possible.

Dennis Perlin, Halton's chief administrative officer, said he hopes to have a preliminary budget ready for regional council by January 19.

In the first presentation of the 1983 document, Perlin said the mill rate increase will be kept to 9.9 per cent.

After the budget is presented to regional council it will be referred first to the three standing committees, then to a final review by the administration and finance committee.

Final approval of the document is anticipated by late April, he added.

Efforts to keep tax increases low, he said, have been causing headaches for the senior staff preparing the documents.

"Council has established some very specific guidelines and even if all our needs can't be accommodated, the departments still have to stick to those guidelines when they submit those budgets to me," he said.

Perlin admitted, however, that despite the best efforts of regional staff, some losses in service may be unavoidable.

"I would have to say we are going to see some lower levels of service in some areas," he said, "because we will be demanding more work from the same number of people."

"If council wants to try to reduce the budget below that 9.9 per cent then there will be some severe losses," he added.

In 1983 however, Perlin feels the regional staff has been built to a

level where a tight budget would not pose the same problems as in the past.

"The wheels aren't going to fall off it we keep it at 9.9 per cent," he said. "The budget we're presenting is intended to keep the wheels on."

According to Perlin, past regional budgets have been designed by staff based on the needs of the operation and then have been cut by councillors in an effort to get down to a level they felt would be acceptable to taxpayers.

"What we're presenting now is a base level budget... to try to get council to not try to get down to some arbitrary levels," he said.

"We're trying to say that we really don't think they should try to cut too far," he added.

In 1982, regional council approved a budget of \$53.3 million for its own needs, plus another \$15.8 million for the police department.

Halton Board of Education finance



Audio technician Pat Tufford (left) works on the audiometer as Health Department employee Carole White (right) sits in the soundproof booth having her hearing tested at the Halton Hills Health Department in Georgetown. Smith & Stone

Ltd. after discovering they were no longer using the \$2,000 soundproof booth, decided to donate it to the Health Department. The booth shuts out interfering noises and is available to use in hearing tests on any Halton Hills resident.

Smith & Stone donates booth to Health Dept.

Halton Hills residents who think they have a hearing problem can phone the Halton Health Department, located on Main St. South, Georgetown. They'll be tested in a new soundproof booth, donated by Smith & Stone Ltd.

Smith & Stone gave the Health Department the booth, valued at \$2,000, because they were not using it anymore. "When the economy was better, they bought the booth and had a technician to test their employees," explained audio technician Pat Tufford. "They don't use it now and they gave it to us so that people in the area could use it."

The small 4' x 3' cubicle is designed specifically to shut noises out that could interfere with the hearing test. "The little room we were using before had lights that would buzz and the patient would hear them," commented the technician, who has worked at the Health Department for almost four years.

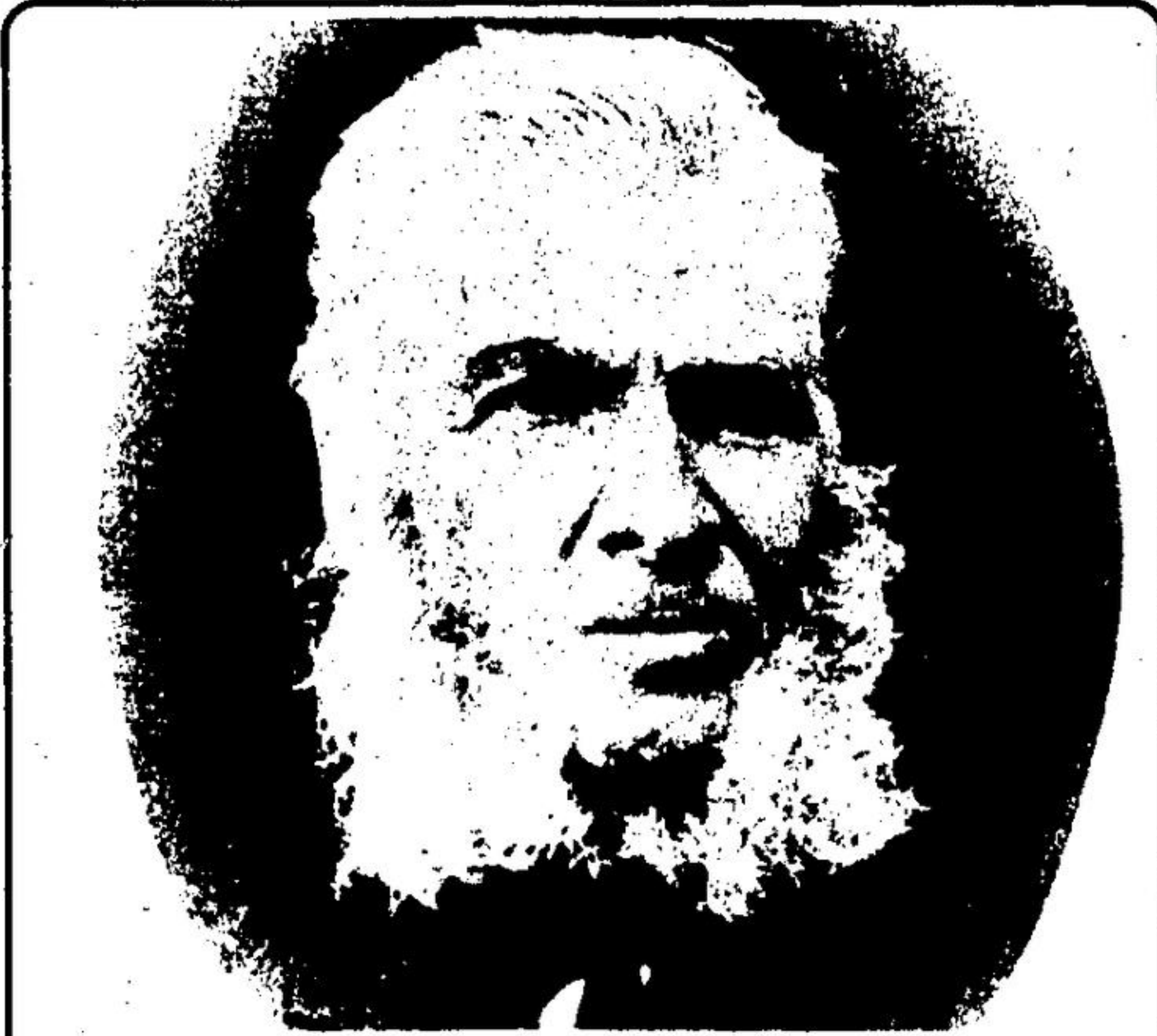
"I think it's great," she said, believing the readings from the audiometer will be more accurate. Tufford tests all elementary students in Acton and Georgetown in the schools.

The first of its kind in the North Halton area, the booth is furnished with a chair and lamp. A fan turns on when the lamp is on, but the sound does not interfere with the test, according to Tufford.

In the past six months, Tufford has tested about 40 people in the area, which she says is a high figure compared to Oakville, where she worked for two years.

"It may be a smaller place, so doctors are more aware of the service," she explained, adding most doctors prefer to see the results of the hearing test before referring the patient to a specialist.

Testing is available for anyone free of charge at the health department office in Georgetown on Main St. South.



LEVI WILLSON Sheriff 1856-1859

First Sheriff appointed in 1856

Halton Sheriff Robert M. (Mac) Sprowl has researched the history of all 10 Halton sheriffs since 1856 beginning with Levi Willson who served in the office from 1856 to 1859. This is the first of a series.

by Mac Sprowl

Sheriff Levi Willson was born in Lincoln County, Ontario, on February 18, 1804. When the County of Halton Agricultural Society was organized in 1853, he was one of the leading spirits in the formation of the Society.

On July 1, 1854 the incorporation of Halton took place. The first occupant of the Office of Sheriff was Levi Willson. He was appointed in 1856 and resigned in 1859 when succeeded by his deputy, George Crawford McKindsey.

At the time Levi Willson was Sheriff there

were three lawyers in Milton, three in Georgetown, two in Oakville and Burlington for a total of eight. Also, there were 140 Magistrates in the County.

During Levi Willson's term of Sheriff he had problems with the county council, one over an escape of two prisoners from the jail, the purchase of books for his office and the key to a court room.

Levi Willson married Ann Lottorose on February 13, 1830 and re-married a widow Mary House, March 26, 1841. She died March 3, 1881 at her son's residence near the City of Jackson, Michigan.

In the federal election of 1863, Levi Willson ran on the Conservative ticket, being defeated by John White MP by 831 votes. Levi Willson died on September 27, 1879 at Jackson, Michigan, U.S.A.

NEC

Halton nominates five for one post

Five Halton regional councillors have been nominated for \$100-a-day posts on the Niagara Escarpment Commission, but only one will be chosen.

The Niagara Escarpment Commission asked council to submit not less than three members of council for the position. In addition to Halton Hills Councillors Dave Whiting, Russ Miller and Mike Armstrong, Bill Johnson from Milton and Joan Little from Burlington will be trying for the post.

The NEC passes the nominations on to the Lieutenant-Governor, who makes the final choice.

There are 17 members on the commission which meets twice every month. Commission members get paid a per diem fee of \$100 every day the commission meets.

Eight of the members are political representatives and eight including the chairman are from the public. The councillor's role is to represent the concerns of the region.