

# Problems with by-law, tree protection passes

Halton region's planning committee has recommended a tree protection by-law, complete with some "very large, gaping holes," to council for approval.

Conceding that the proposed legislation, aimed at "restricting and regulating the destruction of trees," throughout Halton, comes nowhere near meeting all requirements, the committee nevertheless sanctioned the by-law after being assured last Tuesday that it constitutes an interim measure only.

Bob White of the regional planning department informed the committee that the new by-law, slightly revised this month after being rejected by council, is essentially the same as that used by Halton County prior to 1974. He admitted that the by-law's shortcomings are obvious, but contended that the onus is on the provincial government to bridge the gaps through revisions in its own Tree Act.

### NEW ACT

A new Tree Act is due for adoption sometime this year, Mr. White reported, at which time steps can be taken locally to bring the region's by-law up to standard.

"We recognize a lot of problems with this by-law," Mr. White said. "We will advise address ourselves to any concerns in the future with a revised by-law, but we do not intend to get involved deeply with it at this time."

Mr. White explained that a tree protection by-law approved by regional council in 1976 was rejected by the provincial government because it did not conform with the Tree Act. Revisions have since been made, he said, which have solved "a problem in terminology between two solicitors" as

well as other provincial concerns.

"This may or may not be useful to us in the interim (before the revised Tree Act is ready)," Mr. White said.

The planner acknowledged that the region's by-law is not geared to the preservation of trees but generally seeks to regulate cutting and harvesting.

### SHARED CONCERNS

Concerns shared by some regional councillors, including the use of common names for trees that may vary from area to area and the minimum width of trees that may be cut, were the province and the region eventually make final revisions to their respective legislations, Mr. White said. At that time, local conservation groups like the Burlington Arborists club and the Oakville Tree Committee will be invited to make recommendations, he added.

Mr. White pointed out that the region has no by-law enforcement officer, even though the tree by-law requires the attention of one. There has been no conviction for contravention of the by-law during the region's five-year history, he said.

Although some committee members questioned the need for approving a by-law that clearly does not cover all the necessary ground, Coun. Russ Miller of Halton Hills commented that he could see no reason for not passing the legislation.

"At least we'll have something," he said.

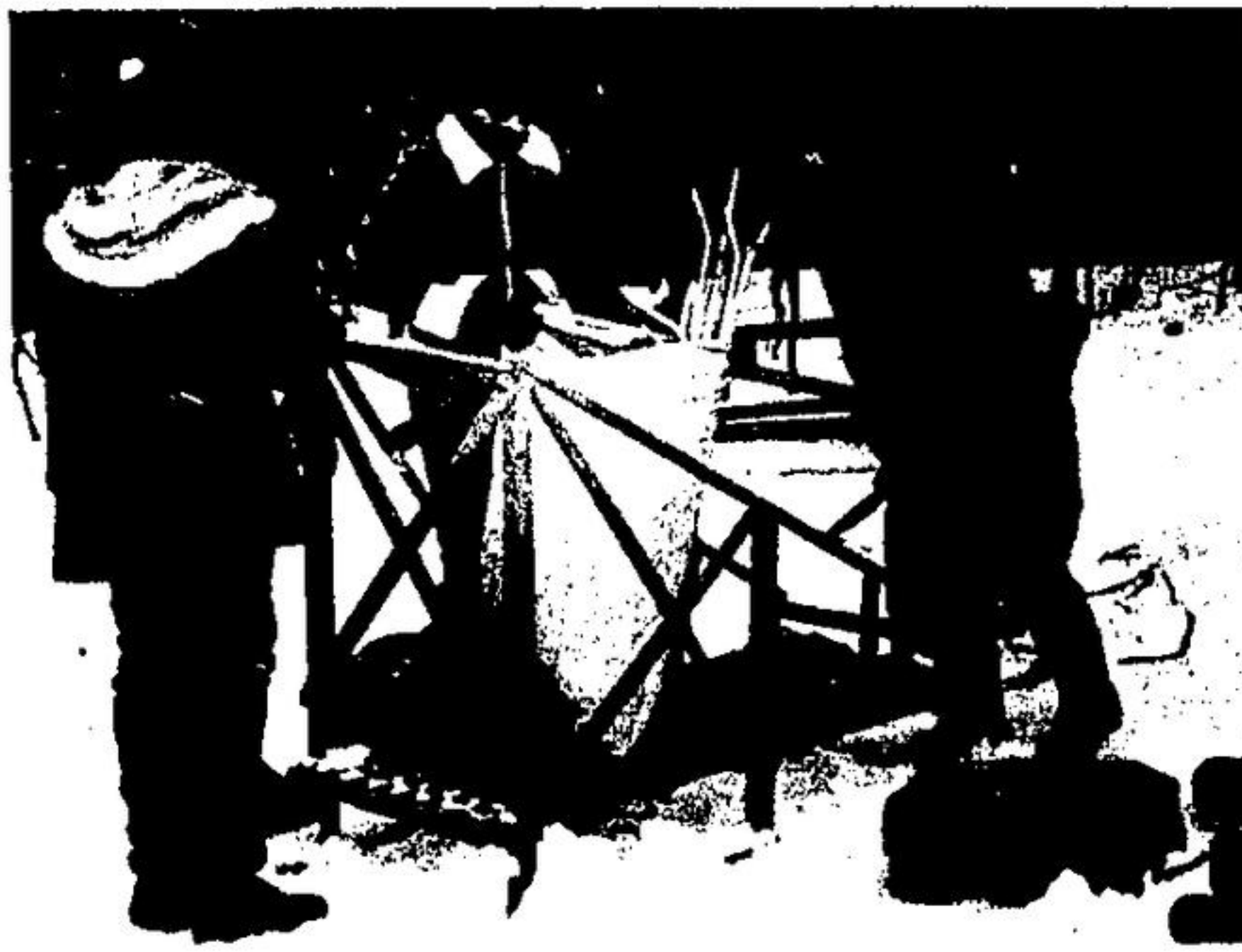
### MINOR ADDITIONS

The by-law was recommended to council for approval along with minor additions suggested by committee chairman Roy Booth of Halton Hills and Coun. Carol Gooding of

Oakville. The additions seek to expand the list of tree species that would be protected, among other concerns.

In his submission to the committee, Coun. Booth challenged a remark made at a recent council meeting by Milton Mayor Don Gordon, calling for the deletion of section of the proposed by-law by which those convicted of contravening its terms would be fined or imprisoned.

"I disagree with Mayor Gordon's suggestion that the imprisonment section should not be included," Coun. Booth advised the committee. "The (proposed) \$500 fine is no deterrent to the majority of people who would be using the wood they cut. We should make some provision in the by-law defining who would be empowered to act on the region's behalf."



Cameron Lavers, Derek Bridge, Mike Wood and Dave Powers unload the Klondike sled at Saturday's North Halton District Scouts' winter camporee at Terra Cotta Conservation Area. The sleds did their duty in hauling in the necessary equipment for the camporee, and were also part of the essential equipment for a Klondike sled race later in the day. (Herald photo)

## MAKING CAMP

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## HERALD CARRIER OF THE MONTH



Michelle Jones

Starting this week The Herald will contain another new feature, Carrier of the Month. The last issue of each month will now carry a picture and a short story on one of the many local youngsters who gets up well before breakfast on Wednesday mornings to see that our readers have their paper on their doorsteps before they leave for work. These youngsters get little credit for the effort they put forth lugging a heavy carrier bag around in deep winter snow or avoiding the numerous dogs let out for their morning run just about the time they set out on their rounds.

Our first carrier of the month is Michelle Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wes Jones, of Tidea Avenue, Acton.

She has delivered 100 papers on Tidea Avenue, Elmore Drive and part of Elizabeth Drive for the past six to eight months.

Michelle is an Acton High School student and keenly interested in sports. She's at school by 7:45 a.m. daily to practise for the high school ski team and work with the high school swim team keeps her there until about 5:30 p.m. each afternoon.

As might be expected with a girl whose hobbies are mostly sports, Michelle says she likes the sports section of The Herald best.

Michelle has an older brother and an older sister and the family has lived in Acton for eight years.

Michelle will receive a McDonald's gift certificate for being chosen January's Carrier of the Month.

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So, if at home you discover a product past its "Best Before" date, check it before discarding it, because no one wants to throw out good food!

However, the "Best Before" date is not a fool-proof system. It is only a guideline, because the shelf-life of a food item is dependent on the manner in which the product is handled throughout the distribution system.

Miss Green is available to talk to groups about shopping and other subjects of consumer interest. Please write: Box 655, Toronto M4Y 2N6.



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