

Agencies face 5% limit on regional grants

Halton social service agencies will have to do more to tap the community for private donations or they may find already tight funding restrictions from the region getting tighter.

The region's Health and Social Services Committee is recommending today that council limit all grant increases to 5 per cent and stipulate that unless the various agencies make significant progress towards establishing a Halton-wide United Way, 1985 grants be frozen at 1984 levels.

"There should be some kind disincentive to force these agencies to maximize community resources," said Burlington Mayor Roly Bird who proposed the recommendation at last Tuesday's committee meeting. He said he favoured a regional fund-

raising organization like the United Way because, "I would rather give money away voluntarily than through taxes."

But for the Acton Social Services and Information Centre the 5 per cent limit and threat of a freeze next year is not encouraging news.

Executive Director Peggie Balkind said in an interview that the centre needs a 35 per cent grant increase from the region just to meet existing demands for service.

She said there has been a 49.8 per cent increase in drop-ins and calls to the centre over the past year, and the staff of one full-time and another part-time employee are finding it difficult to cope.

The centre needs more money to hire another part-time employee.

The centre serves as an information and referral office on Mill St. for those who want to find out about community and government programs and aid. People who are having a hard time coping can come in off the street and find a sympathetic listener who can also direct them to professional counselling.

Balkind said many of the people who drop-in are down and out, adding "The economic situation has put a lot of strain on people."

While the region is indicating that community agencies should put more effort into maximizing community fundraising, Balkind points out this is already being done in Acton.

Local churches have raised money for the centre which provides about 15 per cent of

the agency's total budget. Another 25 per cent comes from the rental of office space to other community and government drop-in organizations, and the region provides a grant of about \$21,700 which amounts to 60 per cent of the budget.

"There has been really great community support in Acton," said Balkind. "They seem to recognize the centre as a necessary service."

The centre has also turned to the Ontario government for help. The province has had a grant program that provided up to one third the cost of operating an information service, which comprises about one quarter of the Acton centre's business.

But Balkind said the provincial Ministry of Community and Social Services has indi-

cated there are no more grant monies to be had.

The idea of a United Way organization in Halton is not a new one according to the region's Director of Health and Social Services, Debbie Oakley.

Oakley already has a substantial organization and Burlington's drive is in association with Hamilton-Wentworth region.

Milton has just organized a local United Way which is coming to the region this year for an initial grant of \$6,700.

Oakley said there has been significant progress towards establishing a United Way in Halton Hills but that it is too soon to provide any details.

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'A way of life'

4-H program produces outstanding members

by Ted Brown

Marilyn Bird, 19, of RR 2, Georgetown, has been active in the 4-H program for seven years and in that time has accumulated 22 agricultural and 15 homemaking projects. She is one of several outstanding 4-Hers in this area who have made 4-H a way of life.

The first year Marilyn was involved in 4-H, she was awarded the coveted Claude Bain Trophy, given to the most outstanding first year 4-H member in the county. Consequently there was little surprise, seven years later, when she was the recipient of the coveted J.E. Whitlock Trophy, awarded to the most overall outstanding 4-H member in Halton.

Marilyn now attends the university of Guelph, and has plans of becoming a home-ec teacher or a home economist with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. She feels 4-H has provided her with an insight into agriculture, she could never have acquired elsewhere.

To Marilyn, the most enjoyment has been derived from the social aspects of 4-H. After an exchange trip to Wisconsin last summer, she made many friends, and has also hosted a delegate from Wisconsin.

Leadership development, she feels, is the most important part of 4-H. As a result of being a delegate to the Provincial Leadership Conference, she has been able to develop leadership skills and also improve her public speaking talents.

Marilyn comes from a 4-H family. With a sister and three brothers involved in various clubs, and her mother a leader as well, it is clear that 4-H plays a prominent part in her life.

Others enthusiastic

Another enthusiastic member is Dan Wickson, of RR 3, Georgetown. A grade 12 student at Georgetown High School, he has been a member for six years and has acquired 23 projects in that time.

For him, the learning experience is by far the most beneficial part of 4-H. Everything he has learned about agriculture has been through the 4-H program. He finds competition with other members enjoyable, and his achievements give him satisfaction.

Dan's energetic involvement allowed him to be included in a 4-H exchange to Alberta in the summer of 1982. He also hosted a delegate from Saskatchewan this past summer.

Young people can gain a lot from 4-H, says Dan. They learn agriculture is a lot bigger than they realize, and become more aware of the complexity of the food producing business. He only wishes that more people would become involved.

In the Acton 4-H Club, David Lasby of RR 2, Rockwood, is following in the footsteps of brothers Bill and Bob and sister Cathy in being a top member in that club for many years.

His main interest has been competing in the Queen's Guineas Competition at the Royal Winter Fair. To qualify, the member must have a beef steer that weighs not more than 800 lbs. on the first of May. The animal must gain at least 2.3 lbs. per day until show time at the Royal, where it cannot exceed 1250 lbs.

The competition is stiff, and that's what David likes about it. He has won one Grand Champion and two Reserve Grand Champions; a considerable achievement in a class where up to 300 steers are exhibited.

He has also been an outstanding showman and represented Halton in the Show-



4-H Pledge

"I pledge—
My Head to clearer thinking,
My Heart to greater loyalty,
My Hands to larger service,
My Health to better living,
for my club, my community and my country."

Head, Heart, Hands and Health; the four H's of 4-H. Even though 4-H has been active in Halton and Peel for many years, it is surprising to find that many people are not aware of the meaning of the four H's on a four-leaf clover and the opportunities this organization has for young people in the 12 to 21 age group.

manship Competition at the Royal as well. Through 4-H, he has been able to meet and work with prominent livestock breeders in the county. He considers these contacts invaluable and his showmanship training and animal husbandry have all come through the 4-H program.

Started in 1913

4-H clubs originated in Ontario in 1913, and were called "Boys and Girls Clubs". The first boys' club offered was the "Boys Potato Growing Contest" and was directed by the Dept. of Agriculture. The "Girls' Gardening and Canning Competition" was available for the girls, and organized through the Women's Institute.

As time went on other clubs were organized until 1952, when the Canadian 4-H Council was formed. At that time the four-leaf clover emblem was adopted, as well as the motto, "Learn to do by doing."

The objectives of 4-H haven't changed over the years. As the motto suggests, learning is of a high priority in the program. Monthly club meetings are supervised by volunteer adult leaders, and are conducted in proper parliamentary procedure. This enables club members to become familiar with election of officers, reading and adopting of minutes, and all aspects of running a business meeting.

Leadership is stressed in the clubs. Members are encouraged to express their ideas at meetings and develop public speaking talents and self-confidence.

Responsibility is also instilled into members. After joining a club, the member chooses a project and is responsible for it for all the club year. This includes keeping records on the development of the project, and the competition with other members encourages the member to set goals.

The last objective and probably the most enjoyable part, is providing young people with a social club of people their own age.

In the past 4-H was divided into two

groups, Agricultural and Homemaking. The agricultural clubs offered projects involving livestock, crops, and other related areas. The homemaking on the other hand, dealt with sewing, cooking and entertaining. Beginning this year the two programs are being combined to facilitate administration.

4-H was once restricted to rural youth but that restriction no longer applies. Urban boys and girls are encouraged to join and increase their understanding of agriculture. Projects need not be owned by the member as in the past. If, for example, a member wanted to join a calf club, he could "borrow" a calf from a friend, neighbour or relative, and use that calf for the club year, returning it at the end of the year.

Start in March

The majority of clubs run from the first of March, through the summer and end in the fall. Every club has an achievement day at which the member exhibits his or her projects, and is scored accordingly. Achievement days are generally held at fall fairs and are the highlight of the club year.

Late in the fall, the awards dinner is held and outstanding club members are presented with trophies and awards. All first year members are presented with a shield and receive a year guard that attaches to the bottom of it every year thereafter.

Clubs are sponsored partially by local service groups or agricultural societies, and awards are donated by local groups, individuals and businesses.

Other activities include trips and exchange programs and a provincial leadership camp is held annually. Top Ontario 4-Hers spend a week at a camp in northern Ontario expanding their leadership capabilities. There is an exchange program with the State of Wisconsin which give Halton 4-Hers a chance to visit with their U.S. counterparts for a week, and then play host the following year.

Numerous conferences are also held throughout the year, allowing members to exchange ideas with members from other areas and enjoy sports and rallies. Members of the beef calf club who have a steer that qualifies, can compete in the Queen's Guineas Competition held annually at the Royal Winter Fair.

The 1984 4-H year is about to get underway. An organization meeting for Halton members will be held in the cafeteria of Milton District High School, Tuesday, February 28, at 7:30 p.m. Memberships for both Acton and Halton clubs will be accepted at the meeting.

For those members in Peel County, the meeting will be held at the Herbert Campbell Public School at Campbell's Cross near Victoria, on Thursday, March 1, at 7:30 p.m.

Projects offered this year include: Dairy and Beef Calf, Competitive Judging, Farm Machinery, Farm Safety, Field Crop, Horticulture, Poultry and a Swine Club. A Computer Club and a Quilting Club are planned for later in the year.

Five other clubs: Veterinary Science, Personal Finance, Maple syrup, Sheep and the homemaking project "Fitness Fare" were organized in late January and early February.

Anyone interested in joining a 4-H and wanting further information can contact the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The Halton office is located at 17 Wilson Drive, Milton, telephone 878-2314, and the Peel office is at 3 Elizabeth Street, Brampton, telephone 451-5474.



Students in the Environmental Studies class at Acton High were awarded for their efforts to clean part of Black Creek in front of the Acton Library. From left to right, back row, are: Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller, Rick Chapman, Naomi Donat, Shirley Murray, Rick Dodds and Mike Yalowica. Front row are, teacher Jane Fobes, Jackie Colton and Cathy Johns.

Acton High students get conservation award

The Halton Region Conservation Authority has awarded the 1983 Ralph Sherwood Conservation Award to a Grade 12 Environmental Science class at Acton High School. The Awards Committee for the Ralph Sherwood Award chose the 13 students and teacher Jane Forbes because of their initiative in improving a large section of the stream known as the School Creek which runs through Acton into Fairy Lake.

The Environmental Science class at Acton High School spent from 300-400 hours cleaning debris from the stream and protecting its banks with over 20 tonnes of gravel donated by Indusmin Ltd. of Acton. This will prevent further erosion of the stream banks and improve the environment for both fish and man. Classmate Kathy Johns helped coordinate the project with teacher Jane Forbes.

The Ralph Sherwood Conservation Award is presented annually by the Halton Region Conservation Authority to a citizen or group that has demonstrated significant achievement in the area of environmental conservation. The award was created in honor and memory of Ralph Sherwood as a tribute to his service, achievement and dedication to conservation as a member of the Halton Region Conservation Authority for 20 years.

The thirteen students from the 1983 Environmental Science class are Kathy Johns, Naomi Donat, Carol Diener, Peter Volnar, Rick Dodds, Joanne McArthur, Gary White, Jackie Colton, Joe Balkind, Shirley Murray, Scot McDonough, Rick Chapman and Mike Yalowica.

The Award was presented at the Halton Region Conservation Authority inaugural meeting on February 16 at the Milton Town Hall.

Halton-Peel may be new provincial riding

The provincial riding of Halton-Burlington could be split into two new seats if recommendations of the Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission are adopted.

Halton Hills would be joined with parts of Brampton and Mississauga to form the new riding of Halton-Peel.

North Burlington and all of Milton, including Nassagaweya, would be in the reduced riding of Halton-Burlington.

The new provincial boundaries suggested by the three-man commission headed by Justice Samuel Hughes of the Ontario Supreme Court were unveiled recently. The changes would increase the number of seats in the Ontario Legislature from 125 to 130 and there would be revisions to all but 23 of the province's existing ridings.

The chunk of west Brampton being added to Halton Hills to form the new seat would include Huttonville, Churchville and Victoria. The First Line West or McLaughlin Rd. would be the eastern boundary of the new seat. The southern boundary would generally be Highway 401, Liberal MPP Julian Reed explained, though there are some jogs in the boundary.

"The new area added to Halton Hills is basically rural, so when you talk of a community of interest and issues it makes sense. It isn't a bad thing," Reed declared.

He said he would "technically" have a choice of running in Halton-Peel or Halton-Burlington. He recalled after the last redistribution Tory Jim Snow's riding of Halton East disappeared and though he lived in Halton Hills, the minister of transportation and communications chose to run in the new seat of Oakville.

However, Reed said as a Norval resident he would be living just about dead centre in the new Halton-Peel riding, "so it stands to reason I'd stand for nomination there."

Nobody knows if these new boundaries will be in place for the next provincial election, he said. Reed explained this spring there will be hearings on the new ridings and while there aren't likely to be a lot of comments here because the ridings make sense, elsewhere in Ontario there will be plenty of comments.

Following the hearings the proposed ridings will be reviewed by the commission again before being sent to the Legislature for approval. He says the new ridings could possibly be in place by this fall.



Volunteers

by Lindsay Reynolds

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Marilyn Bird, recipient of the J.E. Whitlock Trophy, has been a prominent member in Halton 4-H Clubs for several years.



Calves are lined up in the show ring at Achievement Day. The member is scored for both the calf and showmanship.