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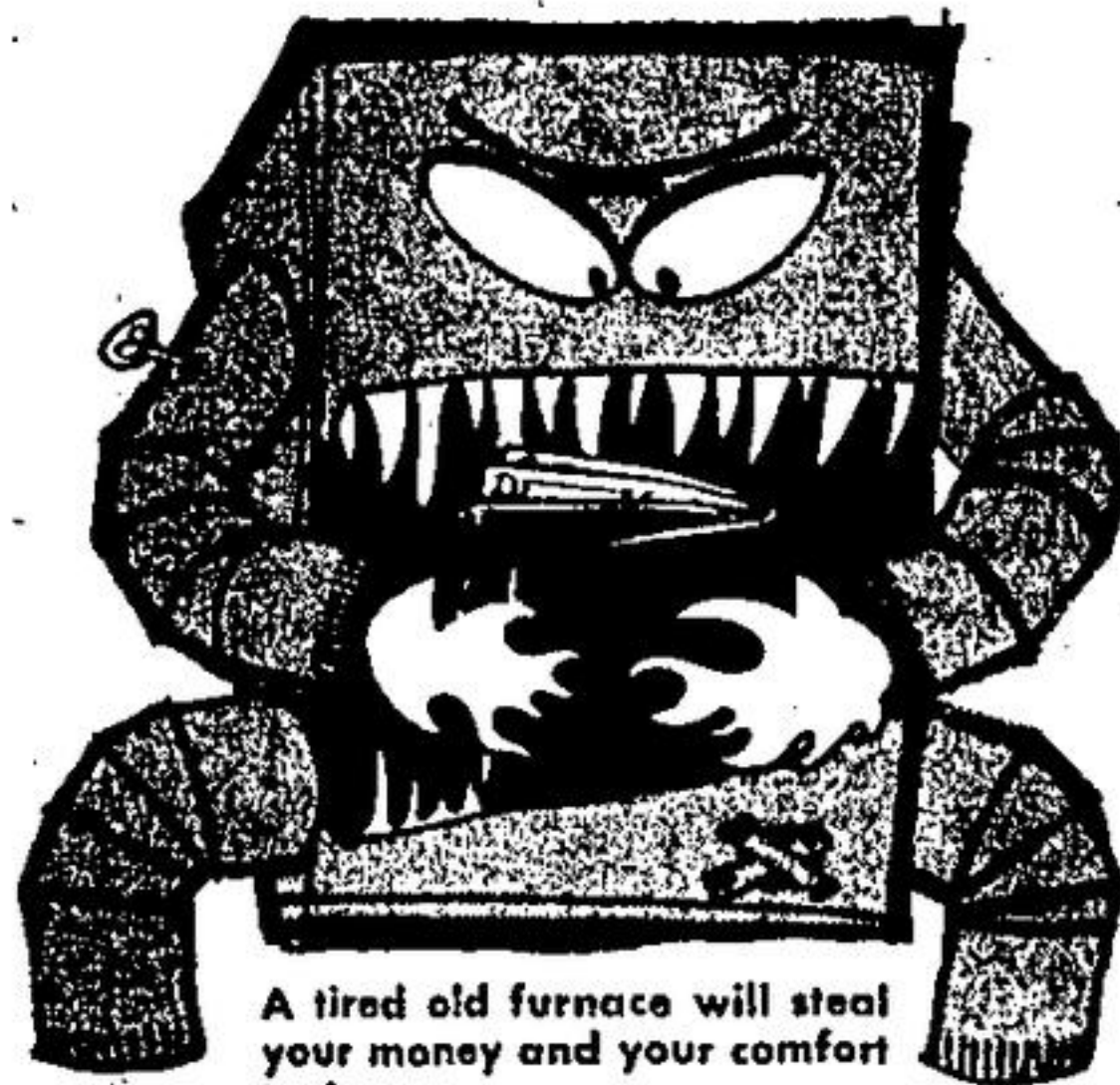
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This Council Hopes to Accelerate Business

In deliberations as a committee of the whole Wednesday, Chinguacousy council agreed to support a recommendation that a new format be established in the administration of municipal business.

Under the new system, council will meet each Wednesday at 4 p.m. as a committee of the whole to discuss business.

The sessions will each be two hours in length and chaired in turn by each councillor.

Regular council meetings will continue to be held twice a month.

The endorsement by the council committee follows a recommendation from the legislation and administration committee.

Reeve Robert Williams said the new system should speed up the work in the municipality, especially with the rapidly increasing workload being created through expansion.

CLOSER LIAISON
He said that the councillors will have a "closer liaison" on the projects.

The recommendation from the legislation committee had called for the meetings to begin half an hour earlier.

Councillor Jack Wallace questioned the need for having the meetings every week and suggested they be held every second week.

Terry Miller, deputy reeve and chairman of the legislation and administration committee, said that his committee already met twice a month and was facing too heavy a workload.

He said that the addition of items now carried by other committees would provide a full workload for the weekly general committee meetings.

Council Wallace then expressed concern about the amount of time he and councillor Jim Yarrow would have to take off work in Toronto to attend the municipal meetings.

"I take what I need, but I don't like to push it," said Councillor Wallace.

The reeve then suggested that the starting time be changed to 4 p.m.

NOT DISCUSSED
The recommendations from clerk Ken Richardson governing format of the council meetings was handed to council members only, and with the exception of one item was not discussed openly.

The item discussed publicly was referred to as item 12 and concerned news coverage.

It stated that if the press present is asked not to report an item the press will refrain from doing so.

It was further indicated that any reporter not wishing to do so will have to leave the room.

Suggests Special Areas Just for Snow Scooters

The Halton Region Conservation Authority may expand snowmobile trail areas within its lands in Halton County.

Authority members agreed overly-restrictive bylaws and bans of snowmobiles would cause all operators to ignore all regulations.

Richard Day said, "Oakville is trying to give birth to a snowmobile policy. A consensus is coming forward that if we make the laws too tough, all will ignore them."

Day suggested an increase in conservation area facilities for snowmobilers might assist in alleviating municipal problems.

CAN'T CATCH
He said a possible county bylaw against snowmobilers on county roads would just force snowmobilers into the "back 40"

where no one could catch them.

"The authority must be ready for snowmobilers and the worst is yet to come," he said.

Don Cloverdale said banning snowmobiles from county roads would be futile. "There is no way a cop can catch me on a road; I can outrun him on my snowmobile against his car."

FUTILE
Manager Murray Stephens said most complaints coming to authority attention are about snowmobilers on the Bruce Trail.

Don Cloverdale said banning snowmobiles from county roads would be futile. "There is no way a cop can catch me on a road; I can outrun him on my snowmobile against his car."

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ADRIANA RICCIUTO GEORGETOWN'S NEW YEAR'S BABY

Mrs. Don Ricciuto holds Year, little five pound eight ounce Adriana, who was born at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital at 3.09 January 1.

Can Choose Their Schools Next Term

Outline Safeguards to Prevent Students from School Hopping

Halton students will be able to attend the school of their choice, next September, regardless of where they live - but there will be strings attached to the new freedom to prevent a case of "musical schools".

The Halton County Board of Education last week adopted a new policy, allowing elementary and secondary school students to transfer to a school outside their home school attendance area.

The same measure had been rejected by the board last April, and was finally passed last night by a 9-to-7 board vote.

PUBLIC FEARS
Education administrators now expect their biggest problem with the more flexible attendance system to be public fears that students will be allowed to switch schools at the slightest whim.

Safeguards to prevent abuse of the new freedom in Halton schools were outlined to board members by assistant education director E. S. Lavender.

He said students will have to apply for transfer seven months ahead of September school registration. Transfer applications must be submitted by February 18 for registration in September 1972. In following years the application deadline will be February 28.

IMPULSIVE SWITCH
The seven-month lead time will give students a chance to discuss the decision with their parents and school principals and avoid an impulsive switch. It will also give the schools time to incorporate the transfers into their enrolment and budget projections. The transfers will only be accepted where there is room in the new school.

Lavender termed the new reform "almost a procedural detail which would allow some

flexibility for some students after rational consideration.

"The student cannot move where and when he wants," he said. "It is not one of these musical chairs situations with random schools and some indiscriminate number of students showing up some sunny September morning."

EXPECTS FEW
The board will not provide bus transportation for transfer students, and the policy will not apply to kindergarten children, or students of General Wolfe in Oakville or General Brock high school in Burlington.

Halton educators do not expect wholesale migrations from one school to another. North York has a similar policy and less than

one half of one percent of the students apply for transfers.

Director of education James Singleton said he had permitted about half of 20 requests for transfers in 1971. He predicted the transfer figure for 1972 to be about 100 students for the entire county.

LEGITIMATE
Lavender said there are a number of legitimate reasons why a student would want to transfer from one school to another.

Sometimes school attendance boundaries are unfair to families living very near the division line. Also many students and parents have indicated preferences for either more open, liberal curriculums at certain schools or

a more traditional approach to studies at others.

"There are flavors in schools that differ because the people in them differ," Lavender noted. He said if students started to leave one particular school en masse then there could be a serious problem with that school's teachers.

GOOD AND BAD
Some board members argued that the optional attendance plan would unnecessarily distinguish between good and bad schools within the county.

Lavender said that although schools may differ slightly in academic approach, that doesn't mean one school is "better" than another.

Not Straw-Chewing Hicks Ready For Handouts Says Ag. Official

Agriculture needs spokesmen who can project themselves on television, to news reporters and to legislators, Evan Estabrooks of the Halton office of the Ontario Department of Agriculture says in the Halton farm news editorial this month.

Estabrooks contends that legislators and consumers must be reminded that farmers are not "straw-chewing Hicks ready for handouts, but are knowledgeable, scientifically trained producers doing their best to stay in business despite higher costs without higher prices."

"Are we in agriculture telling our story to keep the general public informed about agriculture, or are we sitting back allowing other groups to use us as the whipping boy?" Estabrooks asks. "With farm population declining and with fewer people coming from rural backgrounds the task of informing the total community as to what is happening in Ontario and Canadian agriculture becomes larger."

The editorial states: "What can be done to gain greater public support for agriculture's legitimate needs? It is most important that the public be kept informed of our achievements, goals and problems. The consumer must understand that he benefits, more than anyone else,

from our accomplishments in agriculture."

MAKE AWARE
"Today the average family spends less than 20 percent of its income on food. Not so long ago it was 35 percent. Because of the efficiency of agriculture, over 90 percent of the population is free to engage in other business away from the farm. Keeping our farms productive and solvent should be a concern of a country as a whole not just those engaged in agriculture. Each of us, I am sure, is aware of the great dependency we have on others for our well being. The public must be made aware of the importance of a healthy agriculture to them."

"Somebody must inform the public that agriculture has made fantastic strides in feeding the ever-increasing numbers in the world without leaving significant scars on nature. (A far better record than the growing cities can claim). The record should be set straight as to what the farm population is doing to protect the environment. In the case of pesticides, we must tell the public that undue pesticide restrictions will not only lower the quality of food, but will raise the cost. This the consumer can understand."

DELICATE BALANCE
"In Michigan, a group known

as Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan has been formed in an attempt to tell the farm story. Mrs. Robert Canfield, a school teacher who represented W.S.A.M. at the Michigan Horticulture Society convention in early December, stated that farmers are good conservationists who were concerned about the delicate balance of nature long before ecology became fashionable. Yet, farmers are being called polluters of the land. Farmers need a new public image and they need to make their story known."

"If we are to have a healthy agriculture in Canada which is appreciated by the Country as a whole, all of us (you and I) through our organizations and individually must sharpen up our communication with those outside the agriculture industry."

Ashgrove News

Well the celebrations and holidays are over for another year and it was clean travelling for relatives and friends to visit together. Now the decorations are down and put away in their box, the tree has disappeared and the new calendars are hung up, ready for the brand new year. So for a New Year's resolution, "Think of joys instead of sorrow, for today will be yesterday as soon as it's tomorrow".

We have 10 persons who have a birthday in the first month of this new year. To them we say, "Carnation is your flower, garnet is your stone. That's January's heirloom. Is this glad month your own? Then have a happy birthday. Enjoy it from the start. May all the best of wishes, come now to bless your heart!"

—Mrs. John Bellbody

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