

Liberal task force to probe municipal taxes

A Liberal party task force will look at the growing tax burden being placed on Ontario property owners by reductions in provincial government grants to municipalities, Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed says.

Reed says he is concerned that Halton Region will get the government's minimum grant increase of 2.5 per cent this year, which lags behind the 5 per cent inflation rate, "while other municipalities are getting upwards of 16 per cent."

Halton Hills will also get only 2.5 per cent and the Board of Education only .5 per cent.

In part because grants from the province are declining in real terms, local property owners face higher increases in

taxes than had originally been projected in order to pick up the shortfalls.

The task force, as announced last week by Ontario Liberal Leader David Peterson, will be headed by municipal affairs critic Herbert Epp who will examine problems with the grant allocation formula, property tax assessment and strains on municipal services.

Epp will meet with municipal officials and ratepayer's associations across the province and make an interim report this fall.

Because of his responsibility as natural resources critic at Queen's Park, Reed will not sit on the task force but he said he intends to keep track of its findings.

Reed says the provincial government is

deflecting the political burden of increasing taxes to pay for the rising costs of public works and social services by forcing municipalities to accept a greater share of the expenses.

The result is higher municipal taxes paid for by property owners. The province is able to soften the blow to its own revenue sources such as income and sales taxes.

"The game they play is very deceptive," says Reed.

Reed said that years ago property taxes were a good way to fund municipalities but "the weakness in it now is that it has become inequitable."

He said the assessment formulas vary

around the province so property owners are not paying taxes in a uniform manner.

"We have just got to work out an equitable assessment formula," he said.

Ontario Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Claude Bennett announced last month that unconditional grants to municipalities would total \$760-million this year, up 5 per cent over 1983.

But individual municipalities will get varying increases 380 of Ontario's 838 municipalities getting the minimum increase of 2.5 per cent.

Halton will get \$250,000 less than if it had received the 5 per cent it expected.



Julian Reed

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Town will honor 1983 achievement

When the Town of Halton Hills presents its Honors and Recognition Awards at the Georgetown Library and Cultural Centre on Thursday, April 12 the recipients will include two softball teams, a swim team, three cross country squads, a choir, two bowling teams and 17 individuals. In all 165 people, will be honored.

Among those receiving the award this season will be the Acton Junior 'A's Fastball team and the Hornby Bantam Girls' Softball Club. The Acton A's won the Ontario Junior 'C' championship last season while the Hornby squad topped the Ontario Rural Softball Association.

Georgetown High School will be represented at the awards night with two cross country teams, a bowling squad and their swim team. The GDHS midget boys and girls cross country teams claimed gold at the Ontario championships last year as did their girls' bowling team and swim team.

Wrestlers Terry Dixon, and Bret Robinson of Georgetown and Acton's Steven Shepard will be among the recipients as will figure skater Darren Kemp and Acton's Doreen Uranick for her cross country skills.

Jim Manning has earned the award for his track and field accomplishments in 1983 while the Georgetown Atom Girls claimed an Ontario title.

Gymnasts Gail Eastwood, and Sara Aggiss, soccer player Gary Morrow, power-lifter Pam MacGillivray, marksman Mike Pearson, motocyclist Jon Cornwell, bowler Chris Somers, swimmer Kim Harnols, and baseball coach Jim Ridley will all accept individual awards.

Georgetown Youth Bowlers finished second last year in the Ontario Junior Girls' division and will be honored for their accomplishments while Linda Roe and Terry Champ will be honored for their accomplishments in theatre.

The 65 strong Stewarttown choir will also receive an award for their accomplishments last season.

Drea target of daycare plea

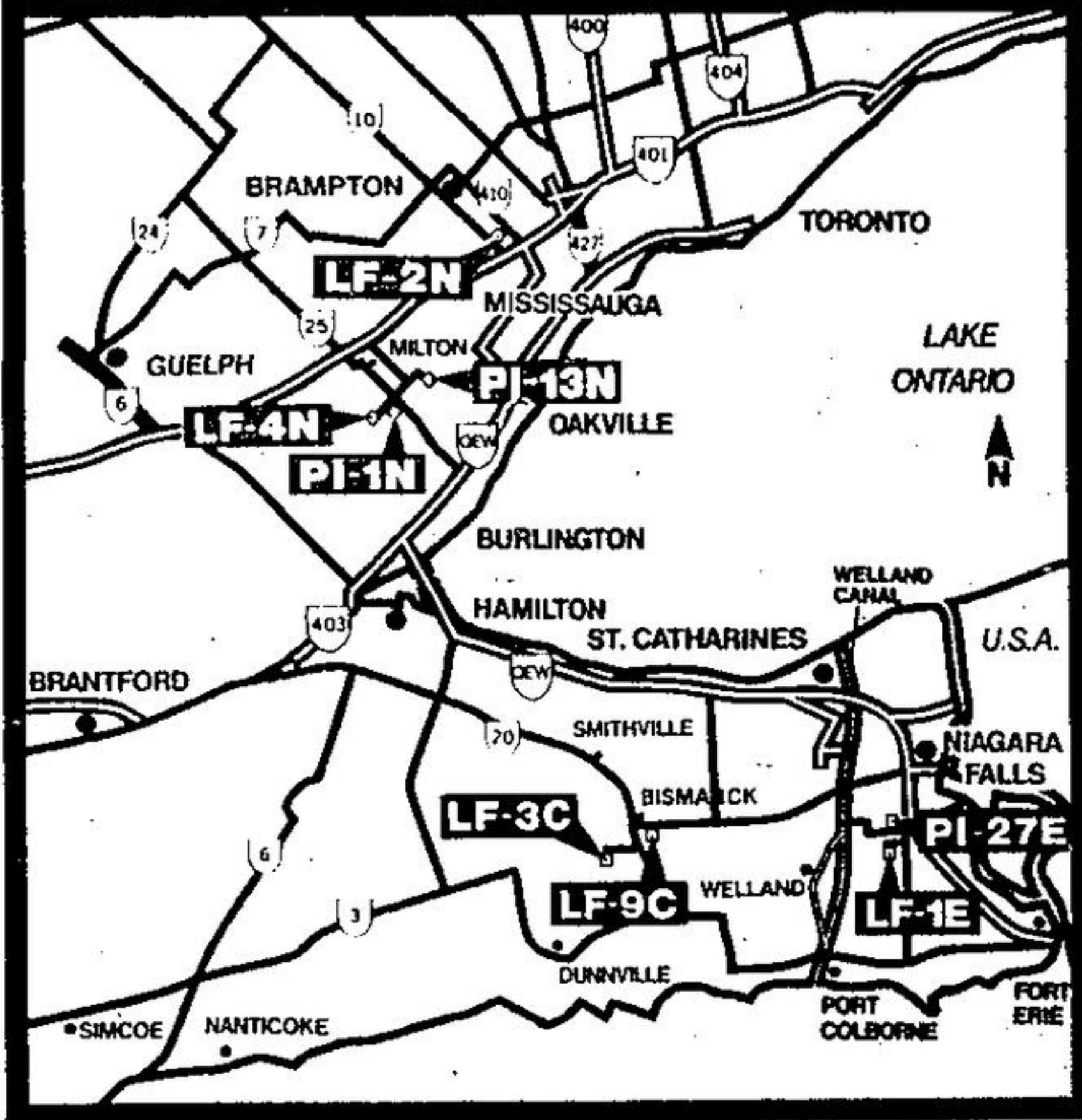
Ontario social services minister, Frank Drea, is going to hear about Halton's desperate need for more day-care funding whether he knows it or not.

At a recent meeting of area MPPs and regional staff on day-care funding, Jim Snow was delegated to go and see Mr. Drea about holding a meeting to discuss the situation in which Halton may lose private day-care operators because the provincial subsidy is not considered large enough.

Regional chairman, Peter Pomeroy, told the administration and finance committee last Wednesday he had been told Mr. Snow did go and see Mr. Drea but Mr. Drea had said he has no money to give out.

But Mr. Pomeroy also noted Mr. Drea will be at Halton regional headquarters in April to take part in a ceremony to honor Halton volunteers.

Mr. Pomeroy said that would be a perfect time to corner the minister.



Note: Symbols indicate location only, and not size or shape of sites.

Three Milton sites on liquid dump list

The Ontario Waste Management Corporation revealed Thursday that three Milton sites are on its short list of eight possible locations for an industrial waste treatment centre to serve southern Ontario.

At a press conference in Hamilton OWMC Chairman Dr. Donald Chant announced that in addition to sites in Mississauga, West Lincoln and Niagara Falls, the Milton sites under consideration are north of Britannia Rd. and west of Tremaine Rd., south of Britannia Rd. and west of Hwy 25 and south of Britannia Rd. and east of the Fifth Line.

"I want to caution that these are possible sites only," said Dr. Chant.

After a study of these sites, one or two preferred sites will be isolated and the findings of further on-site investigations will be referred to a hearing panel on Industrial Waste Management. Its findings will be submitted to provincial cabinet for approval.

"Industrial waste treatment and disposal does not mean dumping raw, toxic waste into a hole in the ground," explained Dr. Chant. "It does mean treating these wastes properly using high temperature incineration and physical/chemical processes to produce a solid residue, which must be safely stored."

"For every industrial waste stream produced in Ontario there is an effective and proven treatment technology in use elsewhere in the world," he said.

Otto blasts porkbarrelling

Progressive Conservative spokesman for Small Business and Tourism, Halton MP Otto Jelinek, condemned the Liberal government for continuing their practise of "blatant porkbarrelling," by awarding the full tourism advertising budget of \$47 million to Liberal advertising agencies.

"I believe this further example of shameless patronage is a disgrace to the principle of equal opportunity," said the Halton M.P., "and I urge the government to reconsider its future decisions in this regard by utilizing a traditional public tender system, in fairness to all potentially interested parties."

"The increased budget of \$22 million,

Support Group

Aim to make school centre

Despite declining enrolment, Speyside residents are determined to keep their school open and make it a focus for community activities.

In an attempt to do so the Speyside School Support Group was formed a few months ago, with Fran Goodkey, Sandra Williams, Jim Kenzie, Patti Freier, and Ruth Kranendonk spearheading the group.

Goodkey explained a major change at the school, last June, sent the group to Halton Board of Education Director Wally Beevor. She said he told them if they could show the school was used by the community its chance of remaining open would be improved.

After taking a survey in the area, it was decided to start by offering fitness classes and also cake decorating.

March 28 at 9.30 in the morning the first fitness class will be held in the school gym, under the leadership of a "Y" trained instructor. Fee will be \$18 for 10 weeks.

Cake decorating will be introduced Tuesday, March 27 from 12.30 until 2.30 p.m. Fee here will be \$24 for eight weeks.

The Support Group intend to hold courses in first aid later.

Registration forms for the group's first classes are available at Acton library, Speyside store and Speyside school.

Grant not enough for Acton agency

The Acton Social Services and Information Centre may get about \$6,000 less than it had hoped for from regional council today when a \$22,800 grant from Halton Region is proposed.

The region's Health and Social Services Committee is recommending the grant which is 5 per cent more than the centre received last year.

"It is the 5 per cent, but it is not enough," said the centre's Executive Director Peggie Balkind.

The centre hoped for a \$29,500 to help fund an extra part-time staff person who is needed to handle drop-ins and calls which increased 49.8 per cent last year over 1982.

"We need a second worker here," said Balkind. The centre offers information about community and government services and aid.

Regional council will also be asked to set up a \$10,000 reserve fund which will be available to the centre and Halton Helping Hands if they can increase the donations they get from private sponsors.

Balkind said the centre originally proposed a goal of \$4,000 to be raised in Acton.

The centre's board of directors will decide tonight if an extra staff person can be afforded.

"I am fully confident that they will be able to raise the money from the Acton community," said Councillor Dave Whiting at last week's committee meeting where he proposed the reserve fund.

The committee is also recommending a grant of \$1,900 for the St. John Ambulance of Halton Hills.

The committee wants council to turn down a request for \$3,990 from the North Halton Distress Centre because the centre had a

budget surplus at the end of 1983.

"I just can't see us giving funds to an agency which already has funds to back them up," said Whiting at the meeting.

Look for outstanding farmer

The Halton Federation of Agriculture is seeking an outstanding farmer to be recognized as Halton Farmer of the Year.

Prospective winners must have achieved something outstanding during the past year in his or her field of agriculture. The applicant's contribution in the past, as well as involvement in other community activities and farm organizations, will be weighed by judges.

Application forms are available at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food office, 17 Wilson Dr. and must be submitted to that office by the due date.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 31.

United Way to be studied

The Halton Social Planning Council plans to give \$4,000 to a Halton Hills committee this year to study the feasibility of building a United Way fundraising organization in town.

While members of the committee vary in opinion on the chances for success of such community fundraising group, all feel the pressure to find a solution to the growing frustration of regional politicians over the rising cost of funding social services in Halton.

The politicians feel that the agencies should work harder to tap the community for private donations and they have warned that unless a co-ordinated effort is made to do this they may be less willing to give grant increases in future years. They want to see the United Way in Halton Hills and also a region-wide organization.

"I would expect that a United Way would be feasible," said committee member Peggie Balkind who also works as executive director of the Acton Social Services and Information Centre.

The centre is one of those agencies in Halton which are finding it hard to live with the 5 per cent grant increase given by the region this year. She said she "feels strongly" that a United Way organization could be the way to effectively scour the community for financial support.

Ward 4 Councillor Marilyn Serjeanston, who is also on the committee, isn't as convinced, saying she and others on the committee "are very skeptical."

"We feel obliged to do a feasibility study to see if it would fly," she explained. "We realize that government funding of social services is being reduced all the time."

Mayor Russ Miller, also on the committee, admits he has his doubts also but is convinced "The study is very much necessary."

The committee plans to hire a consultant to canvas local social service agencies, fundraisers and citizens to see if they would support a United Way.

The United Way, which currently operates in Oakville, Milton and Burlington, raises money for participating agencies through door-to-door blitzes and more importantly, by getting people to join a payroll deduction plan. The funds are then allocated to the participating groups.

Balkind said many residents of the town already are signed up in United Way payroll deduction plans with only one hitch.

"People who are giving are doing so out of the community—most people work out of the community. That money is being lost to us."

The biggest hurdle to establishing a United Way is convincing established agencies who do their own fundraising to

join forces and getting citizens to make their donations to an umbrella organization rather than their favorite charity.

Barb Stephens, a committee member who works for Halton Helping Hands, said that in a time of recession donors and fundraisers may be reluctant to take a chance with a new concept.

"If this were 10 years ago I think everyone would be very enthusiastic about it," she said.

She added, "Unless a more reliable method of funding (from the community) is found we are going to have to go to a United Way."

The fundraising organizations in town want to guard the turf they have already carved out for themselves, said Mayor Miller, and citizens may prefer to continue with their habit of making numerous small donations rather than in one lump sum.

The study committee hopes to hire a consultant soon and have the feasibility study done this fall. The results will likely then be presented at a meeting of local service agencies and the United Way Task Force of the social planning council.

If the results happen to prove positive it will be up to the agencies to form a United Way organization.



Officers of Halton Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, No. 234, who were installed recently are Ex. Comp. Donald Gosling, Ex. Comp. James Blair, Ex. Comp. James Lilly, Ex. Comp. Sam Nell, Rt. Ex. Comp. John Long, V. Ex. Comp. James Bingham, Ex. Comp. William McDonald, Comp. K. Holm-Laursen, Comp. William Anderson, Comp. Fred Dean, Comp. William Jack, Comp. Frank Wild, Comp. John Ellacott, Comp. Raymond Clarke, Comp. Roy Radiger, Ex. Comp. Norman Carlisle, and Comp. James Bennett.