

## Hope kept alive for quarry landfill site

If not for the perseverance of one council member, Halton Region might have simply shrugged off the suggestion that it take a second look at a Burlington quarry as a possible landfill site.

With Milton Councillor Bill Johnson attending D-Day memorial observations in France last week, it fell to Oakville's Carol Gooding to act on a recent letter to the Region from officials of Nelson Crushed Stone.

Gooding served notice last Wednesday that she would place a resolution before council to have consultants re-examine the quarry as a potential landfill site.

Council has already accepted a report from consultants Walker Wright Young Associates Ltd. rejecting the quarry as a candidate because of its close proximity to the hamlet of Mount Nemo and in particular the Mount Nemo Lodge Nursing Home.

Nelson officials complained that the decision is premature and recruited Johnson as an ally in their bid for re-evaluation. Johnson pointed out that, apart from what he considers the minor problem of the nearby nursing home, the quarry seems ideally suited for landfilling, featuring an

extensive range of facilities and characteristics that must otherwise be paid for by the Region at any other site.

Raising the question at last week's meeting of the planning and public works committee just prior to the council meeting, Gooding was greeted with shrugs and some jeering comments.

"The Nelson quarry has been used as an example from coast to coast of how well rehabilitation can work," Burlington Councillor Steve Toth said. "Surely just because it's been taken over by Standard Industries they don't want to turn it into a garbage dump."

"I think the owners are just fishing around for something, but they're not going to catch anything," fellow Burlington Councillor Pat McLaughlin added.

Committee chairman Ann Mulvale of Oakville appeared similarly anxious to forget the idea of re-examining the site, noting that a motion to reconsider council's previous action is necessary and commenting that that would be "premature today."

Gooding gave her notice of motion at the council meeting that followed.



It took a little witchcraft, as well as the help of a fairy princess, to get Prince Gustav (Kevin Anthony) on the right track in "The Enchanted Journey", presented last Wednesday night by students of Limehouse Public School. Witch Matilda (Holly Sones) and Witch Grizelda (Leslie Ellis) gave the prince some pointers on rescuing his princess from a giant in the play written by Christine White and directed by Sue Dewsnap.

## Region briefs

### Bills, bills, bills

As the wheels of bureaucracy slowly carry Halton Region toward a solution to its garbage problem, treasurer Joe Rinaldo must search the regional coffers for the financial oil to keep them rolling. Last week he recommended drawing \$172,000 from a half-million-dollar hearings fund previously earmarked to make up the region's share of the \$416,995 bill for Stage 2C of the consultant's ongoing work program. A Ministry of Environment grant and capital budget allowances take care of the rest. Still to come are costs associated with the required Environmental Assessment hearing and the final approval process itself.

### Going public

Regional staff moved quickly recently to reassure opponents of landfilling in north Oakville that consultants' information is indeed public and available for scrutiny. Concerned Citizens Over Waste (CROW) chairman Blair Taylor complained that information prepared for the 1976 M.M. Dillon report on public meeting sites was denied him at a public meeting May 14. The consultants say it was all a misunderstanding.

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Mayors Russ Miller and Gord Krantz of Halton Hills and Milton respectively received camp badges at the annual North Halton Scogui Camp last weekend. Dianne Crawford and Gary Elliott made the presentations.



Boy Scouts and Girl Guides at the annual Scogui Camp try to push a giant eight foot earth ball across a line.

## Annual Scogui camp a howling success

by Leo Postlethwaite

North Halton District held their annual Scogui camp this past weekend at Woodland Trails Scout Camp and it turned out to be a howling success.

150 Scouts, Guides, Pathfinders, Venturers and Rovers from Georgetown and Milton took part in this weekend where the emphasis was on the future with such events, set up by the Rovers, included a moonwalk, rocket repair, nuclear waste removal, and a crater rescue.

The future also took part in the naming of our two camp chiefs this year who were Microchip (Gary Elliot) and Discette (Diane Crawford) and whose helpers were Brian Stewart (Camp Marshall), Esther Shay (Scogui's Own), Rick Symmes and Mark Sidel (campfire chiefs) made the camp a success.

Friday night started with a big welcome for our special guests, Mayor Russ Miller of

Halton Hills and Mayor Gordon Krantz of Milton. Also attending on Saturday were Sandy Booth, District Scout Commissioner and Hilory Speed, Guide Area Camp Coordinator.

The winning team for the weekend was group 7 consisting of 8th Georgetown and 1st Limehouse scouts. 7th Georgetown East Guides and 5th Georgetown east Pathfinders who won the Scogui camp plaque and the new camp chief's award. A camp craft session was set up on Saturday by helpers Linda and Peter Roe and Linda Tyrell, which featured rock creatures and wooden animals and a log design competition. Winners were Jason Lockhart and Marny Bossinett proving Scouts and Guides can work together.

The biggest hit of all was the giant earth balloon, supplied by the Rovers, which had all groups participating, including the leaders at one time.

## Board of Ed.

# Endorse early retirement, reject another counsellor

by Alex Matheson

The Halton Board of Education, after substantial debate Thursday, rejected one employee-related benefit while passing another, both by one vote.

There will be no further increase in the employee assistance program, which seeks to help people with mental and emotional problems. A motion to expand it lost by a 9-8 vote.

However, the board did vote to adopt an early retirement incentive plan for teachers. This won by an 8-7 vote.

The board hopes that this retirement plan will encourage some of the older teachers to call it quits earlier, making room for new young teachers. Rejuvenating the teacher force with young people was the motivating factor, from the board's point of view.

Trustee Pat Hillhouse said that the board "will save money, through hiring a teacher at a lower salary, but the idea is to have new blood coming in. We have to find ways to have positions for younger teachers and revitalize our staff. It is a win-win situation."

Problem-solving for the board is one benefit trustee Cam Jackson alluded to. He said that although the overwhelming majority of Halton's principals and vice-principals are excellent, there are a few for whom retirement doesn't come soon enough.

Superintendent of employee services Rae Stoness outlined the potential savings. The average elementary school teacher, on retiring, has a salary of \$37,000, while the retiring secondary teacher is earning \$43,000. New teachers coming into the board generally get \$25,000.

Resentful of some of the implications of the policy, trustee Marg Bullock said "it goes against the grain to pay them to retire early, but I will be supporting it. It is being tried for three years to see how many take advantage of it and if the right people do."

To encourage teachers to take advantage of it, the board is offering lump sum payments of an increasing amount, depending on how much before legal retirement a teacher is willing to leave. The maximum is \$14,000. This inducement is necessary because early retirement entails a reduced pension for the teacher.

Trustee Jim Clelland saw primarily further aggrandizement for the teachers. "I see very little benefit except to the employee and they are already being enriched."

Robert Filman, outgoing president of the Halton Elementary Teachers Association, said that he will be recommending to all members that they consult the association before opting for the plan. There are serious pension implications that an employee should be aware of in making such a choice.

The obvious loss is two per cent per year off the 70 per cent pension available after 35 years of service with the board, he said. However, the most serious loss will be to those with less than a 90 component (addition of age and teaching experience). The loss in pension in this case will be five per cent for each point less than 90. So, for a teacher with a cumulative score of 82, the pension loss would be at least 40 per cent.

Filman said all else being equal, the plan would likely favor older teachers near the 65 retirement limit. The number of people eligible for the program is limited by the board to two per cent of staff per year.

## Hydro establishes purchase policy

Halton Hills Hydro Commission has decided it will invite bids and call public tenders anytime a purchase is over \$2,500.

The first ever purchasing policy was established by commissioners Friday.

Because there isn't a full-time purchasing department, manager Jerry Trudell suggested the limit be \$5,000 before tenders are called.

However, this was opposed by both Chairman Murt Allison and Commissioner Ab Tennant.

For amounts under \$2,500 three written quotes will be obtained whenever possible. These quotes will be reviewed by Trudell.

Last minute purchases which can't go to tender will also be brought to the attention of the commissioners by Trudell before they are made.

Engineering, and in the future, the purchasing staff, will be responsible for calling tenders.

Tennant observed staff time would be saved if tenders weren't called except for purchases \$5,000 or more, but he just couldn't go along with such a high minimum tender mark.

## Retiring teacher was farm boy

Ralph McKeown, who left the family farm near Acton 35 years ago to help in the classroom, will be retiring as a Grade six teacher at Howard Wrigglesworth Public School at the end of this school year.

"There seemed to be a great need for teachers at that time," says McKeown of his move into the teaching field.

That need plus McKeown's own love of children took him to a rural schoolhouse in Erin, SS no. 8. After three years there teaching grades one to eight he put three years in at Acton Public School (now Robert Little Public School) teaching grades four to seven.

Glen Williams Public School had him as their principal for 13 years. He moved to Limehouse Public School as principal and stayed there for four years, until 1962, when he moved, "back where the action is: the classroom," at Wrigglesworth.

His time at Wrigglesworth was spent working with the school's operettas and teaching music in addition to his regular classes.

"My great pleasure is music," he says. The biggest change he has seen in his profession came with the introduction of television into the average home in the late 1950s.

"Kids became oriented to the visual type of learning instead of the vocal type," McKeown recalls.

He had to change his style of teaching to continue reaching the children.

"I have to be more dramatic," he says. "It takes ingenuity to think of things that will hold their interest."

He remembers one time, in one of the smaller rural schools, the children gave him a taste of the kind of drama they can come up with.

After recess one of his grade seven students returned to class a little late, carrying a gun. The little boy was threatening to shoot one of his female classmates, probably a reaction to an incident which occurred during recess, says the teacher. McKeown didn't panic, he simply took the loaded gun away from the boy.

After such excitement, McKeown and his wife, who will be retiring as a teacher at E.C. Drury School for the Deaf at the end of this school year, will spend their first year of retirement, "trying to get used to being retired," he says.

After that they intend to do some travelling.



Ralph McKeown

## Local schools have . . .

# 1,673 vacancies

There is room for 1,673 more students in the elementary schools in Georgetown and Acton.

With a capacity for 5,598 students, the actual enrolment stands at 3,925.

Joseph Gibbons School, Georgetown, tops the list with space for 295 pupils, followed by George Kennedy with 229 spaces, M.Z.

Bennett, Acton, with 166, and Speyside with 140.

Harrison school, Georgetown, has 125 empty spots, MacKenzie-Smith, Acton, 118, Park, Georgetown, 115, Robert Little, Acton, 105, Glen Williams 102, Limehouse 83, Stewartown 75, Wrigglesworth 73 and Centennial 47.

In the whole of Halton there are spaces available for 9,668 pupils.