

This Week

Dispute continues

A special meeting between officials of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and its member division, the Georgetown Business and Professional Association, held Friday failed to reach a compromise in the two groups' ongoing dispute over the Association's future direction and relationship with the Chamber. Special committees have been established, however, to deal with the problem.

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Candidates campaigning

Even though Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau has yet to set a date for the nation's next general election, the candidates for all three major political parties in the Brampton-Georgetown riding have their respective campaigns well underway.

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Emergency numbers

Halton regional council continues to urge its administration committee to fully investigate the feasibility of implementing a three-digit emergency telephone number by which all Halton residents could immediately contact any of the region's special emergency services.

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STEAMER EMMERSON

Reluctant mayor

Former Georgetown mayor Wheldon "Steamer" Emmerson, honored last week by his fellow Rotarians, admits in an in-depth interview with Herald reporter Maggie Hannah that he was somewhat reluctant at first to enter the three-way mayoral race which ultimately saw him become the community's civic leader.

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Raiders win first

The Georgetown Chrysler Raiders have entered their play-offs with an easy 82 semi-final victory over Fort Erie Friday.

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Max Webster concert

Max Webster, one of Canada's foremost rock groups, drew a capacity crowd to Norval's Way-Jay Club Sunday, where they outdid themselves in duplicating the success of their first appearance here last year. Photo and story can be found inside.

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SENIORS' ST. PATRICK'S DANCE

Helen Chaisson and Bela Csiki were among those who danced up a storm to celebrate St. Patrick's Day at Jeanette's Home for Senior Citizens in Acton Monday evening. Willie T. Noble and his sons, Tony and Monte provided the music for the

residents and staff, who danced the night away, and partook of a shamrock-shaped cake baked by one of the staff members.

(Herald photo by Lori Taylor)

Raftis, mayors will investigate proposed regional United Way

Halton regional chairman Jack Raftis will meet the mayors of the region's four area municipalities to discuss the feasibility of establishing a Halton United Way that would co-ordinate fund-raising and administrative efforts for all health and social service organizations in the region.

Acting on a suggestion by Burlington Mayor Roly Bird, regional council last Wednesday endorsed a move aimed at "maximizing fund-raising and fund allocation efforts" through a single umbrella organization. Mr. Raftis agreed to arrange a meeting with mayors Bird, Harry Barrett of Oakville, Don Gordon of Milton and Pete Fomeroy of Halton Hills.

MUNICIPAL GRANTS
According to Mayor Bird, fund-raising standards have been established that indicate a municipality the size of Halton region should be able to raise \$1.5 million per year in public donations and municipal grants for such purposes. Current per capita contribu-

tions, however, see that potential reduced by almost a million dollars, he said.

Mayor Bird suggested that a region-wide United Way organization, instead of the limited-capacity groups that serve Oakville and Burlington, could enable Halton's many health and social service groups to greatly increase the amount of public donations.

The discussion took place following council's consideration of 1979 grant requests submitted by 20 different health and social service organizations and institutions across Halton. Council ultimately approved 20 grants totalling \$112,567.

Following submissions by two of the organizations, council endorsed a list of grant applications approved the week before by its health and social services committee, with minor revisions. Final appeals for grant increases by the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) and the Salvation Army saw another \$3,750 added to the committee's recommended total of \$108,817.

Local organizations benefiting from council's approval include the Acton Community Services Centre, to which \$5,984 has been allocated, the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded, which will receive \$9,600 the region-wide Halton Helping Hands, which will receive \$17,898 and Milton's Halton Recovery House Incorporated, to which the region has granted \$2,000.

HELPING HANDS
The Burlington-based Youth Services Network, which has been granted \$3,000 as a new programme, is one of several groups involved whose work extends into north Halton. Others include the Multiple Sclerosis Society (\$2,500) the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (\$1,000), the Halton Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Project (\$4,500) and St. John's Ambulance Association (\$500).

Councillors Carol Gooding of Oakville and Walter Mulke-wich of Burlington, who jointly chaired the lengthy health and social services committee meeting where individual sub-

missions by each organization were heard, informed council that grant applications were approved or reduced according to three basic factors. Taken into consideration in each case, they reported, were the organization's level of service and access to alternative funding sources, as well as the region's own budget restraint program.

REDUCE REQUEST
Because the Salvation Army has an international administrative and financial base, Coun. Gooding said, and because its regular fund-raising drives in Oakville and Burlington are "well-supported", the committee decided to reduce its grant request from \$2,750 to \$1,000.

Council rejected the committee's recommendation, however, after hearing Major Jack Barr of the Salvation Army say there is no other source for funding for his Hamilton and Halton projects, most of which are suffering enormous financial deficits. Major Barr told council that he was "grieved and shocked" by the committee's decision and wondered where he would find the necessary funds to continue the Army's efforts on behalf of unmarried mothers and delinquent young people.

An amendment to the committee's recommendations prepared by Coun. Roy Booth of Halton Hills, authorizing approval for the Army's original \$2,750 request, won support from a majority of council members.

The Salvation Army is willing to venture into areas where no other social organizations will go, Milton Mayor Gordon said, and appeals only to the region for funds, whereas other groups will apply to both the region and the area municipalities, inviting "double taxation" for the town's citizens.

Oakville Coun. Laurie Mannell pointed out that the Salvation Army goes "way beyond the call of duty" in its work and contended that there is "no better way to spend the region's money, than as a grant to such helpful organizations."

A similar revision, adding \$2,000 to a \$6,000 grant approved for the VON also won council's support, following another last-minute appeal by VON officials.

Hydro rates may be cut in rural area

Hydro-electricity consumers in the rural areas of Halton region will pay cheaper power rates if a new proposal to restructure the region's servicing areas gains support at Queen's Park.

A study report released this week by a 15-member regional committee recommends Jan. 1, 1980, as the start-up date for the restructuring and requests provincial government grants to help offset the initial costs of the program.

The committee, chaired by

Bill Rowney of Milton, has been examining possible servicing alternatives for Halton region, which is currently served by six different municipal utilities as well as Ontario Hydro itself, for the past two years.

Rural consumers, including the 4,200 homes and businesses in Milton and Halton Hills that are serviced directly by Ontario Hydro, stand to benefit most from the proposed restructuring, according to Mr. Rowney, since the provincial

utility charges higher rates than its municipal counterparts.

URBAN CONSUMERS
Halton's urban consumers, meanwhile, will likely pay slightly higher rates, Mr. Rowney said.

The committee suggests in its report that changes should be made to the existing Halton Hills servicing boundaries within five years after the rest of Halton has been restructured. Until then, it is recommended, the two separate commissions in the municipality should continue to maintain their respective servicing areas and Ontario Hydro should continue to service the bulk of the rural area.

REDUCE SIZE
The committee recommends that the areas now served by the Oakville and Burlington utilities should be reduced in size to conform with municipal boundaries. Milton, however, would be most affected by the proposed changes, its servicing area being enlarged beyond its current limitations in the urban area to include all of the rural Milton area and a southerly strip of Halton Hills.

Overall, the committee's proposals would see Halton serviced by five different utilities, each one directed by a four-member commission with the mayors of the corresponding municipalities sitting as ex-officio members. Employees of the various utilities would be assured of job protection where transfers might be necessary.

Although the establishment

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Two Actonians charged after drug robbery

Two Acton people have been charged with breaking and entering and possession of stolen property following the theft of a number of drugs from Acton Pharmacy the morning of March 8.

The sound of breaking glass alerted Halton Regional police officers in the area and arrest was made near the scene of the crime. The second arrest followed soon afterwards. Two or three bottles of mild tranquilizers and cough medication containing respiratory depressants which could be dangerous if taken in large quantities were recovered.

A twist in the crime developed Thursday evening however, when a number of juveniles took some of the stolen pills under the mistaken impression they were taking benzadrine and wound up in the hands of the police and local doctors and hospitals, said Halton Regional police superintendent Roy Taylor.

"The officers thought they had a bad night Thursday," he said, "but the pills surfaced again Friday morning on a school bus to General Brock high school in Burlington. I understand about a dozen kids wound up in Joseph Brant hospital for check ups and were released but a couple of girls spent the night in Milton hospital just to be on the safe side."

Two older juveniles will appear in court on charges of committing an act of juvenile

delinquency over possession of stolen property. These youth apparent knew about the drugs and passed them out to the others," Supt. Taylor said.

"They were trying the unknown and hopefully they'll have had a bad enough trip that they'll leave the stuff alone after this," he said.

Charged with breaking and entering and possession of stolen property as a result of the original crime are Jennifer Robinson, 27, of Main Street North, and Murray Turnbull, 22, of R.R.1, Acton. Their court appearance is scheduled for April 2, in Milton.

Tennis clubhouse agreement signed

An agreement governing the construction of a \$23,500 clubhouse for the Gordon Alcott Tennis Association has been recommended for approval by the town's general committee.

A draft agreement and means of financing the project were sanctioned by the committee Monday night, as was the forwarding of a bylaw to council that will formalize the agreement between the town and the Tennis Association.

According to the agreement, the clubhouse will be constructed at the west end of the

existing four tennis courts behind Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena on Highway 7. The Association itself will provide the largest single portion of the funds needed for the project, totalling \$9,664. A \$4,738 Ontario grant, a \$5,875 Community Centres grant and a \$3,223 worth of donated labor will make up the remainder.

Upon completion, the clubhouse will become town-owned property for general public use. Association members will look after its daily maintenance.



CENTENNIAL SCIENCE FAIR

Kary Jones, left, Debbie Sennucks, and their friend, Dolly, demonstrated the connections between the brain and the respiratory system at the Centennial Middle

School Science Fair Friday afternoon. About 60 students participated in the fair.

(Herald photo)

Flood disaster unlikely in Halton Hills area

By MICHAEL HOLLETT
Herald editor

The only way Halton Hills could be hit with a flood similar to the one that devastated the London, Ontario area Friday is if a storm of the magnitude of Hurricane Hazel hit the area, according to a local conservation area spokesperson.

Joan Hollings of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority which serves Halton Hills told The Herald that the Credit River generally runs through its made up of deep gullies while the area surrounding the Thames River in Dover Township is primarily flat.

ICE BUILDUP
The flooding of the Thames River was mainly caused because of ice build-up at the mouth of the river where it enters Lake St. Clair. Ms. Hollings said that the mouth of the Credit is one of the first parts of the river to break-up

The Credit is now free of ice from Streetsville to Lake Ontario, she said.

The only areas along the Credit River that cause local conservation authorities concern are Glen Williams, Meadowdale and Churchville. All three areas are relatively flat. In fact, last week's mild weather caused the CVCA serious concern and Friday three staff members were carefully monitoring the river in the Glen Williams area watching for potential flooding.

RIVER RISING
"The river was rising last week and there was even some talk of blasting the ice," said Ms. Hollings.

However the cold snap that hit Saturday ended immediate concern about flooding in Glen Williams.

There is traditionally a build-up of ice up river from the Paper Mill dam in Glen Williams each spring. When

the ice buildup becomes so serious that flooding threatens, CVCA staff dynamite the ice.

Ms. Hollings said that an emergency team could begin dynamiting the Glen Williams ice within an hour if there was fear of flooding.

Ms. Hollings said that CVCA staff hope for "mild spring weather" to reduce the possibility of flooding.

MELT SLOWLY

Mild weather during the day, which allows the ice to melt slowly followed by frost at night reducing the possibility of too much thawing is the safest spring weather, she said.

CVCA staff members will continue to closely monitor the ice buildup on the Credit in the Glen Williams area until the river is flowing freely. The authority may still be forced to dynamite the ice later in the spring.