

One gentleman was recently arrested for talking dirty to his plants. The charge? Making an obscene "fern" call.

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This Week

She's part kid



PAT VAN DER EYKEN

Adult Brownie leaders have to be "part kid" themselves to properly relate to the youngsters under their care, according to Pat Van der Eyken, district girl guide commissioner for Acton. This week she discusses her 10 happy years working with girl guides with staff writer Maggie Hannah in 'Halton's People'.

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Society's history

The Esqueing Historical Society began four years ago with only four members but since that time its numbers have swollen to 50 and the local community has experienced an increased awareness of the local heritage. This week Herald staff writer Lori Taylor discusses the society with one of its founding members, Rev. Rick Ruggie.

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'New' Valdy



VALDY

Local music fans may not have recognized veteran folksinger Valdy at his Sunday afternoon concert in Norval, he unveiled both a new band and a new approach to music at his Way-Jay show.

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Constables cleared

Two Halton regional police constables were acquitted in charges of discreditable conduct and neglect of duty in connection with the so-called "sweatbox" incident that took place Aug. 14. Charges stemmed from complaints by some of the 12 prisoners being transported in a police van.

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PANCAKE CLEAN-UP

Cadets Brian and David Lawrence, Billy Gordon and Rob Kleinedeters washed dishes at a pancake breakfast at Bethel Christian Reform Church in Acton on Saturday morning. It was one of a number of such events held annually to raise funds for the group which has 25 to 30 members. Although their councillors

may have helped with some of the cooking the boys served and cooked and cleaned up themselves and are well satisfied with community response to their efforts.

(Herald photo by Tony Panacci)

Wood, Johnson oppose hike as councillors' pay rises \$493

By PAUL DORSEY Herald staff writer
Halton regional councillors have broken with established policy, voting themselves a 5.2 per cent pay hike although they are entitled to almost nine per cent.

Bowing to fiscal restraints, council voted last Wednesday to increase annual pay stipends for all 24 members by \$493, raising their salaries from \$9,481 to \$9,974.

The salary paid regional chairman Jack Raftis saw its first increase in two years rising 10 per cent, from \$25,000 annually to \$27,500.

Oakville Coun. Laurie Mannell contended that council should abide by established policy and gear its pay increases to the Consumer Price

Index, which saw stipends hiked six per cent in 1977 and 1978. Coun. Walter Mulkewich of Burlington pointed out that the same policy would bring about an automatic increase of approximately nine per cent this year, however, and termed the resolution before council, recommending a 5.2 per cent hike, a "decrease rather than an increase."

HAD OPPOSITION
Even the 5.2 per cent jump had its opponents. Rookie councillors Ed Wood of Halton Hills and Bill Johnson of Milton rose in turn to tell their colleagues that they cannot justify any pay increase after only two and a half months on council. Coun. Johnson added that he will not accept the increase.

Opposition was also expressed by Burlington Mayor Roly Bird, who contended that town councillors in each area municipality of Halton bear a heavier workload than their regional counterparts and deserve more pay.

Saying he had fought for higher salaries at the local level in Burlington, Mayor Bird refused to endorse the regional councillors' pay hike unless area councillors are better compensated. He admitted that he does not know how a better balance might be achieved.

TIME OFF
Coun. Pat McLaughlin of Burlington pointed out that some regional councillors must take time off from their regular jobs to attend weekly daytime meetings at the region, whereas area councillors

are required to attend evening sessions only. Coun. Johnson countered, however, that some councillors at both levels, such as himself, do shiftwork and often take time off from evening jobs as well.

The 5.2 per cent pay increase for regional councillors was approved by council 14-8. Those in favor were Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy and councillors Mike Armstrong and Russ Miller, Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett and councillors McLean Anderson, Terry Mannell and Ron Planche, and Burlington councillors Vern Connell, Jim Grieve, David LaCombe, Ted McDonald, Pat McLaughlin, Walter Mulkewich and Steve Toth.

Those opposing the increase were all three Milton representatives, Mayor Don Gordon and councillors Johnson and Gus Goutouski, Coun. Wood of Halton Hills, Mayor Bird and Coun. Joan Alingham of Burlington, and Oakville councillors Laurie Mannell and Bonnie Brown.

USED FORMULA

Halton Hills' only other regional representative, Coun. Roy Booth, was absent from the meeting, reportedly attending a meeting of the Niagara Escarpment Commission, of which he is also a member.

The amount of the increase was calculated using a formula recently adopted by the city of Burlington, which combines the lowest percentage increase listed in the Consumer Price Index, the industrial composite of average weekly wages and salaries index and the total annual job rate salaries of 12 regional employee positions.

Those rates amounted, respectively, to nine per cent, 6.5 per cent and 5.2 per cent, with the latter figure applied to salaries for the regional councillors.

Chairman Raftis' 1979 salary was calculated by adding the 5.4 per cent salary increase allocated to councillors last year to the \$25,000 per year stipend paid his predecessor, Ric Morrow of Georgetown, he resulting figure of \$26,350 was then further increased using the new formula to reach a salary of \$27,720.

The new salaries will remain in effect until Nov. 30, at which time a new formula to be developed in the interim period will be applied.

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Parenting course hits ministry, board roadblocks

By LORI TAYLOR Herald staff writer

The Halton board of education has been told by the ministry of education that it will not approve inclusion of a compulsory course in parenting in the curriculum for secondary school students, but that it could be implemented in grades 7 and 8.

The board was informed of the ministry decision Thursday when it received a progress report from superintendent of program Dr. Robert Dixon, on the executive committee's follow-up of a proposal by Wrigglesworth Public School principal Eric Balkind that the board devise a parenting education program to be included in its compulsory curriculum.

While the ministry will not make parenting a mandatory component of every child's education, Dr. Dixon said in

his report, a credit course in parenting as outlined in "The Family and Child Development" area of study may be developed by a board from the present Family Study guidelines. The ministry said themes in several of the existing ministry guidelines deal with aspects of parenting.

PRACTICAL ASPECT
In addition, as far as the practical aspect of a parenting course, is concerned with students working in a day care centre attached to the school, the ministry has not held any discussions with the ministry of community and social services, whose responsibilities include day care services, Dr. Dixon said.

After hearing Dr. Dixon sum up his report, Milton trustee Bill Lawson asked Dr. Dixon if the board could have a parenting program in Grades 7 and 8, which would be effective, and

not controversial.

Dr. Dixon said that grade 7 and 8 students were not as interested in parenting at that stage as they would be in a couple of years. He also said that the curriculum at the grade 7 and 8 levels is crowded as it is, and other courses might suffer as a result. He said, however, that it would be possible to have an effective, non-controversial parenting course at that level.

A number of trustees said they had received support for the proposal from members of the community, and as it happened, two items of correspondence before the board were in support of Mr. Balkind's proposal.

READ PROPOSAL

On the other hand, however, trustee Elaine Riehm said that since she first read the original proposal, she has seen an increasing number of adult groups connected with churches and community organizations involved with parenting education at the adult level. She suggested it seemed the gap was being filled, and it was no longer necessary for the board to have an overall policy on the proposal. She said the board should consider letting individual schools work out methods of including parenting education techniques in other courses on their own, without board involvement.

Halton Hills trustee Barry Shepherd said he supported Mr. Balkind's proposal from the beginning, "but I feel Mr. Balkind's original recommendations are being diluted rather rapidly, and I'm disappointed about that."

POTENTIAL CONFLICT
Trustee Betty Fisher, also from Halton Hills, said she had attended a seminar on the parenting proposal given by Mr. Balkind during a professional development day, and that at that time, she had seen areas in the proposal which could conflict with the home, and she suggested that these areas of potential conflict should be ironed out before the board went ahead with any work on implementing the program in the schools.

Director of education Emerson Lavender said he and the other members of the executive committee would now be looking at alternatives open to the board in the light of the ministry decision not to make parenting education compulsory at the secondary school level. These alternatives will be brought back to the board at a future date.

interrogating employees in an effort to learn the names of those had had joined the union.

ORLB CHARGES
In the charges presented to the OLRB the union says Mr. Geng began carrying out threats made to bargaining unit employees with respect to layoffs about February 1 and is continuing to do so.

"All of the named grievors, and others whose names the Union has yet been unable to obtain, but whose names are known to the Respondent (Superior Glove Works Ltd.) were laid off or discharged as a punitive measure against those who had signed cards, and as a warning to other employees who might be thinking of joining the Union," the charges say.

"Virtually all of the employees who were terminated or laid off were advised by Vi Weaver that the reason for the company's action was that the company intended to import more gloves," they continue.

Mr. Geng was unavailable for comment when he was con-

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Corridor foes await Davis' summit meeting

Halton region, Halton Hills and the Interested Citizens Group (ICG) are now all awaiting the outcome of a forthcoming summit meeting with Premier William Davis before committing themselves to specific actions in their opposition to the Bruce to Milton hydro transmission corridor.

Following a brief closed-door session last Wednesday, Halton regional council agreed to await further direction from Halton Hills council in the matter before voting to either abandon or continue its own involvement in the dispute.

Regional chairman Jack Raftis is expected to join Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy, Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed, energy minister James Auld and executive members of the ICG in forming a delegation that will meet Premier Davis at Queen's Park to discuss the corridor issue. The meeting was initially scheduled to take place this week, but may have been postponed.

FILE APPEAL
The region, town and ICG have until next Monday to file an appeal against the Feb. 5 ruling of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), by which Hal-

ton Hills council has been ordered to authorize planning amendments that would enable Ontario Hydro to construct the final link of the 100-mile long Bruce to Milton corridor through the municipality. Lawyers for all three parties opposed the corridor application during the nine-day OMB hearing last month in Georgetown.

Regional council agreed last week to schedule a special session prior to its next regular meeting March 7 if Mayor Pomeroy and Halton Hills council decide that an appeal should be launched.

If it becomes necessary, that session of regional council will be devoted to debate over the need for Halton's continued involvement in the dispute. Last week, the region's chief administrative officer, Ernie Reid, advised council that any further expenditures would be futile and hard to justify. At the same time, regional solicitor Ken Anderson, who presented Halton's case at the OMB hearings, contended that there are sufficient grounds for appeal.

CONSIDERABLE TIME
"The solicitor feels there is some justification for an appeal," Mr. Reid said, "but I

feel that considerable time and money has been spent in support of the town of Halton Hills. This matter has been before the Cabinet no less than eight different times. I think it would be rather futile to spend any more money now."

Milton Mayor Don Gordon recalled the last term's planning committee, in reiterating its request to the ministry of energy for an independent study of the Bruce to Milton and other corridor routes, conceded that if the request was again denied, the region would withdraw from the dispute.

Oakville Coun. Terry Mannelle argued that enough time and effort have already been spent on the dispute by the region and its solicitors that council "must take that last step and place an appeal before the Cabinet". There would be "minimal effort involved" from now on, he said.

"Otherwise I think we'd just be letting the people down," Coun. Mannell contended.

"We'd look like fools if we don't take this last step after spending the past two years opposing the corridor," Coun.



GLT OPENING

If a couple suddenly discovered on the day of their 25th wedding anniversary that a technicality had invalidated their marriage how would they react? The answer will vary depending on the couple, of course, but the reactions of the three couples at the heart of Georgetown Little Theatre's production When We Are Married provides lots of laugh as they seek solutions to just this problem. As with any good situation comedy complications can be expected to crop up. For one of the couples the complication is an attractive

extra lady, Lottie Grady (alias Margaret Eggleton) seeking to collect on the husband's promises. Alderman Joseph Hellwell (alias Neville Woensop) does his best to convince Lottie that he was just having a bit of relaxation while he was on vacation. The production opens tonight in Howard Wrigglesworth School at 8 p.m. and runs through until Saturday. It is the group's entry in the Central Ontario Drama League Festival and will be adjudicated Saturday night.

(Herald photo by Maggie Hannah)