

No objection

As long as the province makes improvements to the QEW a priority, the region says it supports proposed extension of Hwy. 403 through Halton.

By the early 1990s, the Ministry of Transportation wants to construct the extension from the QEW Hwy. 403 interchange in Burlington north following Hwy. 4 and rejoining the existing Hwy. 403 at the Halton-Peel boundary.

The plan has been given exemption from the Environmental Assessment Act and regional staff say their concerns about environmental and agricultural impacts of the construction are being addressed.

Move deferred

Regional council has deferred stipulating that 1985 grants to social service agencies by frozen at 1984 levels unless significant progress is made by them in establishing a Halton United Way fundraising organization.

Council decided to hold off making a decision until after meeting March 3 when some of those agencies will appear before councillors to ask for grants. They will be asked their views on the subject.

Grant approved

The Georgetown Agricultural Society was given a \$1,500 grant from the region last week towards the Fall Fair.

The money was approved because the society must rent the fairgrounds and pay for the cost of cleaning it up.

More money needed

The region is asking the provincial Ministry of Community and Social Services for an additional \$10,000 to meet the current demand for Family Counselling Services.

As of the beginning of the year only \$38,000 remained in this year's budget to last until March 31 and the region estimates it needs at least \$48,000.

The province will be asked to pay 80 per cent of the \$10,000 and the region will not take on additional counselling cases once the budget is used up until the province comes up with the money.

Region briefs

Big demand

The mushrooming demand for family counselling in Halton is outpacing the ability of the region to meet that demand.

The budget approved for the services by the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services was \$180,330, although Halton requested approval of \$189,300.

With three months left to go in the funding period, there is \$38,000 in the coffers but projections show \$48,000 is going to be needed to keep up with the demand for counselling help.

Therefore, regional councillors are today being asked to request an additional \$10,000 (\$8,000 from Ontario and \$2,000 from Halton) be approved.

Ag grants

Regional councillors approved grants to a number of agricultural associations and groups in Halton.

The groups and requests for 1984 are: Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association, \$1,575; Halton Junior Extension, \$1,670; Halton Farm Safety Council, \$700; Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, \$500; Halton Region Federation of Agriculture, \$7,190; Halton Plowmen's Association, \$714; Halton Agriculture Society, \$2,400; and Acton Agriculture Society, \$1,433.25.

Cost of governing

Regional councillors have been given an itemized statement of the remuneration and expenses paid to each member of council in respect of his/her services as a member of council or as an officer of the municipal corporation.

The total amount paid in 1983 was \$437,255.40. The statement must be issued by law to councillors.

No room

There is little or no vacancy at Halton Centennial Manor.

As of Jan. 1, the manor had 231 beds in extended care and they were all filled. In the residential care section, there are 111 approved beds and 33 are vacant.

Council today is to vote on allowing 13 new residents into the residential section.

Board sticks to ALSBO

Halton Board of Education trustees decided to stick with ALSBO (Association of Large School Boards of Ontario) for another year.

After lengthy discussion Thursday evening, trustees voted to pay \$22,761.77 for membership fees.

Chairman Betty Fisher pointed out in

addition to the membership fee, ALSBO also could cost another \$20,000 for the computer consortium set up by the organization and \$2,000 each for curriculum sharing, which amounts to about \$4,000 a year.

She pointed out the organization has helped trustees gain a broader understanding in finance, curriculum, and other areas.

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