

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1977

No chemicals in fish

Chemicals Mirex (Dochlorane) and Dechlorane Plus were not found in samples of fish taken from the Credit River for analysis by the ministry of environment, a spokesman says.

Information officer Dennis Nagata said the ministry will continue monitoring the river environment for traces of chemicals since Mirex is cancer causing and the health hazards of Dechlorane Plus are unknown. More samples will be taken in the early spring, he said.

Low concentrations of Dechlorane Plus presently exist in Credit River waters and the leachate or run-off from an adjacent landfill site, Inmont Pressite Ltd.

uses Dechlorane Plus and previously used both Mirex and Dechlorane. Neither chemical was detected in the fish, eliminating the dangers of infiltrating into the food chain, and it is "a success story from our point of view," said Mr. Nagata.

Although information provided by Hooker Chemical Company in New York which produces Dechlorane (Mirex) and Dechlorane Plus concludes there is no evidence of the latter posing a health hazard, Mr. Nagata said the federal ministry of health is conducting its own tests.

Results should be available next week, said health ministry information officer Craig Hamilton.

Venturer bottle drive funds earmarked for canoe trip

To fund a 1,400 mile canoe trip along the St. Lawrence River to Prince Edward Island where a scout jamboree is being held this summer, the 1st Georgetown Venturers will conduct monthly bottle drives.

They will be held the first Saturday of every month beginning Jan. 8. All bottles are acceptable.

The Venturers, led by Howard Powell of Georgetown, need \$1,000 by the end of January for a down

payment on two 25-foot fiberglass canoes, to be custom made by the Voyageur Canoe Company at Millbrook.

Each weighing 300 pounds and worth \$2,250, these heavy duty crafts are designed for endurance.

Mr. Powell estimated between 14 and 20 Venturers, aged 14 to 18, will participate in the month-long adventure. Scheduled to begin early in June, the trip will trace the rugged route used by early

explorers from Port Credit on Lake Ontario along the wilderness of the St. Lawrence River to Prince Edward Island.

Whether this passage has been followed by canoes is unknown, he said.

Upon arrival, the Venturers will attend a Boy Scout Jamboree on Prince Edward Island. They will return home by train and equipment will be shipped back to Georgetown.

Excluding payment of canoes, Mr. Powell said the excursion may cost \$3,000 for meals, transportation, admission to the jamboree and other supplies.



SOUTH AMERICA

'Y' directors head south for fact-finding tour

Two members of Georgetown YM-YWCA's board of directors today (Wednesday) mount an airplane for a fact-finding excursion to South America.

Organized by Canada's national YM-YWCA Dr. Bruce Duff and Tom Johnson of Halton Hills will accompany representatives of other South Central Ontario YM-YWCAs from Toronto, Guelph, Hamilton and St. Catharines on the five day trip.

The purpose, Mr. Johnson said is "to better understand what the Y is doing internationally, exchange ideas, goals and achievements."

He added it may be possible for the Canadian YM-YWCA to financially assist its South American counterpart if need be.

"We might be able to help them with projects... if they need equipment like a well for a village or typewriters..." he said, emphasizing that the main objective is to exchange information.

Lima, Peru, is the site of the main conference between Can-

adian and South American YM-YWCA executives, but Mr. Johnson said time permitting they may visit the branches located in other places en route.

A Canadian military aircraft will transport them to Mexico, and Thursday they will proceed to Peru for a four day stay. Sunday they will arrive in Rio de Janeiro from where they will fly back to Canada.

Unsure of the exact agenda, Mr. Johnson promised to bring back information and color slides of the excursion.

In future, it's possible South American YM-YWCA members may reciprocate with a visit to Canadian branches, he said.

The trip is jointly funded by the government which is providing one-way transportation, service club donations and the participants, said Mr. Powell.

A first-time visitor to South America, he enthusiastically prepared for this "chance of a lifetime," and hopes, "By seeing how other Ys operate we may be able to improve our own."

The young men participating are well-trained for such an adventure. Mr. Powell believes. He has organized numerous canoeing trips, summer and winter camps for the boys since he started the club two years ago. Former excursions include 300-mile voyages to Mooseenaw and James Bay, and four Venturers explored Scandinavia last year.

They are "sturdy boys" capable of handling the journey which includes an eight-mile portage in New Brunswick, he said.

To fund past activities, the Venturers have done everything from conducting bottle drives to chopping wood to selling homemade canoes.

This year, to raise money for the eastern jaunt, the boys plan to add another project to their list. After receiving the 25 foot canoes, they will offer rides on Lake Ontario to warm weather visitors to Toronto's Ontario Place.

Last year, a Saturday morning of bottle collecting yielded five tons or \$325, Mr. Powell said.

"We'll need a lot of money for this far-out scheme," he added, "but I'm sure the trip will be worth it."

Arena opens, goal reached

The Georgetown Memorial Arena was officially re-opened Thursday evening.

Ernie Sykes, Chairman of the arena-Wintario Grant fund raising committee acted as master-of-ceremonies for the official opening. He reminded well-over 500 people of the decision to close the arena and the effort aimed at its re-opening.

He congratulated all those involved in the re-opening and noted: "It hasn't been easy, but a lot of hard work put in by many people has resulted in the re-opening."

Halton MP Dr. Frank Philbrooke was on hand for the opening ceremonies and he welcomed those present in French then offered congratulations on behalf of the Government of Canada and himself.

Julian Reed, Halton-Burlington MPP

noted, "It's been years since I, as a youngster spent many hours here. On behalf of all the boys and girls of Halton Hills I would like to thank the committee and all the people who contributed their time to see the arena restored."

Bob Goldham, a Georgetownner who starred in the National Hockey League, and who is now a part of the Hockey Night in Canada broadcasting crew reminisced about the days he spent sharpening his hockey skills in the Memorial Arena.

"The re-opening is a great tribute to those people who aided in the reconstruction," he said. "He added a footnote to the youngsters present when he emphasized that they realize "what has been done for you," Continued on Page 6

Hydro hearings set for Jan. 24

Ontario Hydro hearings of necessity for the Bradley-Georgetown high voltage power corridor may resume in Acton Jan. 24, a lawyer for the Interested Citizens Group (ICG) says.

Dick Howitt, representing 22 landowners along the Halton Hills fifth concession, said the hearings may resume to "tidy up loose

ends" and dispose of matters concerning minor alignment along the power corridor.

The hearings—in reality expropriation hearings—were adjourned in November and scheduled to restart in April after the ICG proposed application to Divisional Court to allow the calling of evidence on alternative routes.

Dick Howitt appointed Queen's Counsel

Dick Howitt of Halton Hills is "delighted" to be one of 99 Ontario lawyers recently appointed Queen's Counsel.

He said there are 10,700 lawyers in Ontario, of which less than one per cent qualified for this honor.

The title includes certain privileges, such as sitting in the front row of the court and wearing a special gown. It is black silk, with a square neckline, winged collar and ties, and tighter sleeves. Though long and flowing like the barrister's gown, the Queen's Counsel gowns are more tailored and worn over a vest, he said.

In the past Queen's Counsel had the benefit of being first to present cases in court, but this practice was discontinued.

Being appointed to the Queen's Counsel is "recognition of ability and stature" said Mr. Howitt. To qualify an application including a professional resume is submitted to the Attorney-General of Canada.

A lawyer for almost 13 years, Mr. Howitt graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a bachelor of arts degree in history and English before studying law at Osgoode Hall in Toronto.

On graduation in 1963, he articulated with a Toronto law firm for one year and was called to the bar in 1964. He spent another year working with solicitors in England before returning to Toronto to join another law firm until 1973, when he established his Georgetown practice.

Mr. Howitt, 40, lives with his family on 10 Sideroad.

There is a four month waiting list for Divisional Court, Mr. Howitt said, adding that he understands Ontario Hydro may be seeking an earlier hearing date.

Thomas Marshall, on loan from the Ontario Attorney-General's Office, is believed to be asking Chief Justice William Estey for the rescheduling of the Divisional Court hearing, but Mr. Howitt said he doubts the matter will be moved ahead.

The delay in the hearings of necessity is buying time for the (ICG) people Mr. Howitt said, "... and has really upset the government." The repercussions of the adjournment may be "more than we know," he said. With a possible spring election in the province, "who knows what can happen?"

Should Divisional Court find in favor of the ICG, it will mean that evidence on alternative routes for the controversial corridor can be introduced. Hearing officer Donald Meyrick felt this was beyond his reference terms specified by Energy Minister Dennis Timbrell.

"But even so," Mr. Howitt said, "Meyrick could say it is fair, sound and reasonable for Hydro to go ahead (and expropriate)."

As the corridor was approved by cabinet order-in-council in April, 1974, little short of a new government can change that decision Mr. Howitt said, agreeing that the hearings may be a sham because Energy Minister Timbrell is not bound to follow the hearing officer's recommendations.

"That's exactly what happened in Chatham," Mr. Howitt said, "where the hearing officer found it was not fair, sound and reasonable necessary (to build a transmission corridor) but the minister then, Bill Newman, said to go ahead and expropriate. Timbrell has the final say."

And in spite of the hearings and legal delays "all the people are aware that the line may go charging through," Mr. Howitt said.

FIRST BABY BORN IN HALTON HILLS

Halton Hill's first 1977 baby, Michael Ryan Sarson, didn't mind posing for a picture six hours after his birth at 7:40 a.m. on Jan. 3—the day before his dad's birthday. The first child of happy parents Ray and Andrea Sarson of Bard Lane, Georgetown, Michael



... AND OUTSIDE HALTON, TOO!
First baby born in Guelph's General Hospital to parents resident in Halton Hills was Dale Douglas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Hewitt, of 6 John St., Acton. The baby's mother Susan holds her new son who was delivered at 1:05 a.m. Jan. 1, by Dr. T.B. Moore. Dale Douglas weighed in at 8 pounds, 6 1/2 ounces.

Report recommends regional United Way

Despite the near hostile reaction the Oakville United Way received from local charitable groups in October when it proposed a Halton Hills fundraising campaign, North Halton could become part of a regional United Way by 1978, if a report presented to the organization is accepted.

The United Way boundary study committee recently released a 40-page report two years in the making, on the needs of area residents and the status of existing charitable agencies.

The committee recommends in the report that the Burlington area come under

the jurisdiction of a new regional United Way rather than the Hamilton-Wentworth United Way. The existing Burlington and Oakville branches would then combine their efforts, and together help set up a similar operation in North Halton.

Organizers prefer the United Way branches to be large rather than localized in order to minimize administrative costs. The report also places a public transit system covering all of Halton on top of the priority list drafted from interviews with North Halton residents.

A new social planning

council, additional nursing home accommodations and aid for senior citizens and a program for young alcoholics are other chief concerns.

The Oakville United Way received no support whatsoever from charitable organizations in Acton and Georgetown in October when it proposed to conduct a fundraising drive here sometime next year. At two meetings with United Way representatives, members of the local groups expressed unanimous concern that the larger campaign would inhibit their own abilities to collect the necessary amounts.

Financial advisors have mixed feelings about economy in 1977

BY LYNN RHODES
Herald Staff Writer

If it wasn't for Christmas, there'd be no economy or profit," believes manager of Household Finance in Georgetown, Ian Finnerty.

He is one of the members of the local financial community asked by The Herald to predict changes in the state of the economy in 1977.

Mr. Finnerty said lending has increased to make 1978 the second biggest year in his finance company's history, and he anticipates the upward trend in borrowing will continue.

"What people earn, people spend," he said, "it's a credit-oriented society."

With "inflation increasing and salaries staying the same" he said high-priced every day consumer goods are forcing the average worker to borrow the full amount for a house down payment. Yet, many home owners are reluctant to sell since "prices are the same as two years ago and the real estate market is dead."

Mr. Finnerty cannot see any "drastic improvements" on the housing and industrial scenes. He used Georgetown as an example of

the present state of the economy, pointing out that Domtar and one of Beaumont MUs' plants are closing while Abitibi is laying off half its staff.

WAIT AND SEE

Lack of stimulation in the business world leads to spiralling unemployment and product prices compared to fairly stable wages. This leaves potential spenders and investors with a timid "wait and see" attitude, Mr. Finnerty feels.

The gradual drop in interest rates must continue to spur people to take out loans and stimulate growth, he said.

In three years, finance companies have increased mortgage loans only about 2 per cent while interest rates offered by banks have been dropping steadily, he said. In future, he feels rates will go down, not up.

Wage and price controls implemented by the government "haven't hurt," said Mr. Finnerty, adding, "office workers... for example still get paid next to nothing... while companies with strong unions get big raises anyway."

Coupled with the Anti-Inflation Board salary limits, the availability of labor keeps pay cheques stable which reduces consumer

buying, thus reducing company profits. He feels this vicious economic cycle must break before we enjoy industrial expansion.

Acting manager for Georgetown's Bank of Montreal Carl Winger agrees unemployment may continue to rise in accord with prices despite lowered interest rates and this is causing industrial developers to shy away.

His suggestion is the removal of government controls on industry such as tariffs on imported cars. Mr. Winger advocates free enterprise.

"We'll have a stagnant economy as long as price controls are in effect," he said.

PHASE-OUT CONTROLS

He said wage and price controls should be phased out over a year because they have "forced 'Joe Public' to save money and not spend."

The Bank of Canada's guidelines reducing interest rates for bank loans will hopefully initiate consumer buying—a catalyst for economic growth, he feels.

Increased spending, thus a greater demand for products, is the key to industrial growth to cure high unemployment, he said. However, Mr. Winger "is not optimistic"

about the economy's future in light of wage and price controls, although he believes the Anti-Inflation Board deserves some credit for the decrease from 13 to 7 1/2 per cent inflation during the past year.

He advocates phasing out controls since "dropping it all at once would cause chaos and runaway inflation."

He said prices, already out of line with wages "which have been stable over 18 months," would skyrocket with an abrupt discontinuation of controls.

Mr. Winger feels recession will be down compared to 1972 to 1974, unemployment will stay at the present rate of 7 per cent or increase, interest rates will continue lowering and the gross national product (GNP) won't increase more than half of one per cent.

BLEAK OUTLOOK

Another bleak economic picture: was painted by Reg McQuail of Georgetown's Bank of Nova Scotia.

He predicts a slight recession compounded by increased inflation due to the rising cost of utilities, fossil fuels, and higher municipal taxes.

The housing market is inactive, but lower bank loan rates may encourage people to purchase homes, said Mr. McQuail.

The trend he has noticed however is towards saving, and bank deposits are up from the 1960's.

People are being more careful," said Mr. McQuail, "they're unsure of the economy and high unemployment."

Therefore he said, impulse buying during the past few years has decreased because money is tight.

The anti-inflation board has been effective to a point, he feels, but "there are still inequities... there's so much paperwork and politics involved that it's impossible to police every aspect of controls."

The economic scene "is not as gloomy as it's made out to be," said manager of the Toronto-Dominion Bank Terry Dickenson.

STIMULATION NEEDED

"Government awareness" led to effective steps to curb inflation through wage and price controls and lowered interest rates to encourage business investment, he said. High unemployment and slow growth are the problems now requiring attention, he added.

Decreased taxes and eased wage and price controls may also help stimulate the economy by increasing the availability of money, Mr. Dickenson said.

He predicts 1977 will see real growth reduce from five to four per cent from last year, unemployment will reach eight per cent, the consumer rate will decrease half of one percent to seven per cent and he sees a possible slowdown in housing starts.

Yet, with the lowering of loan and mortgage rates, the housing market could pick up, he speculated.

External pressures played a key role deterring full economic recovery despite efforts by the Canadian government in 1976, he feels, and until industrial growth is realized Ontario may suffer a bit more than other provinces because it relies heavily on manufacturing.

People save money because they are "uncertain" and "careful", but public confidence should slowly be regained with the threat of inflation slowly diminishing, through government initiated changes in monetary policies, he said.

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