



Christmas Celebration

Mike Bowles and Heather Braithwaite, third grade students at Georgetown Kennedy Public School, pointed out home made decorations they placed on the tree in their classroom for the pioneer Christmas celebrations and open house held at the school Thursday evening.

(Herald photo)

Tree protection by-laws planned by region

The Halton regional planning committee has recommended a comprehensive by-law for council's approval that will legally protect trees of a certain diameter from being cut down or damaged. Regional solicitor Dennis Perlin told the committee last Tuesday that the proposed bylaw, designed as a replacement for the legislation used by Halton County prior to 1974, was left on the region's drawing board until concerns expressed recently by private citizens prompted the planning department to finalize its terms.

Mr. Perlin explained that the bylaw, if approved by council, will provide "some protection" for various kinds of trees located along regionally-controlled highways, dealing "more generally with cutting and injuring" than do the bylaws passed by the area municipalities.

The solicitor pointed out, however, that enforcing the regional bylaw could pose problems, since there is no designated enforcement officer, other than Mr. Perlin himself, who could take the time to investigate instances of bylaw contravention.

"Self-enforcement is the major hope," Mr. Perlin advised, suggesting that the region should consult with municipal officials at the area level to select arborists or other conservationists who could help enforce the legislation.

PROPOSED BYLAW

The proposed bylaw was

endorsed by the committee on the condition that planning officials will first check with the Halton Region Conservation Authority for comment, ensure that there are no conflicts with the area municipalities' bylaws and investigate possible means of policing its terms.

Generally, the bylaw would prevent the destruction by cutting, burning or otherwise damaging of Ash, Oak, Pine, Maple, Basswood, and Black Cherry trees measuring 18 inches or less in diameter, and Birch, Cedar, Spruce, Hemlock and Poplar trees eight inches or less in diameter. Measurements are to be taken 18 inches above ground level and include the width of the bark.

The bylaw would not apply to trees being cut for sale as Christmas trees and those already substantially damaged by natural causes, including disease and insects. Also exempted are trees that should be cut for forest stand improvement operations.

Citizens who have owned the land where the tree to be cut is growing for at least two years are entitled to cut the tree for their own use, as are the provincial Hydroelectric Power Commission and other Ontario boards and commissions.

Contravention of any of the terms of the bylaw would bring a penalty fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment for a term of not more than three months.

Ratepayers drop their lawsuit

Herald Special
CALEDON — The Caledon Ratepayers Associations is

Police building

The Georgetown detachment of the Halton Regional Police will be staying in its present building for at least another year.

Halton police commission decided Thursday that the lease with Paradise Investments would be renewed for the year beginning February 1, 1979. The lease expires on January 31, and the wording is such that unless the commission notifies the owners otherwise, the lease will be considered to be renewed.

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett said that since the Ontario Police Commission report on the force and its long-range needs and goals will not be available until mid-January, there is not point in moving the Georgetown detachment at present.

Mayor Barrett said it would be unwise to make any major changes in buildings or facilities until the force knows where it stands.

dropping its request for a judicial review of housing minister Claude Bennett's order approving the \$16-million Cantrak conference centre, proposed for construction on Niagara Escarpment lands northwest of Inglewood.

Association president John Alexander said Monday the group is dropping the request as a gesture of good faith.

Cantrak Ltd. is currently considering alternative sites for the centre.

Bennett approved the project Aug. 31 over the objections of the Niagara Escarpment Commission. The ratepayer's association had planned to ask the Ontario Supreme Court divisional court to rule on Bennett's power to make the order.

Alexander said a decision on a new site will probably be made early in the new year. Cantrak has said it would accept another site if one could be found which had equally spectacular scenery and was located close to Toronto. More than 30 sites have been submitted for study.

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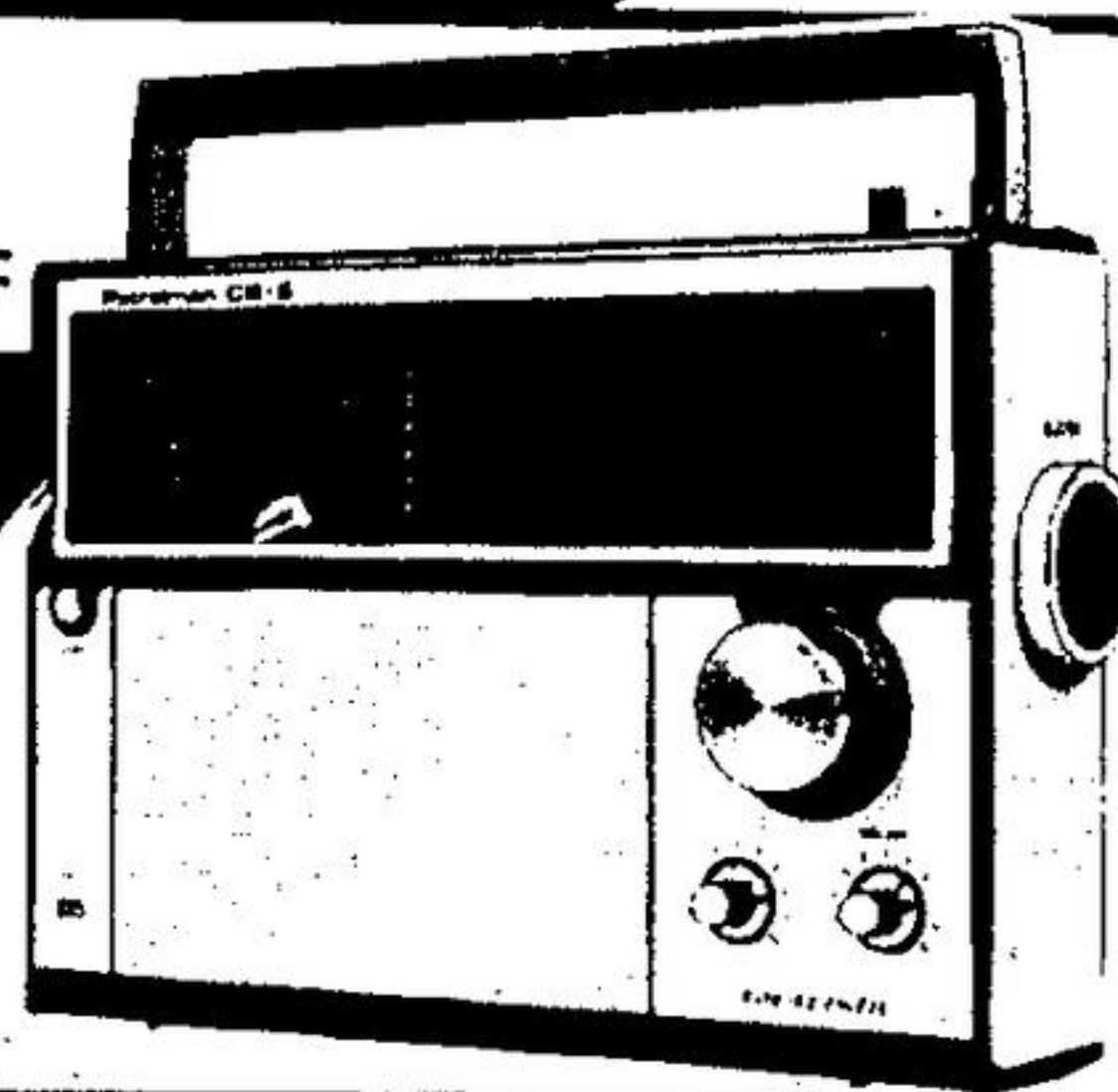
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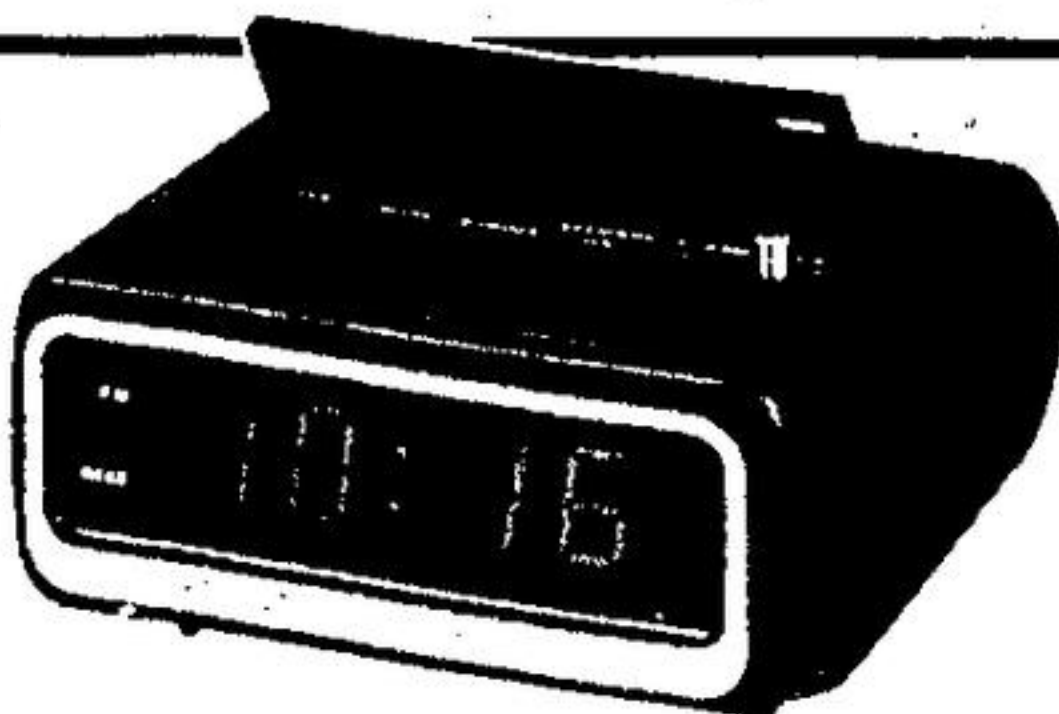
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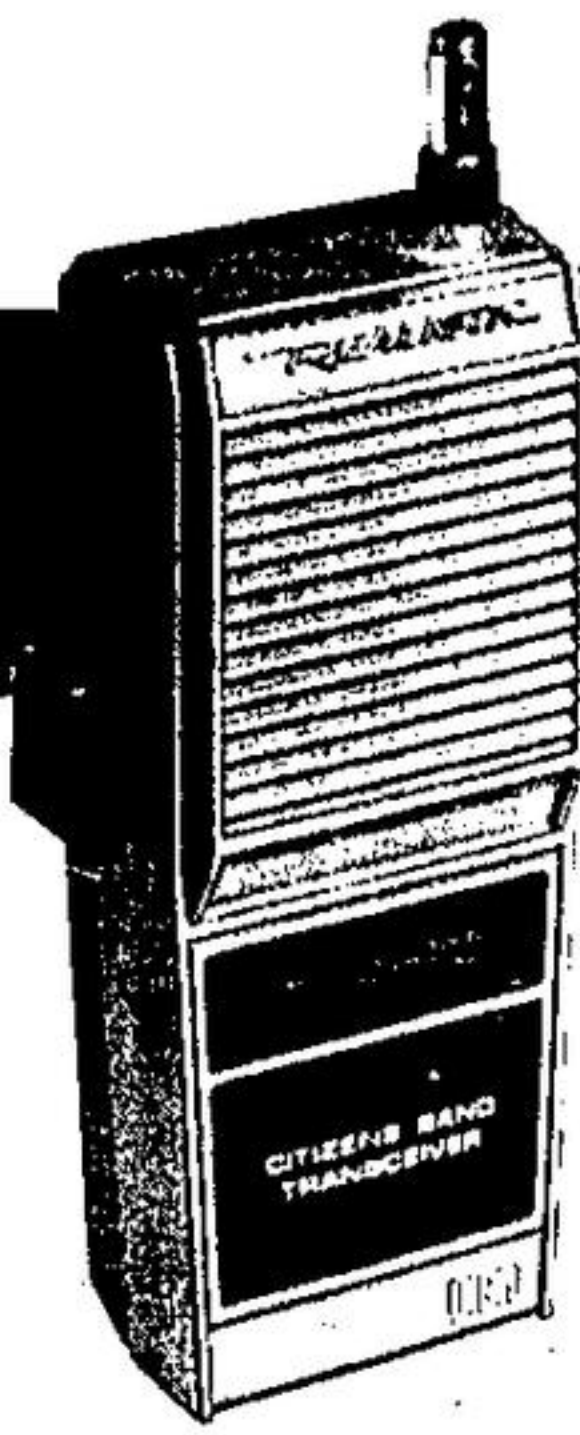
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