

Dramatic rise in CAS care forces new budget

A dramatic rise in the number of teenagers coming into the care of the Children's Aid Society of the Regional Municipality of Halton, is the main reason the agency is seeking an additional \$124,772 from the regional and provincial government.

The Society's Board of Directors approved the supplementary budget at its special meeting on Wednesday, Sept.

Earlier this year, Community Social Services Minister, James Taylor put a ceiling of 5.5 percent on all children's Aid Society budgets in the province. However, Halton found it could not live within the provincial budgetary guidelines, and immediately made a plea for additional funds in order to bring its foster home rates on a par with other areas of the province.

The agency received a 1.7 percent increase, which brought its total budget for 1978 up to 7.2 percent or \$868,636.

The need for a supplementary budget rises out of the fact that the original approved budget for 1976, was not adequate to the service needs nor the escalating costs which have occurred during the year.

More children have come into care than projected, and

specifically, more adolescents have come into care at a greater cost in rates.

Additional major costs are attributed to program and staff changes and the need for improved salary and mileage costs.

Changes in the Training Schools Act have meant that the courts are now referring children to community agencies rather than committing them to training schools.

In past years, Halton has made extensive use of the Training Schools Act. Since 1971, its admissions to training schools have exceeded by more than half the admissions of its bordering regions - Brant - Peel - Waterloo and Wellington. In 1974, it was seven times greater than Peel, five times greater than Wellington and Waterloo and three times greater than Brant.

The legislative changes mean that large numbers of these adolescents are now remaining in their home communities and straining its resources.

The Children's Aid Society predicts that for the remainder of 1978 there will be an increasing number of adoles-

cents coming into its care. Adolescents are expected to increase to twelve above the budget prediction.

In its report to the regional government's administrative committee, the agency said that "at its peak, we may expect to have 17 adolescents above prediction in care in regular boarding or room and board placement, which is well beyond the existing resources of the Society at the moment."

To meet this demand, an intensive foster home campaign is underway. A total of 4,116 additional days care for adolescents is predicted at a cost of \$22,638. For all children coming into the care of the Children's Aid Society, the agency predicts an overall increase of 12 percent in dollar cost and 20 percent in numbers of children.

The agency is requesting an

additional \$13,854 in the supplementary budget request to cover regular boarding home rates. (By the end of June, these rates had increased 8 percent above the budgeted amount.)

Its report also requests additional funds amounting to \$2,000 to cover the boarding rate cost of severely handicapped children. At the moment this includes 8 children who are either severely emotionally disturbed or mentally retarded. However, "this number should be immediately doubled and an additional amount set aside for other exceptional situations that might emerge during the current year," the report said.

The agency told the region that it needs \$3,000 in order to offer support to its three parent-owned group homes. This would cover the cost of a full

time child care worker and part-time housekeeper to support the existing facilities.

"As long as we continue to operate only group homes with foster parents outside the agency, we will over-tax resources. The addition of \$3,000 should add considerable support, especially where high turnover of children exists," the report said. This move is necessary because of the increase number of adolescents coming into care.

However, the next year, more and more varied facilities must be developed to meet the needs of adolescents. This includes the development of an assessment unit, two self-care units for older adolescent wards, and an inter-ministry, inter-regional short term "containment" facility for hard-to-manage children and adolescents.

The agency is desperately in need of more staff. This year the Children's Aid Society has been operating with a shortage of two staff due to the additional caseload and increased demand in service.

Other costs included in the supplementary budget include clothing (\$7,355), health care (\$5,153), education (\$1,200) and salaries (\$25,649).

Ron Coupland, Executive Director said that the adolescent problem currently being experienced by the agency is only the "tip of the iceberg." Mr. George Heym, Chairman of the Board of the Children's Aid Society, stated that, "This supplementary budget has received the unanimous support of the Board, unless the agency is granted the requested funds, it will not be able to honour the mandate of the Child Welfare Act."

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Weekend camp training held for local sixers and seconds

By MRS. COLTER

A weekend of training for sixers and seconds was held Sept. 24-26 at the Camp of the Woodland Trails. A total of 44 boys from Milton and North Halton Districts were in attendance. North Halton was represented by 21 Cubs.

Adult assistance was given by Leaders and parents from 1st Norval with Mr. Murray Basso, a parent; 5th Georgetown "A" Pack with Leaders Mrs. Evelyn Owen and Tom McGrath; and 5th Georgetown "B" Pack with Mr. George Moorehead, a parent helping out.

The Cubs arrived on the Friday night eager and ready to go. Tents soon sprouted everywhere and it wasn't long before gear was stowed and everything made ready for a weekend of fun and learning.

After a brief instruction period, the Cubs and leaders set off to join the Scouts, who were also camping there, at their campfire. Back to the lodge for a cup of hot chocolate and then it was time to settle in for the night.

As is usual at camp, the Cubs were up bright and early and looking for their ration so they could begin showing off their culinary expertise. For many of the boys cooking their own meals was a new experience and was met with varying degrees of success.

Many areas of instruction were covered by Mrs. Ione Hicks, A.D.C. Cubs, Milton District and Mrs. Terry Colter, A.D.C. Cubs, North Halton District. Mr. Derek Hodge 3rd Milton Cubs master, instructed the boys in laying and lighting a fire. The Cubs had an opportunity to practise and

were then required to cook their lunch on their fires.

As the camp coincided with the Milton Fall Fair, it was decided to take the boys in the afternoon. Returning to camp, the Cubs discovered a turkey supper prepared for them. After the inevitable dishes were done, the Venturers took the Cubs off for a game while the leaders enjoyed a welcome cup of coffee.

The campfire programme was held in the lodge around a roaring fire in the fireplace. After hot chocolate, marshmallows and cookies the Cubs were more than anxious to retire for the night—and so were their leaders!

Sunday morning dawned a little damply but the Cubs managed to get their breakfast cooked regardless. Some of the boys were taken to Mass in Milton while the rest attended a Scouts Own at the camp.

After some final instruction and lunch, the job of breaking camp began. The Cubs then assembled in the lodge for a last few words and an evaluation of the weekend. They all agreed they had all learned something and had had FUN. The weekend had been a success. After a rousing cheer for the quartermasters—5th Milton Venturers who, under the direction of their advisor Mr. Paul Hicks, had provided the rations and prepared the meals—and a final closing, the Cubs piled into the waiting cars and set off for home.

'Fresh Ones' 4-H Club learns homemaking

By Heather Mount NASSAGAWEYA

The second meeting of the "Fresh Ones" Homemaking Club was held at the home of Mrs. Judy Dillon. There were 15 present.

The meeting was opened by the President, Sheena Clegg. Cathy Culbert resigned as the club's Press Reporter and

Heather Mount took over. At 8:00 p.m. we were divided into groups and assigned a topic. The topics were fruit salad, baked apples and fresh plum-punch compote. Everyone tried it.

At 9:15 p.m. the meeting was closed and thanks were extended to Mrs. Dillon for her hospitality.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Referee notes game suspensions

Dear Sir: Re: Huron Colts Misconduct at Soccer Game.

Following the cautious and ordering offences recorded at the PeeWees last game of the season at Cedarvale recently the Huron Colts from Mississauga were severely disciplined at last week's Halton 1 Peel Disciplinary Hearing. My report on the game as referee, was supported by letters from Bryan Turner and Stu Hobbins together with many other complaints throughout the region, which were received during the playing season. I am certain that those present at the game as well as other soccer enthusiasts will be interested to learn of the punishments handed out by the committee. Coach Flynn was suspended until 31 December 1978, manager Hill until 31 December 1977 and player McEwan until 30 June 1977. The remaining Huron players who were cautioned were suspended until 31 December 1976. No action was taken against Herb Kewley of Georgetown who was cautioned in the final minute of that game. I think that this shows the desire of the Halton 1 Peel officials to make every effort to keep soccer a clean sport and to promote the game in the best possible manner and to allow children to participate in a decently controlled activity.

Earlier at the same meeting Peter Haller of Georgetown Mosquitoes squad had an ordering off offence reduced to a caution against which no action was taken.

As Mosquito coach I would like to record that Jeff Waterworth our goalkeeper won the 1976 "Player of the Year" award with captain Riv Kennedy a very close runner up. The award was presented after our last game of the season when Jeff recorded a shut out in our defeat over Milton by 5-0.

Finally I would like to offer congratulations to the Pee Wee girls soccer team upon winning Halton 1 Peel Cup Final by defeating Oakville 2-1 in a hotly contested match last Saturday (2nd October).

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Columnist lauded

To the editor of The Herald Joyce Beaton's column: Charlie's mother died last night. Is a moving, sensitive piece that should touch the hearts of all but the insensitive.

Your columnist has not only drawn attention to those like Charlie in our midst, but to their needs as human beings possessed of deep inner feelings.

I hope you will convey to Ms. Beaton my thanks, and my congratulations.

Work like hers has the power and influence to change society and lead it to action on behalf of those members less privileged by freak of birth, than others.

Yours very truly,
Eric Colwill
Guelph.

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