

# Region discusses Children's Aid Society amalgamation, health and family services department may assume duties

By PAUL DORSEY  
Herald staff writer

Haltion region officials are studying the feasibility of amalgamating the Haltion Children's Aid Society (CAS) and the region's own health and social services department.

Oakville Coun. Terry Mannell, who introduced a motion along with Coun. Russ Miller of Haltion Hills authorizing the study, explained last week that such an amalgamation could help streamline the provision of children's services in Haltion.

In accordance with the provincial government's Child Welfare Act, the CAS is independently administered but financed by the regional municipality.

Coun. Mannell's original motion asked council to approve the amalgamation in principle and have regional staff and CAS officials work together in preparing the feasibility report. After lengthy debate,

however, Coun. Mannell agreed to drop the approval principle stipulation.

**HUMAN SERVICES**  
"Experience has shown that human services are best administered collectively," he explained. "The region itself has an enviable record in the provision of social and family services, and has had since the day the welfare boards were brought under county control."

The feasibility study, Coun. Mannell said, could be "totally objective" in its assessment of the current situation. If the amalgamation proves feasible, council would enjoy a "smoother flow" of budget deliberations next year, he added.

Burlington Coun. Walter Mulkeiwich, who chairs the region's health and social services committee, conceded that the amalgamation concept was endorsed by a task force

which reviewed the workings of regional government in Ottawa-Carleton. He contended, though, that such an amalgamation should also encompass the Haltion regional police and Haltion Region Conservation Authority.

Coun. Mulkeiwich pointed out that the provincial government has clearly indicated its intention to launch a major review of the children's services situation in Ontario. The study could take years, he said, but Haltion would still be imprudent to undertake any local changes now.

**PROBLEMSHOWN**  
"There has been no particular problem shown in the present system," he said. "In fact, there are several advantages."

Oakville Coun. McLean Anderson noted that major legislative changes would be required if council wished to bring the police force under its wing. He reminded Coun. Mannell that the welfare boards came under municipal supervision only at the insistence of the provincial government.

Coun. Carol Gooding of Oakville suggested that there are better ways of streamlining the budget deliberations for the CAS if that was Coun. Mannell's chief concern. She pointed out, however, that the Haltion CAS has the third and lowest rating among agencies

slated for management review.

Burlington Coun. Pat McLaughlin agreed with Coun. Mannell that the region is obliged to investigate the operation of agencies which it finances. Since the region assumed full control over the provision of health and social services, he noted, those services have been administered as efficiently as before, it not moreso.

Coun. Ron Planche of Oakville suggested that the provincial government is "too busy building an empire" to provide basic health services efficiently. He further charged that the Haltion CAS cannot control its own budget spending and needs regional council's guidance.

Council voted 14-7 to launch the CAS feasibility study as

suggested by Coun. Mannell.

**INVESTIGATE AGENCIES**  
Joining councillors Mannell and Miller in supporting the motion were Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett and councillors Planche, Anderson and Laurie Mannell, Milton Mayor Don Gordon and Coun. Bill Johnson, Burlington Mayor Roly Bird and councillors Jim Grievie, Joan Allingham, David LaCombe, Ted McDonald and Pat McLaughlin.

Opposed to the motion were Haltion Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy and Coun. Ed Wood, Burlington councillors Mulkeiwich and Steve Toth, Oakville councillors Gooding and Bonnie Brown and Milton Coun. Gus Goutouski.

Absent from the meeting were Haltion Hills councillors Roy Booth and Mike Armstrong and Burlington Coun. Vera Connell.

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## Irish Setter show

Georgetown area dog lovers will be among the thousands of visitors from the U.S. and Canada who are expected to attend the forthcoming Irish Setter Club of Canada show in Brampton's El Dorado Park. Scheduled to take place June 3, the huge show will feature some 150 Irish Setters, beginning with the puppy sweepstakes for setters 18 months old and younger at 9:30 a.m. The afternoon will be devoted to general categories. Additional information can be obtained by phoning 877-4232 or 877-9952. El Dorado Park is located on the Third Line West near Brampton.



**ARC INDUSTRIES OPEN HOUSE**  
Frances Levan puts the finishing touches on a ceramic ornament at the open house at ARC Industries Thursday. As part of the series of special events coinciding with Mental Retardation Week, the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded held open houses in the workshops, schools and residence they operate, as well as launching their campaign for "Flowers for Hope", one of their major fund-raising efforts.

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