

Police Beat

The Milton, Georgetown and Acton detachments of Halton Regional Police have recorded the lowest number of accidents involving police cruisers in Halton so far in 1978. In a report on accidents involving police cruisers from January to November of this

year, District 1, which covers Milton, Georgetown and Acton, had 11 accidents involving cruisers. District 2, which is Oakville, had 12 accidents, and District 3, which is Burlington, had 23.

The total dollar value of the accidents is \$24,836.60. The force has an insurance policy whereby they pay for repairs up to \$10,000 damage, Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett said, and each of the accidents involved damage less than that figure. Chief Ken Skerrett said the variance in the numbers between the district is based on a

number of factors, including the number of cars in each district, the number of men driving them and the workload of the district. He said there were less accidents this year than the previous year. "I'm not happy about the

picture, but I'm not unhappy about the picture either," the chief said, "because when I look at what other chiefs are facing, I'm pretty happy with the way our boys are operating."



DANCING SNOWFLAKE

Karen Astrauskas was one of the snowflakes who danced in the first grade dance number at Harrison Public School concert Wednesday afternoon and evening.

(Photo by Maggie Hannah)

Landfilling contract draws criticism

There were suggestions at last Wednesday's regional public works committee meeting that problems which have arisen at the Burlington landfill site are merely a hint of what's in store for property owners in the vicinity of the rural Milton site slated to become a massive regional dump.

Discussion centred on garbage control and site rehabilitation problems at the Burlington site as the committee voted to accept a one-year contract from Environmental Quality Handling Ltd. for the site's operation during 1979.

Concern over garbage and related debris around the entrance to the site was generally resolved when it was noted that the new operation contract requires the company to make daily clean-ups of both the entrance and the surrounding area to collect garbage that is dropped in transit or carried by wind out of the site.

RECLAIM DUMP

Committee chairman Ron Planche's remark that the site has seen no rehabilitative

landscaping after 15 years of operation, however, prompted Coun. Bill Johnson of Milton to scoff at the region's intention to reclaim the dump.

Coun. Johnson, newly elected to regional council after years spent opposing council's attempts to locate its landfill site on agricultural land in Milton, warned the committee that trees will never grow at the Burlington site regardless of Halton's attempts to re-plan the area.

A much-respected environmentalist, Coun. Johnson appeared dubious over Coun. Planche's suggestion that regional staff should get working on landscaping plans for the Burlington site, which is scheduled to be filled to capacity and closed by December, 1979.

The public works department's director of operations, Dan Morrier, informed the committee that regional staff began seeding portions of the Oakville landfill site last fall after elevation levels reached their final contours. Information will be forthcoming, he said, with regard to the results of the seeding.

Conservation wins priority

Conservation authorities are in the conservation business, not the recreation business, and this dictates their hopes of acquiring land according to the chairman of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

At an executive meeting last week Grant Clarkson took issue with a proposed land acquisition policy guideline which would have put lands related to existing conservation programs at the top of the buying list for the authority.

Mr. Clarkson said that he and other members of the authority had been told by the province on several occasions that this was not a priority.

"At one time this was of primary importance," he said, "but not any more. Buying property for flood control or erosion control is fine but to increase recreation areas... forget it. We're not in the recreation business. We're in the conservation business."

The authority's operations manager, who drew up the guidelines, noted that the authority was holding up a lot of

land for nothing if it can't increase existing areas such as the Silver Creek area and the Limehouse Area.

Other members of the executive agreed with Mr. Clarkson and shifted this to the bottom of the list.

Recognized natural resource lands including floodplain of the Credit River and its major tributaries and identified environmentally significant and potentially environmentally significant areas now top the list of lands the CVCA will buy.

This is followed by areas which are not within the floodplain but which will expand and enhance existing conservation areas and are considered vital to the integrity and continuity of existing lands.

Lands which do not fall in the above categories may be considered in certain circumstances if they are deemed relevant to the authority's program because of their size and or natural characteristics.

All land acquisitions are subject to the approved funding arrangements and the approval of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

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