

# Meeting to probe workmen's compensation

For the past four years, the Ontario Government has been studying ways of changing the present system for compensating injured workers. As a result of such studies as the Weiler Report, the Standing Committee on Resources Development (a provincial government committee) has made recommendations for reform which could be introduced into legislation at any time.

The system being proposed in the Weiler Report has been strongly criticized by

leading authorities on Workers' Compensation law as well as a majority of injured workers groups.

The major criticism of the recommended changes is a dual-award system for compensating permanently disabled workers. The first award would be a lump sum payment but it will be calculated in such a way as to pay only about one-ninth of the value of current permanent awards.

The second award is intended to compensate actual wage loss and would pay an

injured worker who cannot return to pre-accident employment, 90 per cent of the net wages lost because of his disability.

However the Workers' Compensation Board has the authority to deem what work an injured worker is capable of doing. If the work deemed suitable is offered and not accepted by the injured worker, the Board could deduct the full wages that the job would pay.

Critics of the proposed legislation are concerned about the extra bureaucracy,

the additional costs and delays, the discretion of the Board and the human rights of the injured worker. In the North Halton Hills area there are a number of injured workers on Workers' Compensation who will be directly affected by these changes.

On Wednesday, July 11, 1984, at 7:30 p.m. an information meeting is being held at St. John's United Church, 11 Guelph Street, Georgetown. The speaker is Brian Cooke, a community legal worker from Industrial

Accidents Victims Group of Ontario (IAVGO), and a representative from the Toronto Association of Injured Workers.

The meeting is being sponsored by the Halton Hills Community Legal Clinic to let workers know about the upcoming changes and what they can do about them.

All injured workers and interested citizens are welcome. Admission is free and coffee will be served. For more information contact Rebecca Rutherford at the Halton Hills Community Legal Clinic.

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## newsmakers

Georgetown/Acton, Wednesday, July 11, 1984

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### Fire loss high, add another staff member

## Town rejects motion raising drinking age

The Halton Hills Drinking-Driving Committee disagrees with the Milton Council's proposal to raise the drinking age to 20, and the driving age to 17.

Milton council would permit student driving permits for 16 year olds accompanied by an adult.

Milton also urged driver education in high schools be compulsory and separate insurance rates for males and females under 25.

Halton Hills council agreed with their own committee's position and did not endorse the Milton recommendations.

## Test drill dump sites

Drilling is such a major activity in Halton region these days, one almost wonders if officials are looking for oil.

When soil test drilling on the regional garbage dump sites is completed in about two weeks, the Ontario Waste Management Corporation (OWMC) should be about ready to start its drilling near the three Milton sites being considered for a toxic chemical dump.

The OWMC contacted residents on and near its own sites last week to start on field work. The eight sites currently under consideration by the OWMC are in Mississauga, Milton, and in the Niagara Peninsula.

"The field work program is designed to obtain information on the unique and important characteristics of the sites and their surrounding areas, that will assist in evaluating the safety and suitability of each site," explained OWMC spokesman Michael Scott.

Scott said a series of deep drilling tests

will be started in a few weeks around the perimeters on road allowances on the sites.

The region's consultants, meanwhile, are in the midst of their drillings, which are being conducted on properties where owners have given their permission, said Jim Beechiner, hydrologist with Hydrologist Consultants Ltd.

Beechiner said the drillings haven't revealed anything significant yet, but consultants still have to analyze the soils from the testing.

Sites A and C, two of the three candidate sites in Oakville for the region's next dump location, have already been drilled, Beechiner said. Site B, the third site, is still being drilled.

Only the Burlington site, the National Sewer Pipeline (NSP) property near the current dump will not be having any drilling conducted on it, he said, because of the considerable amount of drilling which has already been conducted there.



Abroad without leaving home

A capacity crowd of Halton Hills youngsters were aboard for the first Tuesday Travellers session at the Acton and Georgetown public libraries last week. Among others, Carol Buchanan (right) and Lorraine Robinson will be taking registered children on a guided tour of some of the world's most exciting places—without ever leaving the library—every Tuesday through the summer. Home sweet home, Canada, was the first stop. Future excursions (Acton at 2 p.m. and Georgetown at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.) will visit Great Britain, Italy, Africa, New Zealand and Australia, China, South America and the U.S. for a sampling of the native history and culture—and even some food.

## Inspect factories, homes more

In 1983 Halton Hills had the highest fire loss in the region, including Burlington with a population of 114,000.

The increase in Town that year was 115 per cent for a fire loss total of \$1,402,862.

These statistics and requests for fire inspections prompted Halton Hills Council this week, to hire another fulltime Fire Prevention Officer. The salary was previously approved in the budget.

In a report to council, Fire Chief Bill Cunningham backed up his request for the extra staffer by pointing out the fire loss and emphasized a Fire Underwriters Survey done in 1978 stated the commercial, industrial and institutional establishments should be inspected twice a year, and dwellings at least every two years.

"There are commercial and industrial establishments in Town that have never been inspected by the fire department because of lack of manpower," the report stated.

In 1980 former Fire Chief Mick Holmes asked for an additional fulltime fire prevention officer.

Cunningham explained during inspections emergency planning for a particular building could be carried out, so that special hazards, layout, shutoff valves and water supply are known to the department, and incorporated in an emergency plan.

Councillor Ross Knechtel warned firefighters lives are endangered if they don't know what is in industrial plants.

Councillor Harry Levy said the hiring had been discussed fully at budget time, so saw no reason to delay going ahead.

Mayor Russ Miller did not support adding the staff member at the Grade 12 level, where the salary ranges from \$20,160 to \$24,430. He said the people are already worried about higher taxes.

Councillor Jake Kuiken contended that industry could supply all the necessary information to the department without hiring another person.

Knowing what may be encountered in an industrial fire is a tremendous advantage, stated Councillor Mike Armstrong as he urged approval of the hiring.

Only the mayor and Councillors Kuiken and Bonnette opposed the addition of a second fire prevention officer.

## Bike licence sale at police station

Faced with a storeroom full of unclaimed bicycles, Halton regional police will hold a weekend bike licensing clinic July 14.

Police hope the clinic will give those who work weekdays a chance to buy a \$2 license for their bikes, as well as giving them a chance on a draw for prizes.

Police in Halton Hills hold an auction of confiscated and unclaimed items, mostly bikes, each summer.

Crime prevention officer Bob Ustrycki

says the bikes keep piling up because there is no licence plate through which to trace the owner.

The licences are available weekdays during business hours at the town's Main St. office. According to bylaw, all bikes used on public highways must be licensed; failure to do so could bring a \$5 fine.

As an extension of Operation Identification, police will give local bike owners a chance to purchase their licence on a Saturday (July 14) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the rear of the Georgetown police station on Guelph St.

Owners must provide the bike's make, color and serial number. If the serial number cannot be found on the bike, the owner's social insurance number will suffice. The owner will receive a metal licence plate to be attached to the bike and a paper copy for his own records.

The individual licences are registered

with the National Bicycle Guild in Montreal and with the town, enabling police to quickly track down the owners of recovered bikes.

Licence numbers dispersed at the July 14 clinic will be pooled for a draw to take place that day. Those whose numbers are drawn have a chance at a free VCR rental and six video movies courtesy of H and H Video as well as some baseball caps.

## 'Ridiculous' resolution

An ambiguous resolution from the Town of Leamington was termed "ridiculous and the worst resolution I've ever seen," by Councillor Mike Armstrong.

The resolution called upon the federal government to ensure savings generated by energy conservation remain in the hands of the consumer, and claimed when energy consumption goes down the costs go up.

Halton Hills council received and filed the Leamington resolution.

## Plans for Manor stir up controversy

by Carmela Fragomeni

A confidential regional report on plans for constructing an office on Centennial Manor lands for health staff more than upset some councillors and regional staff during a recent health and social services committee.

At first Burlington Mayor Roly Bird argued there was no reason for the matter to be discussed in camera and thereby prohibiting the press and public to sit-in on the discussion.

When regional administrative officer Dennis Perlin said the report was confidential because of leasing rates mentioned, Bird said "everyone knows what leasing rates are."

After the committee voted to discuss the report in open session, Bird then tore into the proposal calling for a \$363,000 building to be constructed on the manor lands in Milton.

"I cannot support a recommendation like this until we have more time to think of the alternatives and full long-term plans of the lands," Bird said, referring to a recent report on planning for the elderly in Halton.

Bird said that report recommended doing an analysis of the lands for the housing needs of the elderly.

After much discussion, during which the press was not allowed to see the report, the whole matter was deferred until a full report on space requirements and plans for the lands is received by the committee.

Oakville councillor Carol Gooding, who sat on a committee looking into the needs of the elderly told Perlin she found it interesting that he knows what lands won't be needed at the manor now before an analysis has even been undertaken.

And regional chairman Peter Pomeroy said that "this type of capital expenditure is coming forward with only three days to approve it."

But Perlin said crowded conditions at the north Halton mental health clinic on Brown Street in Milton necessitated looking at the manor lands, especially since the ministry of health would supply 75 per cent of the funds for a building, but won't contribute to a land purchase if necessary.

Crisis

Since the region already owns the manor lands and Perlin said the health department can take a corner piece without interfering with the plans for housing the elderly, a building there seemed the best alternative.

Regional property manager Vince Geraghty told committee that "the situation

at the existing health facility is past the crisis stage" because of mechanical and electrical problems at the Brown Street building.

Perlin was visibly annoyed that the committee appeared so negative to the proposed building.

"I don't see the complexity in this issue that other people see," he said. "We tried to

come back with a feasible alternative to leasing space.

Raising his voice, Perlin told councillors "When we come in and suggest something, you say come back with recommendations. So now we come back with recommendations and we're hit over the head for doing that."

## Committee

## Defies council keeps procedure

"I've been told to go to hell, but never in such a dignified manner," Councillor Pam Sheldon commented after reading a statement from Halton Hills Committee of Adjustment.

The letter was in reply to questions from council on the committee's procedure, of holding discussion among members behind closed doors.

Grant Lee, committee of adjustment chairman, said the members unanimously decided to retain the procedure of holding the discussions of the merits of an application "in camera," but the presentation by

the applicant and the decision, with reasons, given in public.

Sheldon agreed with Lee's suggestion "to put the matter to rest for the remainder of this term and get on with serving the community," but reminded council to consider the matter when appointments or reappointments are made to the committee of adjustment.

Councillor Ross Knechtel defended the committee's position, saying there had never been any complaints about the way they do their job, and reminded council, they too, hold meetings in camera.

## Committee bigger here

There are seven members on Halton Hills Committee of Adjustment while other municipalities, some much larger, have either five or three.

Mayor Russ Miller wondered why this was so, at Halton Hills council meeting, this week.

Burlington and Erin Township have three members, while Oakville, Guelph, Milton, Brampton and Mississauga have five each.

Five of the committees hold their entire meeting in public while three, including Halton Hills, Guelph and Erin, hold their discussion "in camera."

Halton Hills council has been critical of this practice

## Permit for pit

Ambro Materials and Construction, contractors for phase four of Guelph Street reconstruction, will haul aggregate from the Casey Boss pit, on the Fourth Line.

The job is estimated to take 32,000 tonnes from the wayside pit.

Halton Hills council had no objection to the issuance of a wayside pit permit, as long as the usual conditions covering hours of operation, and truck routes are fulfilled.

Councillor Dave Whiting, a member of Niagara Escarpment Commission, warned the NEC might not go along with the wayside pit permit. He predicted it would then go to Ministry of Natural Resources.

The NEC has, with increasing frequency, rejected wayside pit permits, preferring all pits become commercially licensed.



## Club hosting lily exhibit

If you're one of those people who can't help but be captivated by the beauty and delicate fragrance of lilies, the Georgetown Public Library's Coffee Books and Conversation Club has a treat in store for you.

The club, which meets most Fridays at the library for casual chats and a few snacks, hosts a Lily Exhibition in the cultural centre

gallery this Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no admission charge.

Club organizer Norm Elson said the Ontario Lily Society is donating flowers for the occasion. Lily stems will be sold to help defray costs and orders will be taken for fall delivery of flowering-size tubs.