

# Cautious study needed for United Way

Halton Hills is right to take the "go-careful approach" in looking at if it can support a United Way fundraising organization says the head of the Halton United Way Task Force.

Jarvis Sheridan, chairman of the task force, said in an interview that a local United Way cannot survive unless it has strong community support and the backing of a committed group of volunteers. The Town must determine if these are available before organizing a United Way, he said.

"United Ways come from the community on up," Sheridan told regional council on Wednesday and warned that political pressure was not enough to get such an organization on its feet.

The Halton Social Planning Council

intends to give a local committee \$4,000 to study the potential support for United Way in town from local social service agencies and citizens. The committee intends to hire a consultant with the money and expect a report by the fall.

The committee is composed of town politicians and representatives of local agencies who vary in their opinions of how effective such an organization would be in this community.

Representatives of some funding starved groups like Acton Social Services and Information Centre and Helping Hands feel a fundraising group like the United Way is essential for scouring the community for more funds.

Other members of the committee feel that groups like the Red Cross who already

have successful fundraising drives in place will be reluctant to join an umbrella organization on which they have to rely to raise money for them.

They also fear citizens will prefer to support their favorite charity rather than making a lump sum payment to the United Way which then allocates the money to the participating agencies.

Sheridan explained that these are frequent concerns when a community gives thought to starting up a United Way. However, there are significant advantages to a United Way he said.

"It's cheaper to run one campaign for a lot of agencies rather than separate campaigns for each," he explained.

By reducing administration costs you increase the amount available to the

participating organizations.

Often, larger groups which already have their own drive choose to maintain their own campaigns he said. He stressed that participation by agencies in the United Way is strictly voluntary.

The primary source of funds for the United Way is payroll deduction plans where employees agree to have a donation deducted from their wages. For employees working outside of town, Sheridan said they simply have to indicate when they join a plan that the money is to be directed to Halton Hills.

Some United Ways do not conduct door-to-door campaigns and the ones who do find that generally people give as much as they would to any other canvasser, rather than feeling pressured to give more, he

said.

Sheridan said that in the last five years there have been few United Ways established in Canadian communities.

Nonetheless, the United Way is well established across the country with 99 organizations drawing on the support of over 17 million people.

In 1983 a total of \$118.5 million was raised in total, up 11.7 per cent from the year before.

United Ways are currently operating in Metro Toronto, Peel Region, Milton, Oakville and Burlington and Hamilton-Wentworth.

If the local committee finds there is support for a United Way in Halton Hills it will leave it to area social service agencies to organize one.

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Provincial NDP Leader Bob Rae, right, shares a chuckle with Morley Mills after giving him a lifetime membership.

## Rae calls for new leadership

Technological and social changes are causing Ontario to suffer a mid-life crisis says provincial NDP leader Bob Rae and he says it is time for the party to reshape its message to voters into a strategy for coping.

In a speech to Halton-Burlington New Democrats in Milton Friday night, Rae accused the Progressive Conservative government of failing to provide solutions to the many problems faced by workers in this province.

"The provincial NDP must become the 'spokesmen for a new generation of leadership' that will give voters a preferable alternative to the Tories in the next provincial election, Rae said.

"It is a different province to what it was in 1943 yet we have a government that has been in power since then and whose mind-set is somewhere in between 1943 and 1960—I haven't figured out where," he chided.

Jobs are being destroyed by foreign competition and high-technology, women are being denied an equal place in the workforce but the Davis government is doing little, he said.

Rae emphasized the need for equal pay for work of equal value legislation and suggested that affirmative action hiring programs for women be required at all companies doing business with the provincial government.

Rae said the Tories are currently allowing such companies to implement affirmative action on a voluntary basis but the list of businesses which have is growing too slowly.

There are only 200 companies with affirmative action out of thousands and he said, "We calculate at the rate they are moving it will take 1,800 years for the others to follow."

More money has to be spent on daycare and training programs to give women the chance to hold down good paying full-time jobs.

The province's education system is being "starved" he said, and called for more funding plus greater support for apprenticeship and job retraining programs.

The provincial government should not be afraid to spend money as an investment, he said.

"If we do not invest money in people today we're going to cheat ourselves out of our future," Rae said.

"It's time to look at the future of work," he said.

To cope with high unemployment he said he favors pension reform to allow for early retirement without penalization, a shorter work week and a reduction in the amount of overtime being worked.

"Is it right that some people work 48-50

hours a week when others can't get a job at all?" he asked.

The audience at the United Autoworkers Hall gave a standing ovation as Rae presented Georgetown resident Morley Mills, 73, with an honorary lifetime membership to the party.

The gold membership card recognized Mills' work for the NDP since he joined its predecessor the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation in 1942.

Mills recalled his parents' involvement in the United Farmers of Ontario in the 1920s when they pushed for reforestation of wasteland, land that today is producing good timber.

"Way back from childhood I had a good grounding in the political field," Mills said.

He recalled when the first woman was elected to the federal House of Commons from the CCF and Liberals and Conservatives would walk out when she rose to speak.

He also reminisced about the Depression and what he called the insensitivity of the Canadian government under Prime Minister R.B. Bennett.

This was in contrast to U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt whom he said put people before business interests.

"In those days I thought it would be great if we joined with the U.S.," he said wryly.

"That would have been a mistake wouldn't it?"

## Regional police want public input

Halton Regional Police are taking a close look at themselves and they want the public's help.

The force is developing a strategic plan to be completed by October which will identify the long and short term objectives for policing in Halton.

As part of the plan development the force is sending out a two page questionnaire to randomly selected residents to be completed anonymously, and the police also want the comments of members of the public who don't receive the survey.

"We want to know just how they see the

force and what areas they might like to see improved," said Constable M. Griffiths of the force's planning department.

Any comments or suggestions are welcome and as an example can range from what areas of policing the public wants to see emphasized, what they think of levels of service in urban or rural areas, or how they think police officers interact with the community.

All correspondence will be kept in confidence and can be addressed to Chief W.I. James Harding, Halton Regional Police Force, Box 2700, White Oaks Boulevard, Oakville, Ont., L7J 5C7.

## Board of Education Bare-bones budget costs \$108 million

by Alex Matheson

If the Halton Board of Education were to cut its proposed \$147 million 1984 budget to the bare minimum allowed by law, the school system would have caretakers' uniforms but no caretakers to wear them.

The bare bones school system would still have a full complement of teachers for both elementary and secondary schools operating in buildings complete with water, sewer and heating services. But the buildings wouldn't be clean.

There would still be a director of education, but no other central administration staff or even a facility from which to operate.

And the cost to Halton taxpayers would still be \$108 million.

When the 1984 budget was presented to the school board for the first time, March 8, the school trustees were unable to agree upon any method to trim the budget.

It is scheduled to appear before the school board for final approval March 29.

But where trustees begin trimming remains a problem.

In order to aid the trustees all budget items were ranked in order of importance and placed into four categories—mandatory, essential, highly desirable and would like—at the beginning of the budget process six weeks ago. To date, all the "would likes" have been removed and the highly desirables drastically reduced.

There are 18 items in the mandatory category which total \$108 million and cannot be touched.

The board's total proposed budget of about \$147 million includes about 180 other items ranked according to importance.

If the board chooses to trim an additional \$1.5 million from its budget, as proposed by one school trustee, said a board official, about 65 expenditure items would have to be removed.

According to Halton's director of education Wally Beavor, removing \$1.5 million more from the budget would involve the elimination of all highly desirable items, except those that are completely funded by grants, and would cut into the essential items such as supply teachers and snow removal.

Some of the big items to go would be summer school transportation at \$20,000; the board's own bus fleet which costs about \$120,000 to run; modifications to allow handicapped people to be integrated into public schools at \$30,000 and the \$50,000 to repair the heating systems in some schools.

Also gone would be the elementary transportation and swimming program at \$53,000, window replacement at \$50,000 and program development and printing at both panels for a total of \$90,000.

Another big ticket item axed would be the surveillance system which costs \$190,000. The loss of that would cost the board more than it would save, said budget officer Jim Fleming.

Updating of classroom furniture at \$50,000 would be shelved along with continuing education and driver education, at just over \$100,000 each.

Computer hardware for elementary schools at \$70,000 would be chopped along with the \$60,000 to repair some of the instructional equipment.

These would be the major items needed to get the budget down by \$1.5 million but there would be a number of smaller ones. However, to practically cut the budget down, a number of items with grant recoverable expenses would be retained while we would likely see the removal of

supplies for coordinators and consultants and possibly the end to snow removal at the schools.

At the other end of the scale the last item the board would cut would be the supplies to elementary and secondary day schools which cost in excess of \$3.5 million. Curriculum services staff at \$3.8 million comes just after school supplies in the prioritization process. This would be followed by the other main segments of administrative staff such as employee services business services, computer services and school secretarial. Special education transportation is number 13, while the trainable mentally handicapped swim program is 15 and transportation to day school, at a cost of more than \$3 million, is 18th.

Plant maintenance at \$6.3 million is number 22, just on the heels of printing report cards, costing \$50,000.

Although the ranking of some items could cause debate, said Beavor, they represent the values of the board. The board, he said, could argue that the trainable mentally handicapped swim is of more value to those children than school transportation or building maintenance. In an extreme crunch the board could tell parents to transport their own children.

Huge increases which are costing the board considerable, said director of education Wally Beavor, include a 20.4 per cent hike in workmen's compensation, 10.4 per cent to unemployment insurance costs, 12.6 per cent to Canada pension and 8.7 per cent for municipal services.

Declining enrolment, said Beavor, has cost the board about \$3 million in lost grants.

Ultimately the reason education is costing so much more than it did a generation ago is that the educational services offered now are more specialized and sophisticated, he said. People are also staying in school longer.

## Running cemeteries costs \$103,980, but Town plans to recover \$61,292

Running three cemeteries is expected to cost the Town over \$100,000 this year.

This area of municipal operations showed one of the biggest budget increases for this year, 14.1 per cent. This year Halton Hills is planning to spend \$103,980 on Fairview, Greenwood and Pioneer cemeteries, the figure for last year's budget was \$91,119.

However, these costs will be offset with an anticipated income of \$61,292 in various cemetery fees.

Sale of plots is expected to amount to \$7,000 for Fairview Cemetery and \$19,000 at Georgetown's Greenwood. Interment and disinterment fees are pegged to bring in \$7,100 in Acton and \$11,000 in Georgetown. Sale of grave foundations and cornerstones will produce an estimated \$3,675 at Fairview and \$9,906 at Greenwood. Interest earned on money in the cemeteries account hopefully will add \$16,742 to Town coffers.

A total of \$33,480 is expected to be spent on maintenance of Fairview Cemetery, including \$20,238 in wages for personnel's time working in the cemetery (cemetery em-

ployees are part of the works staff so a portion of their wages are apportioned to the cemetery). Light, water, and various supplies are expected to eat up another \$3,070 of the Fairview budget while \$9,584 will be spent renting equipment used in the cemetery by other Town departments on a chargeback basis.

Burial costs at Fairview are pegged at \$7,100 for 1984, with \$4,473 going towards workers' wages. An additional \$2,627 is to be charged for use of Town equipment at Fairview.

Administration costs for Fairview are estimated at \$4,525 for 1984, including \$100 for office supplies, \$50 for memberships and subscription fees for staff and \$4,375 for contractual services for a landscaping and a cemetery development master plan by a consultant.

Wages eat up \$1,134 of the \$2,100 to be spent at Fairview on foundation and cornerstone installations at Fairview this year. Rental of equipment from other Town departments is pegged at \$252 and \$714 will

be spent on operating supplies for this aspect of cemetery operations in Acton.

At Greenwood Cemetery wages will account for \$23,250 of the \$36,475 to be spent this year on maintenance. Another \$3,025 is to go to light, water and supplies, while \$9,500 is the estimated cost of rental of equipment from other departments and \$700 for contractual services for painting of the building.

The Greenwood burial costs budget, including \$6,710 for wages, is pegged at \$11,000. Another \$4,290 has been set aside for rental of equipment from other Town departments.

Administration for Greenwood Cemetery is expected to cost \$150 for office supplies and \$50 for staff memberships and subscriptions.

Wages for workers doing foundation and cornerstone installations account for \$2,262 of the \$3,900 budget. The rest of the budget is eaten up by \$780 for rental of equipment from other Town departments and \$858 for supplies.

## Hard surfacing 3 rural roads

Gravel (major granular supply and application) for three rural roads is expected to cost the Town \$178,000 in 1984. Staff initially suggested \$200,000 for gravel, but \$11,000 was chopped during budget committee deliberations.

Staff has proposed applying gravel to three roads to improve the base and service and allow for proper grading. The three roads are: a northerly portion of the Fourth Line; the Fifth Line from Steeles Ave. to 10 Sideroad; and the Tenth Line from Five to Ten Sideroads. (Hard surfacing of these roads will follow.)

The budget for "major" road surface treatment work in 1984 was actually boosted instead of cut during budget deliberations.

Surface treatment will go on three rural roads for the first time. The designated locations including a northerly portion of the Fourth Line (where gravel will first be applied); the Fifth Line from Steeles Ave. to 10 Sideroad (gravel will be put down first here too); and the Tenth Line from Five to Ten Sideroads (another location will be put down first).

Also renewal of existing hard surfaced roads will be carried out on various rural roads with a new application of hard surfacing.