

Some speakers are like gamblers. They don't have sense enough to quit while they're ahead.

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Joanne Gates and six-year-old Peter show the note and clipping he carried with him as he knocked on doors in the Kington Road townhouse development looking for donations that would help to put a roof over the heads of a Georgetown couple and their two young children who were being put out of their apartment Saturday. The couple are staying in a house in Georgetown until suitable affordable accommodation becomes available. Their furniture is in free storage waiting to go to their home as soon as they find one.

Readers come to aid following Herald story

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald staff writer

Those who say children are all self-centred and only see the world in terms of how it touches them haven't met Peter Gates of Kington Road, Acton.

After reading headlines in The Herald last week saying a family and their two children could be forced into the street Saturday the six-year-old demanded an explanation of the situation from his mother, then went out and collected \$46.76 from neighbors in the development where he lives to help the Jones children.

Peter's mother, Joanne, says her son was very upset at the thought of two children his age having no home and wanted to know if they could come to live in their house. She explained that it was impossible because they didn't have the room so instead he went out and canvassed the neighborhood on their behalf.

"I was afraid people would think he was begging for himself or something because little ones don't always get an explanation across very well," she says, "so I wrote out a note and pinned it to the clipping from The

Herald."

Peter was out from 4 p.m. until nearly 8 p.m. Wednesday and came home with \$32.07. The counted up the money and then Peter wanted to know if that would buy a house for the Jones family. When he was told it wouldn't be determined to go out again the next day.

He only knocked on doors in the townhouses adjacent to his own house and it was basically during the day, his mother says.

"Most of these people work," she says, "and a lot of them don't get paid until Thursday or Friday. He did surprisingly well."

Peter will be attending Robert Little public school this fall and he has a one-year-old sister Karen.

While Peter's reaction is most touching considering his age, he was not the only person to offer help to the Jones family. Donations and an interest-free loan repayable at a manageable rate have been used to set up a trust fund for Don and Ann and their children.

A local firm offered to store the Jones' furniture free of charge and to move them out of their present apartment while someone

else has given the family accommodation until they find a place of their own which they can afford on Don's \$4 an hour salary.

Ward 4 Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson who contacted this reporter for details on the couple's plight after a call from an irate citizen demanding to know what the town of Halton Hills was doing for the couple and others like them. She says she would "really want to find out what sort of help is available from the region" since social services comes under its jurisdiction.

Any changes necessary to make help available for working people who can't scrape up enough money to pay both first and last month's rent when they are forced to move should be broached at the regional level first, she feels. If nothing is done there then she may raise the subject at Halton Hills council, she says.

"I would almost suggest that something could be put in the grants budget or something like that," Mr. Serjeantson says, "but I'm not going to make any real comments until I know more about the circumstances."

ACTONIANS FACE HIGHER COSTS

Third attempt fizzles for uniform water rate

Halton regional council has, for the third time, declined to adopt a policy of uniform water rates for all four member municipalities that would have saved Acton taxpayers from a substantial rate increase next year.

Despite strong appeals from regional chairman Ric Morrow, Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill and Acton Councillor Pat McKenzie, council endorsed a public works committee recommendation rejecting uniform rates by a vote of 15-7.

As a result, water rates will continue to be charged by the individual municipalities in accordance with overall expenditures for water services in the same municipality.

Acton, which has seen extensive work done on its water system during the past year and a half, faces a large rate increase without contributions from Georgetown, Milton, Oakville and Burlington to balance expenditures.

In a recorded vote, Burlington Mayor Murray Munro and Councillors Vern Connel, Pat McLaughlin, Ben Ciprietti, Jack Hadis and Tom Sutherland, Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett and Councillors Mac Anderson, Carl Erikson, Gord Reade and Ron Planche and Milton Mayor Don Gordon and Councillor Jim Kerr voted against the proposal to unify water rates.

Halton Hills Councillor Roy Booth raised a few eyebrows around the table when he too voted against uniform rates.

As he explained to The Herald following the meeting, however, he was the last council member to vote, and sure the issue had lost, voted with the majority so that he will have the opportunity to raise the issue again at some future date. According to the region's procedural bylaw, any councillor who has voted in favor of a resolution that is lost cannot raise the issue himself again.

Voting in favor of uniform rates were Halton Hills' other representatives, Mayor Tom Hill and Councillors McKenzie, Mike Armstrong and Russ Miller, along with Burlington Councillors Archie Donaghey and Laurie Mannell.

Prior to the vote, Mayor Hill had reminded council that approximately \$900,000 in provincial grants are available to any regional municipality that adopts a uniform rate policy before Dec. 31.

In accordance with the legislation that former Halton region, Mayor Hill said, council has adopted uniform rates for all regional services except water and sewers, which neighboring regions have seen fit to include along with other services under the same policy.

Mayor Hill pointed out that subsidizing Acton's water service expenditures will not cost

Oakville, Burlington and Milton a great deal as had been feared. Acton's share of the water budget amounts to only six per cent of the total cost, he said.

In a letter to all council members, Councillor McKenzie had similarly listed the advantages of adopting uniform rates and urged members to "set aside parochial preference" and allow the larger population of south Halton to share costs with the north.

And in a prepared speech, chairman Morrow contended that council owes it to the citizens in the community of Halton to adopt uniform rates.

"Simply put, I look upon the citizens of the region as one community for the services we provide, and it would be impossible to morally justify someone in one section of the region paying two to three times more for water than in other areas," he said, "and this is precisely what will happen to our Acton citizens if we do not adopt uniform rates."

Mr. Morrow warned that "this unique form of discrimination" will divide the region. The chairman's words, however, failed to convince the majority of council members the policy change would be required.

"Three of the four area municipalities have spoken quite strongly against uniform water rates," Councillor Anderson said, "and it's time this issue was resolved once and for all so we don't keep coming back to haunt us. If Acton has a problem, that's tough."

Councillor McKenzie stressed that "only Burlington and Oakville" have the power to deny Halton a "democratic process" whereby north Halton residents will come to appreciate regional government. If Halton Hills' right to uniform water rates is denied, he said, "I guess we'll just have to live with it, but you'll have to live with your consciences."

Councillor Reade suggested that the region should ask the province to increase its offer of grants to start up uniform water rate programs. The additional money, he reasoned, would eliminate any negative impact the new rates might have on the individual bankrolls of each municipality.

"Why should Oakville give up its \$800,000 surplus and throw it into the kitty?" he asked. "It's just not fair to some municipalities to have to subsidize others."

Councillor Erikson asserted that uniform rates for all services except water and sewers are acceptable because those services are enjoyed by all Halton citizens regardless of their place of residence. Uniform water rates, however, are intended to specifically help the residents of Acton and Georgetown, he said.

Town seeks \$900,000 grant See page 11

Milton Councillor Jim Watson, who did not vote on the issue, observed that Halton's area municipalities must behave as "partners in government" and once an issue is resolved, respect the wishes of the majority.

"It would cost Halton less than one cent per thousand citizens to bail out Acton," Councillor Mannell estimated. "In five years, it'll be Halton Hills that'll have to bail out Oakville and Burlington. We're just bastardizing the whole idea of regional government and being parochial. Let's turn the responsibility for water rates back to the area municipalities."

Councillor Donaghey supported the concept of uniform water rates as "a matter of principle" and predicted great savings to be made by all member municipalities.

Mayor Munro's assertion that Burlington council receives no financial assistance from

the region to expand a sewage treatment plant prompted both Councillor Sutherland and Councillor McKenzie to suggest that regional council be given another chance to vote for or against a proposal to subsidize the Burlington plant.

Councillor Coons also expressed willingness to let council take another look at the defeated proposal, but called upon the Halton Hills representatives to indicate their support or opposition to the scheme.

Councillor Erikson informed council he is not the slightest bit interested in the needs of the rest of the region outside Oakville.

"I am opposed to regional government," he said. "I am here to keep the monster in check as the voters of my municipality are well aware."

Mayor Gordon added that uniform water rates means the further centralization of government, the likes of which is boosting municipal expenditures across the country.

About The Hills

Help required

Helping Hands is again looking for a volunteer. This time they need someone to wash dishes and do daily picking up for a lady in the Silver Creek area whose health makes such small tasks into major problems for her. If you have an hour to spare one morning a week call Barb Stevens at 877-5920 and offer your help.

Crossing guards

Town council has approved a complete list of crossing guards and their stations for the 1978-79 school year, but according to clerk-administrator Ken Richardson, a few more volunteers would be welcome. Councillor George Malloy questioned the reason why an RR2, Rockwood resident had been assigned to an Acton station, and Mr. Richardson cited "a lack of applicants." Councillor Pat McKenzie recalled that council found enough volunteer crossing guards last year but only after an appeal was made through the press.

CVCA allows permit

Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) passed an application from Sheridan Nurseries for a building permit at a recent executive meeting. Sheridan wants to erect a 50 by 100 foot commercial building on Lot 22 Concession 10 for a display and sales area.

Morrow declines re-election, wants more time for family

Halton regional chairman Ric Morrow, 57, has announced that he will retire from public life, at least temporarily, following his current term in office. His decision to end a 10-year political career is based upon family and business concerns.

Although Mr. Morrow, a Georgetown resident, indicated he had made the decision "a short time ago," he said the public announcement of his intentions may have come later but for the debate over proposed uniform water rates that dominated Wednesday's regional council meeting.

Mr. Morrow informed council that he will not be a candidate in the Nov. 13 municipal election in the hope that they would heed his endorsement of uniform water rates and not accuse him of attempting for further his political career.

In accordance with Halton regional council's procedural bylaw, Mr. Morrow was elected chairman by a majority vote of council nearly two years ago. Chosen over several candidates for the top executive post in Halton, Mr. Morrow was at the time regional councillor for Halton Hills Ward 4. The Ward 4 seat on council was subsequently filled by Mike Armstrong.

Prior to Mr. Morrow's election as regional chairman, council had debated whether the job requires full-time attention, as outgoing chairman Allan Masson contended, or only a part-time position as Mr. Morrow claimed to believe.

"It tends to be more full-time," Mr. Morrow conceded

to reporters following his announcement. "It seems better suited to someone who is self-employed or owns his own business and can regulate his time."

Unfortunately for the new chairman, the responsibilities of the job at regional headquarters as well as those of his regular post as an Air Canada pilot have allowed him little time to spend with his wife and children.

"My time with my family has been greatly restricted," Mr. Morrow explained. "I'm away from home every weekend. In the next few weeks I'll enjoy spending more time with my family but right now it's just an impossible situation."

Chairman Morrow added that he will be busier than ever at Air Canada when, sometime in the next two years, he goes "fully on course" piloting newer models to different destinations.

Mr. Morrow made his announcement on his wife's birthday and indicated she would be pleased with his decision, but wouldn't believe it until she read about it in the newspapers.

After five years spent on Georgetown town council, three years on Halton Hills and Halton regional councils and two years as chairman, Mr. Morrow's political career may not be at an end. He admitted he will consider re-entering politics sometime in the future, but does not know at which level of government.

He added that he has no intention of becoming a candidate in the next provincial election, as some observers suspected.

Mr. Morrow stressed that he has greatly enjoyed tackling the challenges offered by the regional chairman's post during the past two years.

"It's an extremely challenging, interesting job," he commented. "The debates are always enjoyable. I'm definitely disappointed about council's rejection of the concept of uniform water rates because I'm a regionally-minded person."

Mr. Morrow expressed hope that the residents of Halton will soon come to realize that regional government is their best access route to the decision-makers at Queen's Park. The issues of a regional landfill site and the new regional administration building are "pretty well behind us," he noted, thus allowing council and its new chairman to concentrate on new issues during the forthcoming term.

SIDEWALK SALE

Bus safety, other displays

Two 1978 school buses are just two of the exhibits that will be featured on Main Street in Georgetown this weekend during the downtown merchants' back-to-school sidewalk sale.

In addition to the school buses, a number of universities and colleges will have pamphlets and handout material on their institutions available to inform parents and students. Some of the universities and colleges will have representatives on hand to answer questions about courses, admission requirements and other facets of post-secondary education.

Murray Inglis of Travelways Bus Lines said Travelways will have two 1978 school buses on display, with a representative of the company on hand to explain the services and improvements in school buses in the last few years.

New buses cost around \$22,000 and feature such improvements as padded seat backs, rather than steel, a strengthened roof structure, and an all-rubber floor. In addition, frequent inspections of school buses minimize the danger of mechanical failure, Mr. Inglis said.

"I think Halton County has one of the better bus safety records arounds," he said. "I can't recall a fatality in Halton yet. Transportation is something we all have to be aware of. Children have to be aware that people are trying to protect them."

The education information centre in the former Boar's Head store will be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday and from 10 to 6 p.m. Saturday. Information from York University, Seneca College

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GRIEVANCE FILED

Controversy over dismissal

By LORI TAYLOR
Herald staff writer

Controversy has arisen over the firing of a union president from her position as counsellor at the Countryside residence for the mentally retarded in Hornby.

"I was dismissed without just cause — there's no doubt about it," Nellie Pitt, 49, said. Mrs. Pitt has been a counsellor at Countryside for two years. The residence has 16 adult occupants, and is run by the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded.

According to acting director Jenny Kuiken and Edith Hillman, chairman of the board of directors of the residence, Mrs. Pitt was fired because she interfered with management and has shown an unsatisfactory attitude toward her work.

Mrs. Pitt alleges, however, that she was fired because she is the president of the seven-member union of the employees at Countryside, who are currently engaged in negotiations for their first contract. The union received certification in April.

Mrs. Pitt and other staff members also assisted in an investigation which led to Halton Regional Police laying 14

charges of fraud against Robert Bilodeau, 30, a former director at Countryside. The charges are in connection with his duties at the residence.

Mrs. Pitt said she intends to take her grievance to the Ontario Labor Relations Board and hopes the board will order her reinstated.

Staff originally drew the attention of the board to what they considered were irregularities in the administration of Countryside in November, Mrs. Pitt said.

The board conducted its own investigation at that time, Mrs. Pitt said. When the investigation was concluded the board decided it was "reasonably sure" there was no wrong-doing.

Mrs. Pitt said following the board's investigation, the staff were subjected to harassment.

Since Mr. Bilodeau's resignation in May, Jenny Kuiken has been acting director of Countryside, and it was Mrs. Kuiken's decision to dismiss Mrs. Pitt.

"She was let go for just cause — she was given ample warning, and she disregarded the warnings," Mrs. Kuiken said. Mrs. Hillman said Mrs. Pitt had been warned three

times in writing to cease interfering with management.

Mrs. Pitt said she has only received one note from Mrs. Kuiken, an unsigned carbon copy, warning her not to interfere. According to union officials she has consulted, this does not constitute proper warning.

Mrs. Pitt says that the day Mr. Bilodeau was arrested, she was followed around for two hours, even to the bathroom.

"Harassing is not my game," Mrs. Kuiken said. "We have to work as a team if we are going to function properly."

Mrs. Hillman says Mrs. Pitt's dismissal had nothing to do with her activities as union president, and was in no way connected with the charges against Mr. Bilodeau.

Mrs. Pitt had expressed her concern that people would connect her dismissal with Mr. Bilodeau's arrest because they happened the same day.

Mrs. Hillman said that the board backs Mrs. Kuiken's decision to dismiss Mrs. Pitt. She said she feels Mrs. Kuiken

had just cause to dismiss her.

"We have to work as a unit when working with the handicapped," Mrs. Hillman said. "Just as a father and mother shouldn't argue in front of their children, we also have to be united."

"Never at any time has this board been opposed to a union," she added. "I've said before, a union works both ways. It can be to the advantage of staff and management to have a union."

Mrs. Hillman is concerned that the adverse publicity arising from the internal problems at Countryside will affect the contract negotiations, which she and Mrs. Pitt both say

have been going well.

"If the labor relations board decides to reinstate me, I'll go back," Mrs. Pitt said. "I want to go back because I feel I have a tremendous amount to contribute."

"The situation down there is awful," she said, "and all you get to hear from those people is, 'Our main concern is the residents'. I don't believe it. They wouldn't act that way if their main concern was for the residents."

Mrs. Kuiken said Mrs. Pitt's attitude about the situation is "unfortunate."

"She's not hurting me by this, she's hurting the residents," she said.

NHAMR appoints executive director

The North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded has appointed David Williams executive director of the association, effective Sept. 5.

Mr. Williams, a graduate of York University, has been working with the Metro Toronto Association for the Mentally

Retarded since 1975.

"Mr. Williams comes to us with an excellent background in administration and in developing programs for the mentally handicapped," association business administrator Gay Daley said.

Mr. Williams is married and has one child.



SELECTIVE CUTTING

This photograph of "selective tree-cutting" was taken Sunday afternoon on the Halton Hills-Erin Township boundary, looking north, between the Fifth concession along the proposed route of Ontario Hydro's 123-mile corridor. On the south side of the boundary, within Halton Hills, Ontario Hydro has already marked out trees for

cutting, and a trail is in existence. The town of Halton Hills is seeking an injunction against Ontario Hydro, prohibiting them from beginning construction of the corridor in Halton Hills before the results of the Jan. 2, 1979, Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing into the route proposed are known. For another story on the Interested Citizens' reaction to the new energy minister see page 11.