

Forest management under negotiation

Complicated and drawn-out negotiations are underway aimed at transferring management of the Region's 1,564 acres of forest area to the Halton Region Conservation Authority (HRCA).

Concern over increasing vandalism and conflicting uses on regional and conservation authority properties, as well as the accumulated management debt for agreement forests, prompted council earlier this year to have staff explore the possibility of transferring management responsibility.

Planning director Rash Mohammed told council recently that negotiations with the Ministry of Natural Resources are underway, involving planning, finance, legal and property management staff. He hopes to prepare another progress report for council in the fall.

At stake are 1,564 acres of forested land, fully one-third of which sits adjacent to the Hilton Falls Conservation Area northwest of urban Milton. Of the region-wide total, 152 acres is in Halton Hills and the rest in Milton.

Mohammed advised council that the ministry has managed the agreement forests since 1960 in an arrangement struck with the former County of Halton. The arrangement stands until March 31, 2000.

According to the agreement, Halton is annually assessed for the money spent by the ministry on management, with any profits stemming from cutting and thinning operations deducted accordingly. The final management debt will be settled when the

agreement expires unless the forests are transferred to provincial ownership.

Total accumulated management costs as of March 31, 1984, are \$199,489.92, or about \$125 an acre.

Management expenditures have dropped in recent years, Mohammed reported, so that in 1982 the ministry spent only \$4,000. Various reasons for the decline were given, including the use of prisoners from area correctional facilities to provide cost-free management.

HRCA staff anticipate several benefits from taking on responsibility for the forests, Mohammed noted, including improved site control, uniform management and user policies and more operational efficiency.

Negotiations for the transfer opened in late 1981, then waited for completion of the HRCA's Master Plan last year. The Authority's interim watershed plan, now being circulated among affected agencies, is also needed for a ministry decision on the transfer.

Adding to the delay is the need for several provincial policy initiatives to be finalized, which Mohammed warned "could take a number of years."

The two agreement forests in Halton Hills comprise 65 acres on the southwest part of Lot 21, Concession 1, owned by the ministry since 1953, and 87 acres on part of the west half of Lot 2, Concession 8, owned since 1959.

Ballinafad

Agricultural museum a place of interest

by Winifred Smith

Three carloads of women from the WI had a pleasant outing on Wednesday when they went to the Agricultural Museum near Milton. There were so many things of interest to see.

Something of special interest on display until the end of August, is the Bicentennial Quilt Contest. There are over 175 entries, all beautiful, each one worthy of a prize.

In the morning, after arriving, members boarded the tractor-pulled wagon and were taken for a tour over the grounds and were told by the young student guide where the different buildings are situated. At noon members stopped at the Women's Institute Hall and had a picnic lunch. In the afternoon we went to the buildings that interested us. Left for home shortly after three o'clock.

Rev. Bandy is on holidays. On Sunday the church service was conducted by Rev. Ann Ross. She had an inspiring message for those attending. She will also be the guest preacher this Sunday. Sunday School is closed for July and August.

Billie McEnery, his wife Cheryl and two children from Alberta were recent visitors in the village.

There was a successful yard sale at the O'Connors over the weekend.

USC HELPS SWAZI YOUTH

USC Canada is giving \$28,200 to the Matshe Youth Employment Project in Swaziland, Southern Africa. The project provides agricultural training for unemployed youths in commercial vegetable production. The USC is at 56 Sparks Street, Ottawa, K1P 5B1.

Getting Together

The two Boards of Education and regional council will be getting together into a new liaison committee, designed to settle issues which involve the three.

The committee will be composed of the chairman of the Halton School Board, Betty Fisher and the Director of Education, Wally Beavor, Peter Pomeroy, chairman of the region and Denis Perlin, the chief administrative officer of the region, the chairman of the Separate School Board, Rev. James Mieh and its Director of Education Cliff Byrnes.

The committee would only meet should any conflict among the three arise and funding will operate on a rotational basis.

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FRIDAY & SATURDAY
PRIME RIB
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2 HELD OVER 3RD BIG WEEK

The popcorn is in the lobby
The nuts are on the screen.

Young Language
CINEMA

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3 HELD OVER 2ND BIG WEEK

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Wed. Thurs. "GREMLINS" 7:00 & 9:10 p.m.

2 HELD OVER 8TH WEEK

BILL MURRAY · DAN AYKROYD
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3 HELD OVER 2ND WEEK

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