



ROBERTSON SIGNS SECOND CITY FOR WAY-JAY

Way-Jay owner Jim Robertson (right) firms up the deal that will bring the Second City touring company to Norval next week with troupe manager Melissa Ellis. The world famous humour group will be performing at the Way-Jay Music Hall next Thursday, March 29 at 8 p.m. The group will be performing

"Saturday Night Heaver" the recent production at Second City's Firehall Theatre in Toronto, as well as some improvisational material, suggested by the audience. Neil Gordon (centre, snoozing), looks thrilled with the prospect. (Herald photo by Michael Hollett)

Family counselling to continue in 1979

By PAUL DORSEY
Herald staff writer
Budget approval deadlines and a lack of information about public demand have prevented Halton region's health and social services committee from making a final decision on a proposal to purchase family counselling services from private agencies.

As a result, the committee recommended last Tuesday that regional health department staff should continue providing family counselling services at least until the beginning of 1980, when the proposal can be reconsidered.

In the meantime, a comprehensive study will be undertaken by the region to assess public need for such services in all parts of Halton, if the committee's advice is accepted today (Wednesday) by council.

EXTENSIVE REPORT
Although they were presented with an extensive report on the relative costs of several servicing options examined by Halton's services administrator, Rennie Vivian, committee members noted that there had been no data collected regarding the extent and type of family counselling needed in Halton's four area municipalities.

The fact that departmental operating budgets are just being finalized by regional staff and committees was another prime factor in the committee's decision. Regional chairman Jack Rattis pointed out that alterations made now to the family counselling system such as those under consideration would force the region's health department to postpone its mid-April deadline for budget approval.

Regional approval for homes

Plans for the construction of six homes on a cul de sac off Main Street North in Georgetown moved a step nearer to completion last week when regional planning board passed a recommendation empowering the regional planner to sign the final plans with Norman Mitchell Developments Ltd. as soon as numerous conditions had been met.

The greatest concern in the proposal centres around the need for protection of a steep bank at the back of the property which slopes down to the creek east of Main Street. The Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) and the Ministry of Natural Resources must give final approval to a number of stipulations imposed by Halton Hills council. These conditions include a minimum set back of 25 feet from top-of-bank for all buildings, erection of a suitable barrier at least 10 feet from the top-of-bank before any grading or construction begins, submission of a detailed geotechnical soils report for approval by the town and CVCA before a subdivision agreement is executed and a grading plan for the first four lots including the handling of surface run-off and the stock piling of fill and construction material.

Council will be asked to endorse the committee's recommendation at this afternoon's meeting.

Among the options open to regional council in ensuring that all Halton residents have access to family counsellors, Mr. Vivian estimated costs of purchasing the service from private agencies for all of Halton or for south Halton only, and for continuing under the present system whereby the region and the private agencies share servicing responsibilities within the same areas of Halton.

LEAST EXPENSIVE
Mr. Vivian discovered that the least expensive option for regional council to pursue is continuation under the existing format. If council still wishes to withdraw its own counselling service, he said, it would be advisable to ignore the offers of private agencies to sell their services as well, since costs are restrictive and the provision of family counselling services is not mandatory.

He suggested, though, that one regional counsellor should be retained to make court appearances in cases that directly affect the region, to counsel students and to provide a limited emergency counselling service. The administrator looked into operating costs for two private agencies, Burlington's Council on Human Relations (COHR) and the Oakville Family Services Bureau, and found that the region would still have to maintain a counselling staff to accommodate areas of north Halton into which the two agencies would be reluctant to extend servicing.

According to Mr. Vivian's report, COHR would charge the region \$38,000 to pick up the present region caseload in Burlington alone during 1979. COHR officials informed him that to extend their service elsewhere in the region would require constitutional amendments that would themselves take some time to finalize.

Oakville's Family Services Bureau, however, would accommodate public counselling needs in Milton and Halton Hills at a total cost of \$82,475 of which the provincial government would contribute \$38,500 for an overall cost to the region of nearly \$44,000.

PARTIAL SERVICE
Mr. Vivian said the Oakville Bureau, as well, would prefer to restrict its operation outside Oakville to Halton Hills alone. Cost of such partial service would total \$77,475, of which the region would pay \$41,475.

Mr. Vivian was critical of the limitations in services that

would be purchased from the private agencies, noting that council would have to spend another \$3,600 to \$6,000 a year for additional counselling, or else have its solicitor handle the duties, in order to provide unilateral servicing across Halton.

If the region was to continue providing counselling services to north Halton while purchasing services from the Oakville Bureau and COHR in their respective municipalities, he said, the overall program would cost the region \$55,955.

If no services are to be purchased from private agencies and the region is to continue under its present system, he advised, costs would total \$40,943.

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