

Oakville, Burlington private agencies adequate, region eyes phase out, service in north

By PAUL DORSEY
Herald staff writer
Halton regional council may phase out its family counselling service in Burlington and Oakville, where private agencies appear to be adequately taking care of such needs, in order to improve the service in north Halton, the regional health and social services committee decided last week.

Concerned that the region's counselling service may be duplicating the work already being done in south Halton by Burlington's Counselling and Human Relations Institute (CHRI) and the Oakville Family Service Bureau, the committee met with representatives of both groups July 11 to discuss the feasibility of regional council hiring their services while its own department concentrates on north Halton's needs.

The committee rejected a proposal that the regional family service should be terminated, acknowledging instead that the service provides south Halton residents with a choice of agencies to approach as well as meeting needs in Milton and Halton Hills.

Rennie Vivian, administrator of the regional department of social and family services, will continue to meet officials of the Burlington and Oakville agencies in order to draft an efficient plan for such servicing in Halton.

In his preliminary study of the Oakville and Burlington private services, Mr. Vivian discovered that the region could hire the services for \$12,359 per year, whereas it is now paying out \$47,958 annually to maintain its own service.

In assessing the availability of family services in north Halton, the committee learned that the Oakville agency has received referrals from Halton Hills groups such as the North Halton Mental Health Clinic and, despite some reluctance to accept the referral on the part of the agency's sponsors, cases are regularly accepted.

Nancy Brown of the Oakville Family Service Bureau reported that one recent referral from Halton Hills had been rejected by Guelph agencies.

Councillors Jim Kerr of Milton and Laurie Mannell of Oakville suggested that Oakville and Burlington are ap-

parently well-served by their respective agencies and as a result, the region should be turning its attention to social needs in the north.

Mr. Vivian observed that the north Halton mental health clinic "prefers" to handle only psychiatric problems, avoiding "run-of-the-mill family problems" by referring them elsewhere.

"For years it's been said there's not as much service in north Halton," Mr. Vivian said. "To some extent I suppose that's true, but it's been my experience that the agencies there get along very well and determine among

themselves who carries the ball. I always thought that if the Acton multi-services centre (Acton Community Services Centre) could work anywhere, it could work here. Much of what is being done is being well-provided."

Halton Hills Coun. Pat McKenzie recalled the "scrap" which his municipality went through in order to establish the centre and provide all of the services enjoyed in the south.

Ms. Brown pointed out that her agency in Oakville considers the regional family service "extremely important, especially to the north."

Restrictive budgets and ever increasing operating costs have forced both the Oakville and Burlington agencies to look to the region for some assistance in providing services to residents who cannot afford to pay counselling fees, she said.

Mr. Vivian's recommendation calling for the continuation of the regional service was promptly approved from the committee, but a second recommendation rejecting the purchase of private services by the region, although supported by Halton Hills Councillors Roy Booth and Russ Miller, failed to carry.

The debate continues over convention trip

Debate around the council table continued Monday to map plans by Councillors Pete Pomeroy, Russ Miller and Roy Booth to attend next week's Canadian Institute of Planner convention in Calgary.

Coun. Pomeroy angrily accused Councillors Pat McKenzie and Mike Armstrong of playing "Mickey Mouse politics" in order to discredit him in an election year after they introduced a motion aimed at revising the town's policy for councillors attending conventions.

As a result of last week's debate over the three councillors' stated plans to attend the Calgary planners' conference, Councillors McKenzie and Armstrong co-signed a resolution which, if approved, will require all councillors to seek council's authorization to travel to conferences at the town's expense.

Coun. Pomeroy succeeded in having the resolution referred to the finance and administration committee for initial consideration, but not before he had accused his two colleagues of attempting to "create the suspicion of indiscriminate spending" on the part of another council member.

He then reported that Councillors McKenzie and Armstrong had themselves signed up for a municipal convention in Boston, a move which took place at regional council and did not receive the same kind of question-raising press coverage.

Coun. Pomeroy added that the planned trip to Boston had to be cancelled after a procedural error was discovered and regional council's decision

to approve the trip was rescinded.

Coun. McKenzie responded that Coun. Pomeroy was repeating "some fact and some fiction." The resolution at regional council, he explained, routinely designated the involved committee chairman and vice-chairman to attend the Boston convention, even though neither one planned to attend.

In another instance, Coun. McKenzie recalled being authorized to travel to a Chicago municipal conference last year, which he similarly declined to attend.

He added that regional council's motion to rescind the Boston trip decision would never have been considered if he had not broken a tie vote in order to have the rescinding motion brought to the floor.

Coun. McKenzie pointed out that the town's existing convention policy was prepared by the clerk-administrator in 1975 and has never been abused.

"But it just rubs me the wrong way to watch three of our responsible men hiking off to Calgary," he said.

Coun. Pomeroy has stated publicly that he will be paying for his own transportation to Calgary, leaving the town to cover only his hotel accommodation and meals, as is done for Toronto conventions.

problems arose, he said, the town planner would simply come back to council for further directions.

Coun. Pomeroy's suggestion that a zoning amendment would be needed if the company intended to sell items in its garden centre that were not grown on the site would mean that every nursery operation in the town would have to be investigated for similar bylaw contraventions, Mayor Hill said.

Concerned that the planning board's recommendation could ultimately delay the project more so than if its approval were deferred, Coun. Pomeroy asked that the town planner be directed to review the matter.

The problem was solved, however, when, at the suggestion of clerk-administrator Ken Richardson, the board recommendation was revised to include the garden centre proposal along with the office building for approval by town and conservation authority staff.

Subject to approval from the planning department following examination of the proposal, Sheridan Nurseries Ltd., presently based in Etobicoke, will build an 8,000-square foot office building on 22 Sideroad where it has maintained a 900-acre nursery for many years.

Company president Howard Stensson last week asked the planning board to rezone land in the area for the office building and to amend the town's official plan to allow the establishment of a two to three-acre garden centre for the sale of nursery products.

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Propose nursery offices project

Council's efforts to expedite approval for the proposed relocation of Sheridan Nurseries Ltd.'s head office outside Glen Williams nearly ran aground Monday night after Coun. Pete Pomeroy pointed out that the zoning bylaw may have needed amending.

Coun. Pomeroy speculated that the company may have needed to seek a commercial zoning designation for the garden centre which it proposed to establish along with the office building at the existing Sheridan nursery site above Glen Williams.

Mayor Tom Hill argued that the resolution by which planning board gave tentative approval to the project last week was designed so that the deal could be finalized between the company and the planning department quickly. If any

move to uniform water and sewer rates would benefit the whole region, and especially Halton Hills. Central to the proposal is the incentive being offered by the provincial government, which has offered \$900,000 through a five-year subsidization plan to any regional municipality which adopts uniform rates before December.

All three Halton Hills regional councillors in attendance at Monday's meeting pledged to make every effort to convince their colleagues at the region that "this is the only course to take."

Coun. Russ Miller commented that regional government without uniform service rates defeats its own purpose.

Commenting lightly on the bishop's decision to place him in Acton, Father Speagle said: "I guess he's going to send me north of Clappison's community overlooking Hamilton just north of the city limits) to see what the real world is like."

In a serious manner, Father Speagle said: "It being parish priest of the Acton church gives you a chance to be close to people."

"You don't get the same closeness in the larger cities," he said.

Since arriving in Acton

Sludge contract

Hageman's Farms Ltd. of Waterdown will be awarded a \$155,038 contract for hauling and storing sludge from the Georgetown Water pollution control plant and two similar facilities in Burlington, if regional council accepts a public works committee recommendation today (Wednesday).

The firm's tender was the lowest of five received by the region prior to May 30 and involves the handling of sewage sludge from July 1, 1978 to Aug. 31, 1979.

Water rates

Continued from Page 1

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KEVIN PEAKER

A young businessman

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald staff writer

Summer finds many youngsters moping over having nothing to do and pestering their parents for suggestions to keep them occupied.

Kevin Peaker, 11, of Prince Charles Drive isn't one of them. He has three jobs. He sells Regal Products door-to-door. He has a magic act for children's birthday parties. And he is a Herald carrier.

The magic act may have started as a bit of a joke with his father, John, but Kevin's love of magic makes itself obvious when he begins talking about the tricks he does and the business cards his father has written out for his act.

He became interested in magic after a visit to the Houdini Hall of Fame in Niagara Falls about five years ago. He has 15 tricks for performances now and is working on the others from an instruction library of 100 tricks which he owns. He did a party a couple of weeks ago

for seven children aged two to six and is prepared to do more upon request.

Selling Regal products is a relatively new enterprise for him. He has been at it for only a few weeks and so far his biggest single order from one customer has been worth \$15. He leaves catalogues with his customers so that

they can place orders from time to time as they require merchandise.

Kevin is donating half of the money he earns selling for Regal Products to the building fund of St. John's United church.

Kevin moved to Georgetown from St. Catharines about three years ago.

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Uniform report cards adopted

Halton board of education has moved one step closer to a uniform report card for all the schools in the region.

The board passed a recommendation at its meeting Thursday to adopt two forms of report card, one for primary and one for junior divisions, to be used at least once a year by each school. The report cards will include the main program areas of Like Language!

which includes reading, speaking, writing, listening, viewing and presenting; a simple so simple explanation on the back of the report card to identify the meanings and components of the Like Language! program, and a separate space for printing and or handwriting, and spelling.

The board also voted against continuing with the use of anecdotal report cards, although some trustees expressed the opinion that anecdotal report cards were more suitable for special education students. The board decided as well that report cards designed by individual schools would continue to be required to obtain board approval before being used.

Bruce Mather, superintendent of program for the board, said that "for some children in some special education classes, the anecdotal form would be better."

He said if the board chose to go with the two proposed forms of report card, special education teachers would have to have some kind of supplemental report to answer all the parents' questions.

"I think there's nothing in our system more subject to misunderstanding than an anecdotal report card," trustee Noel Cooper said. "The other type of report card is a lot easier, a lot more concise and it tells parents where they stand."

New contract

In response to criticism of contractors in charge of the regional landfill site in Georgetown, the regional public works committee has named Environmental Quality Handling Ltd. as the dump's new operators, effective July 1 of this year.

The firm will be paid the same rate given to William Menary Contractors Ltd., whose contract with the region has been terminated "by mutual agreement". Environmental Quality Handling Ltd. will be paid \$10,317 per month for its work at the site.

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11:30 a.m.

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Rev. E. J. Friesen

Sunday, July 23
10 a.m.

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