

Region to review \$4 million grants

Almost \$4 million in provincial grants which Halton region council turned thumbs down on last month is going to get another look-see.

The money, not available after the end of the year, requires that a uniform rate structure be adopted for water and sewer and that a new philosophy of regional roads emerge. When defeated at the Feb. 15 meeting, it was to councillors' cries of "equalized assessment" and "lack of information."

At Wednesday's meeting, however, two councillors who had voted down the measure brought forth the motion again. Burlington Coun. Tom Sutherland's motion was seconded by Halton Hills Coun. Russ Miller who told council he had voted against the grants in order that he have the right to reintroduce it now.

But before council formally reconsiders the grant, the treasurers in Halton Hills, Milton, Burlington and Oakville have been asked to study the reports of regional treasurer Don Farmer and make recommendations to their respective councils. Formal reconsideration is expected by late April or early May.

Regional treasurer Don Farmer, whose three reports recommended adoption of the rate structures and road philosophy with the full support of regional chairman Ric Morrow, was asked to come up with the detailed figures for five years into the future.

Passage of the controversial issue was marked by stormy outbursts of councillors from Oakville where there is a high industrial assessment which under the proposed rate structure would be applied region-wide.

Oakville Coun. Maclean Anderson began debate when he charged as out of order an amendment by Milton Coun. James Watson who wanted a feasibility study on returning water revenue to the area municipality.

Chairman Morrow ruled that the issue of reconsideration must be passed before formal debate on the treasurer's report could begin.

Oakville Coun. Carl Eriksen, an outspoken critic of the regional chairman, said Mr. Morrow owned council an apology for not giving council adequate information the first time the issue appeared before council.

Coun. Anderson began quoting from the rules of procedure while Coun. Eriksen said "something is seriously wrong in asking us to vote on an inadequate report."

The chairman reminded council that it had defeated Feb. 15 a motion by Burlington Mayor Mary Munro to table the regional treasurer's recommendations until the five year forecasts were supplied.

(At the same meeting council was defeated a motion by Coun. Anderson to send the

treasurer's report to the area municipality treasurers for recommendations and that the information requested by Mayor Munro be provided to council).

Chairman Morrow said he did not think he had ever said Mr. Farmer's report is "inadequate."

Coun. Russ Miller said he wanted the reports from the area treasurers and regional staff to come up with the facts "... to help us make a real solid decision good for Halton."

Oakville Coun. Gordon Heade charged that no reason had been put forward to show why the issue should be reconsidered.

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett said he was opposed to reconsideration because of the accountability and credibility of the council was at stake.

The vote to receive and file the treasurer's original recommendations was passed by a 14-9 vote and not only by a slim majority of one, the mayor said, adding that it was the duty of every councillor to support a passed motion.

Mayor Barrett said the accountability of Mr. Morrow and the province as well as the 24-member council was at stake in the issue. The chairman should use "divisive means" to reintroduce defeated motions.

But three Oakville councillors - Arch Donaghey, Laurie Mannell and Ron Planche - supported reconsidering the grant. Coun. Donaghey voted he was unhappy with how Mr. Farmer's report was presented and that it had not been discussed in Oakville.

Coun. Planche said he had checked the credibility behind the reason for reconsideration and discovered that Mr. Farmer had not been willing to meet and pursue further with the area treasurers some implications of the issue.

Coun. Anderson said he was opposed to reconsideration because he resents "being manipulated. We made a decision two weeks ago, we should stand by it."

Coun. Eriksen said the Oakville treasury department staff don't have an open mind, but supply reports to support preconceived staff conclusions. To regional chairman he asked: "What are you going to do to make sure we get an adequate and unbiased report?"

The chairman replied that that would be an undertaking of Mr. Farmer.

Milton Mayor Don Gordon said the figures in the water rate structure regarding Milton were "inaccurate". He was in support of reconsideration but only if accurate figures were used on the amount of an average homeowner's water bill.

On a 16-7 recorded vote the motion to reconsider and ask the area treasurer to report to area councils passed.

Mr. Morrow said Mr. Watson's motion to have a feasibility study done was out of order, but added he had changed his mind when Coun. Watson suggested the councils may accept equalized water rates under the proposed rate structure.

Coun. Watson's motion also carried as did reconsideration of the regional road philosophy which requires an updating roads survey costing about \$30,000.

ON THE HOME FRONT

A crushing blow

By SUSAN De FACENDIS

A blow of crushing proportions has our entire family reeling. My parents, after 44 years of married bliss, have been brought to the verge of divorce; my mother cannot look at a clothes dryer without trembling and my father has cold feet.

All this is due to a sneak-thief who stole - yes, I will not hesitate to use the word bluntly - stole my poor father's entire wardrobe of socks from a clothes dryer.

What heel would place his 'sole' in jeopardy for six pairs of used socks? It would have been bad enough if this dastardly act had been committed during the summer months, but only the most calloused of thieves would part a man from his happy feet during the chill blasts of March. For my mother, who has gladly accepted the key role she unwittingly played in the heist - and who has been grovelling and abjectly apologising to my unforgiving, blue-footed father ever since - it all began as a normal Monday washday.

Alone in the laundry room, no masked intruder lurking in sight, she had brought the washing to the point of drying. Upon removing it, she discovered that everything had dried to perfection except for the socks. Unthinkingly, uncaringly, she tossed them back into the dryer, little realising that this was the last time she would ever again see them.

While folding the balance of the items, she became engrossed in friendly chit-chat with fellow-washee then, waiting foolishly, skipped from the room to leave the forgotten socks to their fate.

Yes, I can imagine the looks of shock and horror stamped now upon your faces, but do not be too hard upon this poor woman. A temporary failing, a momentary lapse, should not eradicate the near-efficiency of a lifetime of devotion to her family.

Meanwhile, what of the innocent victim? Shaken with chills induced by the merciless drafts nipping at his toes, my father sits wondering if anyone will notice his bare feet when seated at the church organ next Sunday?

This is a man who has travelled many parts of the world; paid his taxes; fought through WW2 defending his country; risked his life, for what? - to get his fruit of the looms virtually ripped from his feet in these, his golden years of retirement.

Now while we may never get to the seat of the problem, I question what is afoot in the laundry rooms of the nation?

Was the theft a single act of madness? - perhaps a crazed, memento-seeking choir member, harboring a secret passion for my father? Or is it a forewarning that we are about to be socked by a reign of laundry room terror.

Ladies, I beg of you, if you do not wish your daughters to fall asleep each night plaintively sobbing: "Who stole my daddy's socks?", as I have done this past week, then be alert. Do not let the understandable excitement of ring-around-the-collar divert you for one instant from your socks.

As my mother learned in late, when posted for action in the laundry room beware the "Tides" of March.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD By DAMIS

- ARIES** Mar. 21-Apr. 19 The Friday full moon may bring some doubts as to the motives of another.
- TAURUS** Apr. 20-May 20 Discretion is called for in relationship. Avoid the criticism of co-workers. Be safety conscious.
- GEMINI** May 21-June 20 Silly arguments could spoil a date with your sweetheart. Don't take things too seriously.
- MOONCHILD** June 21-July 22 Tend to the needs of family and control the tendency to emotional outbursts.
- LEO** July 23-Aug. 22 A traffic snarl makes tempers short. Patience and consideration of others brings rewards.
- VIRGO** Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Take inventory of financial resources and make sure all obligations are met. Clear up old debts.
- LIBRA** Sept. 23-Oct. 22 Calm and objective discussion with someone close clears up what has seemed like an insurmountable problem.
- SCORPIO** Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Take the middle path when co-workers start fuss and feudin. Gossip makes the fire flare.
- SAGITTARIUS** Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You have some great ideas for strengthening a group or organization. Put them to work. They need you.
- CAPRICORN** Dec. 22-Jan. 19 The opening you've been waiting for appears likely. Make your presence known, and let your qualifications show.
- AQUARIUS** Jan. 20-Feb. 18 The long planned trip develops a few snags. Don't despair. These are just temporary upsets.
- PISCES** Feb. 19-Mar. 20 It is wise to take steps to protect investments or property. Some confusion arises in financial dealings.

Ontario asked to make Halton changes

By GEORGE EVASHUK
Herald staff writer

Halton regional council will ask the Ontario government for wide-ranging changes in Bill 151 which created the region in 1974.

The recommendations, which were in the final report delivered Wednesday by the Bill 151 review committee, ask for increased powers from the province, a return to the area municipalities of some responsibilities, make up of the police commission and election of the regional chairman among others.

Council wants the province to turn over to the region review functions over official plan documents, subdivision approvals and zoning amendments plus more money to carry out the added responsibilities.

Council also wants the regional chairman to be elected by a secret ballot. However, a motion that the chairman be elected only from within the 24-member council failed to pass.

And should a seat on regional government become vacant, the region wants the option of holding a by-election. Currently a vacancy is filled by appointment such as in the case of Coun. Mike Armstrong who filled the seat Ric Morrow vacated when he was elected chairman.

Area municipalities should have control over the timing, location and installation of watermains, sanitary sewers and storm drainage, council recommended. Jurisdiction over water plants and pumping stations was asked to remain under regional control as was the collection and disposal of garbage.

The region also wants the police commission made up of an elected representative from each area municipality. Under the current set up the province makes appointments to the commission and Milton, for example, now has no direct representation on the commission.

The region will also ask that its responsibility under a section of the Planning Act be deleted. The section deals with the prevention of any land, building or structure for any purpose prohibited by the by-law if such land, building or structure was lawfully used for such purpose on the day of the passing of the bylaw and so long as it continues to be used for that purpose.

The region referred to committee the recommendation that sidewalks on regional roads be the responsibility of the area municipalities.

Council wants the Planning Act amended to clearly define the responsibilities of the region and the area municipalities and also that the framework of regional and local responsibilities be defined with the area municipalities having jurisdiction over all matters of local planning in that framework.

The region wants to have only 30 days instead of 60 to object to the stopping up of highways.

Another recommendation of the region is to have all mat-

ters formerly dealt with by the committees of adjustment under the land division committee.

As well, the region wants the yearly estimates of the area municipalities to be at the region by April 1. The region wants the area municipalities be given control over location of regional services on road allowances under municipal jurisdiction.

Two other recommendations passed by council are that the region not object to the erect-

ion of signs by the municipalities identifying hamlets and historic communities and that the region itself be considered a municipality, a move which could ease the operation of the government.

But not all the recommendations were passed. Turned down were a request for a three-man task force to study Halton region, a mandatory review every five years of Bill 151, and extra court facilities in Oakville and Burlington.

Also lost was the adjusting of

inaugural meetings to permit councillors to get to know each other better before they start dealing with the issues.

Regional chairman Ric Mor-

row said that the package of requests will go to the province after the committees have made recommendations.

Contract awarded

A federal contract worth \$29,312 has been awarded to Twin-Cee Ltd. of Georgetown to provide the government with waste receptacles the department of supply and services announced Monday. It was one of 259 unclassified contracts worth \$10,000 or more that were awarded by the department to Canadian companies during the week ended Feb. 10. Total value of the contracts amounted to \$15,838,479.

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Grant for group

A grant in the amount of \$750 has been received from the federal secretary of state by a group entitled Halton committee for media education.

This is the group's first project. It will produce a video tape presentation on wife abuse. This presentation is to be aired on the local cable TV stations in Halton.

The committee is still in its planning stages, but the project completion date is aimed at June.

Tentatively the format will be two 15-minute presentations followed by panel discussions. The first will be to identify the problem, and the second will be aimed at present solutions.

The Halton committee for media education, was formed following a meeting held last November at Sheridan College on issues affecting women in Halton region.

When disaster strikes

Fires, storms, floods have no timetable. They hit at any time of day or night, any time of year, and very often those who can least afford it. This is where the Red Cross Assistance in Minor Disaster Services comes in - they are ready for the unexpected - with your support.

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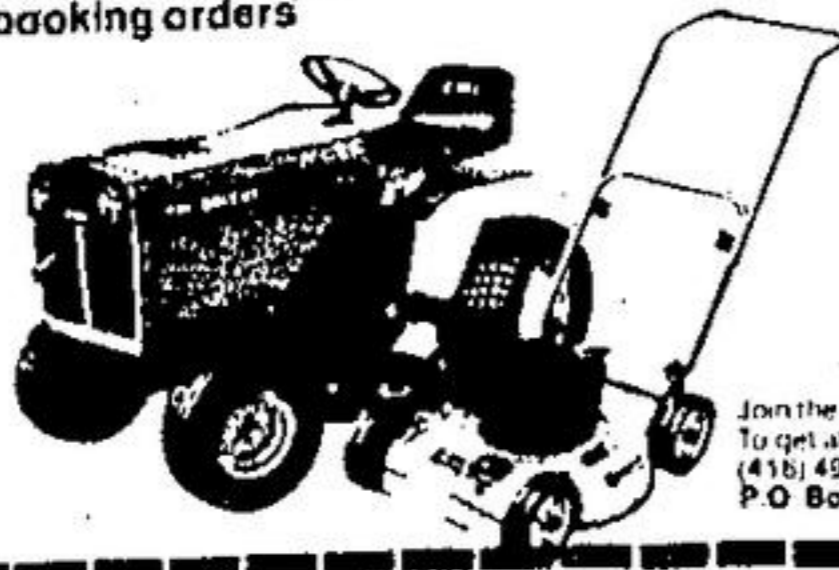
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Safe and healthy workers are better workers, and concerned, well-informed employers are better employers. That's why your Ontario Government has established the Occupational Health and Safety Division within the Ontario Ministry of Labour.

The Division communicates and works with employers and employees alike, encouraging all concerned to do

- everything possible to prevent injury or illness in the workplace. It does this by:
 - conducting regular programs of inspections and audits to ensure compliance with the legislation;
 - providing advisory, consultative and technical services on health and safety matters;
 - promoting internal labour-management responsibility for maintaining a safe and healthy workplace;
 - reviewing proposed plans for new projects in the pre-development stages to avoid "building in" potential hazards.

The new Division is dedicated to the control and elimination of occupational health and safety hazards with ongoing research, educational programs and - if need be - corrective action when cooperation doesn't work.

A booklet spelling out in detail the activities of the Occupational Health and Safety Division is being distributed to employers. If you would like a copy, contact your nearest Ministry of Labour office. And work in good health!



Bette Stephenson, M.D., Minister of Labour

William Davis, Premier

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