



Grand Master visits Halton Hills

Wellington District Masons gathered, Friday evening to honor Most Worshipful Grand Master Howard Polk, centre, at a reception in St. George's hall. With him on left, are Worshipful Master Frank

Remple, Friendship Lodge Georgetown, Brother Allan Dean Credit Lodge, Georgetown, on right, District Deputy Grand Master J.D. Butcher, and Senior Warden Ken Hodgson, Walker Lodge, Acton.

Library asks more, council says maybe

Halton Hills Library Board wants the Town to increase their budget by 11 per cent, instead of the 8.3 per cent given tentative approval.

The increase would cover a security system, improve lighting in the children's library, in Georgetown library and install carpeting in Acton library.

The Town's final budget has not yet been set, but in the draft budget the library portion was set at the 8.3 per cent increase level.

The need for a security system to stop the theft of books and records was stressed by Board Chairman Doug Magwood, who put the cost at \$9,200.

He said theft has cost the library board as much as \$6,000 in a year, and claimed the electronic system would give a signal if someone tried to leave the library without properly coded material. "In two or three years the electronic device would pay for itself."

Magwood blamed a design problem for the low lighting level in the children's library and put the existing level at half the required 30 foot candles in most of the area and at one-tenth that amount in some other areas. He invited each councillor to visit the children's library to see the poor lighting conditions.

The chairman pointed out the carpet in Acton library had not been replaced since the library was built in Centennial Year, 1967, and suggested there was no public building where carpeting would be expected to last that long.

Asked if the \$6,000 loss took place last year, Magwood said it was two years ago, and stressed it is a problem in all libraries.

Councillors Pam Sheldon put forward a motion to have the security system and the lighting included in the budget, with Sheldon maintaining the overall increase in the town's budget would only be a quarter of one per cent.

Expressing disappointment that the library board came to council to make a plea for more money, Councillor Harry Levy said every department "has had a kick at the cat". He stressed the problems budget committee had overcome in cutting and recutting the budget to keep within the limit, and claimed it was unfair to direct the budget committee to add more. "There were many items we'd love to have cut from the budget. To put the budget committee on a spot like this is totally wrong."

At the suggestion of Councillor Russ Miller, the motion was withdrawn, to be considered at next week's budget meeting.



newsmakers

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MOH defends his staff from attack on birth control practices for teens

by Diane Hart

Dr. Peter Cole staunchly supported his staff during a birth control debate which climaxed at the region Wednesday when allegations of unlawful practices were levelled at his department.

Three delegations appeared in front of council voicing their objections to the policy of dispensing birth control devices to people 16 years of age or under. This policy is in accordance with Ministry of Health regulations, adopted in 1975.

One opponent of this policy, Shirley Pennell of Burlington, appeared with her husband to tell councillors that she believed regional public health nurses were acting in an "unlawful manner."

"You have no idea of the extent of this, especially in the northern part of the region," she stated.

Pressed by councillor Joan Little, Mrs. Pennell admitted hers was a second-hand knowledge and she had no documentation to prove her accusations.

She also stated she had not contacted Dr. Cole either about the policy in the region, or the accusations.

Council also received a letter from a Milton resident who stated that a public health nurse was dispensing "birth control pills... with no questions asked, with apparently no pap smear, no physical examination given, no pelvic examinations given, etc."

As the person who wrote the letter did not attend the meeting, council had no opportunity to ask the writer questions.

But Dr. Cole said if the writer could not document the allegations about unlawful practices, he would take the matter to the regional solicitor.

"These are extremely serious accusations," stated Dr. Cole. "No individual has the right to make claims that can impugn the staff of this department's reputation."

In an interview with this newspaper, Dr. Cole stated he was frustrated that the allegations were done "in such a malicious way."

"It sounds like a total fabrication to me," said the Medical Officer of Health, who said he had checked into the allegations and as far as he knew, nothing was wrong. "This was done in a very funny way. It was done by general innuendo, in an indirect way."

"The most frustrating part was the criticism was done without speaking to me or without going to see the clinics, but most frustrating was that they did not take the time to read my report," said Dr. Cole. "That is just uninformed criticism."

Seventeen year old Audrey Steenhof told council that she believed the health department acted "objectionably" when they gave a presentation to her grade 12 health class at Milton District High School.

"Perhaps the most objectionable part was the Halton Health Unit's film Taking Chances in which sex was portrayed as the norm for kids our age," said Steenhof, adding after the presentation, her classmates began sexual relations.

"They hinted that they would not snitch to our parents," added Steenhof.

Asked if she knew birth control devices were being dispensed without a prescription by a doctor, Steenhof said she only knew "they went to the clinic and got pills."

Both Fennie Vanderboom, who represented Real Women of Canada and Shirley and Don Pennell said they objected to their tax dollars being spent on a policy which they believed undermined parents' rights.

"We don't want to be undermined by civil servants who are being paid by our tax dollars," claimed Vanderboom, adding that if the policy is allowed to continue, there will be an "influx of young girls to the clinics to get pills."

Councillor Pat McLaughlin of Burlington reminded Vanderboom that the policy has been in the region for years and no massive exodus to clinics has been noted.

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Hill brands convention waste of time

Sending delegates to the Ontario Small Urban Municipalities Convention is a waste of time, Councillor Tom Hill contended, at Halton Hills council meeting this week.

He claimed none of the other municipalities are part of regional government, so don't have the same problems the Town does.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy explained this year the theme is financing, and maintained it is beneficial to discuss such problems with other delegates from other areas.

"People have been going from here for quite a few years and I haven't seen any advantages yet," retorted Hill. He admitted he had favored the conference before regional government but could see no point in it now.

Councillor Russ Miller, who has attended each conference, pointed out the theme last year was about equalized assessment, and termed it "very enlightening."

Councillor Phil Carney, repeating his favorite refrain, urged delegates from Town to attend in the hope they could find someone "with the wisdom of Solomon to get them out of the maze of regional government."

Miller and the mayor will attend the convention in Simcoe, council finally agreed.

Committee appointees

Paul Nielsen of Acton and Rick West of Georgetown have been appointed the Town's representatives on the Halton Business Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee is now composed of the mayors of each town, and two members of each Chamber of Commerce in the region.

The appointed members were recommended by local council, last week. West was already a member of the Business Advisory Committee, while Nielsen was appointed for the first time.

Defer increase in lot levies

Halton Hills council should think twice before upping lot levies when the building business is in a slump, Councillor Tom Hill argued at council last week, as he asked for the deferral of any increase.

Hill told council to look at the building report, which showed the construction industry to be in bad shape.

He maintained the Town is not using lot levies for the purpose they were intended.

He convinced the majority of council, who voted to defer the annual automatic increase for at least a week.

New owner for Norval club

The former Riviera Club in Norval has a new name and a new owner.

Dixie House Restaurant is the name and Mike Mayer of Rexdale is the owner.

An application has been made to the Liquor Licence Board for a liquor licence.

Through the years the building has been known first as the Riviera, then the Credit Valley Club, the Burgundy Club the Newfoundland Club, and recently Norval Junction.



Lois Batchellor pours chocolate from a warming vat into candy moulds.



Molded chocolate rabbits are cooled on a window sill.



The mold is parted, and a five-pound chocolate bunny is born.



Roz Gareth shows off various sizes of Easter rabbits. Schneider's is producing about 200 chocolate rabbits every day to meet the Easter market.

Easter bunnies?

Schneider's chocs 'em up!

by Anne Redfearn
Candy's dandy, and bunnies are funny, especially around Easter. But if you're looking for a 10 pound chocolate rabbit, be prepared to pay for it.

Schneider's Reliable Sweets makes them—two feet high Easter bunnies at \$98 apiece. But don't worry, there are some inexpensive treats as well, Roz Gareth assures.

Roz is part owner of Schneider's the candy maker in Rockwood, along with Pat Herne. At this time of year, the small factory is turning out a couple of hundred chocolate bunnies a day, going through about 200 pounds of chocolate... a lot of

rabbits!

Lois Batchellor, niece of the original Schneider family who owned the business, starts in the morning heating up a vat of chocolate to 110 degrees fahrenheit. Then the chocolate is cooled to about 83 degrees and back up to 86 degrees before the molding of chocolate rabbits begins.

"If you don't do it right, the chocolate gets greyish looking streaks in it," she explained. "It's all right to eat, but it doesn't look good."

The molds and machinery come from Buffalo. Chocolate is pumped into individual molds through a tube which measures

weight. The mold is shut and the chocolate spread over the entire surface. Then it's placed outside the window—second floor—to cool. In the summertime, a refrigerator is used.

When the mold is broken, a cool, beautiful bunny—the chocolate variety—emerges.

Easter and Christmas are busy times at Schneider's with extra staff brought in for round-the-clock production.

Once the bunny season is over, Schneider's will go back to its regular diet of Packman suckers and E.T. chocolate lollipops.