



**BENEFIT FASHIONS**

These three lovely ladies were among the models at the annual fashion show for the benefit of the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded at the North Halton Golf and Country Club. Over 280 people attended the benefit. Fashion were supplied by Mavis Rose and Silvers, with assistance being supplied by Hair Plus and the Beauty Spot. Barbara Presswood of the Beauty Spot co-ordinated the show.

(Herald photo)

# Miller resigns CAS board, cites a lack of co-operation

Prompted by a variety of factors, particularly a "lack of co-operation" from Halton regional council, Halton Hills Coun. Russ Miller has resigned from the Children's Aid Society (CAS) after seven years' service.

Coun. Miller's formal resignation, effective January 1, was endorsed yesterday (Tuesday) by the region's health and social services committee, with the veteran Esqueping councillor expressing hope that he will be replaced on the CAS board by another north Halton Representative.

While stressing that many factors contributed to his decision, Coun. Miller told The Herald last week that a major reason for his resignation is the region's failure to appreciate the efforts and needs of the CAS.

Coun. Miller and his Halton Hills colleague, Coun. Ed Wood have been among the CAS representatives searching unsuccessfully in recent months for a new home for a group of CAS-sponsored young people. Various regional officials have scuttled a number of suggested locations, leaving Coun. Miller and other disappointed and bitter.

**WORKS NEEDS**

Last week, the Society's dwindling hopes of retaining the former Grader property on Lakeshore Road in Burlington, where about half a dozen youngsters aged 12 to 16 years are being cared for because of "short-term problems" in their own homes, had to be abandoned in deference to the needs of Halton public works department.

Coun. Miller said he was the sole opponent of public works committee chairman Ron Planche's ambition to move the works department staffers into the building. Although the original deadline of December 1, by which time the CAS was to vacate the premises, had been deferred, Coun. Miller said he anticipates "pressure" from the region to find a new location for the youngsters as soon as possible.

A former nursing home just south of Acton was among the many sites considered for the group home by the CAS and Halton's health and social services committee. Suggested by Coun. Wood, the nursing home offered fireproofed premises, at least six bedrooms, little chance of objection from nearby residents and the probable support of the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

Nevertheless, Coun. Miller reported, the building's owner declined to rent the property and asked a relatively high price for its sale. In addition, CAS director Ron Coupland was reportedly reluctant to support a site so far north in

**POLICE BUILDINGS**

A former OPP station on Oakville's North Service Road was endorsed for the CAS home by Oakville city council, but was again deemed unacceptable by Mr. Coupland, due largely to its high cost, Coun. Miller said.

A similar fate scuttled suggestions for the former - Halton regional police headquarters in Milton.

"It seems every time the CAS comes to council for funds, council wants to know

what's going on," Coun. Miller explained. "These are some of the frustrations we've experienced. I have to quit like this, but after five years with the region and two years under the old county system, I think it's time for someone else to take over for a while."

"We just don't get enough co-operation from regional council."

Coun. Miller said he might consider returning to the CAS board after a year or more allowing other regional councillors time to find out what

kind of problems are encountered.

"Every municipality (in Halton) should be told to reserve some land for Children's Aid purposes," he suggested.

"After all, they're our kids; they're the responsibility of the entire region. I'm not a bleeding heart and that's why I stayed on the CAS so long; I tried to look at things objectively."

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## Processing grants could cost more

By PAUL DORSEY  
Herald Editor

A proposal by Halton regional council to revamp the current system of processing grant applications from the region's many social service agencies could cost Halton Hills taxpayers nearly \$9,000 more in 1980, according to town treasurer Ray King.

A comprehensive report on the funding situation prepared by special committee of agency representatives offers "a great deal of merit", Mr. King told the town's general committee Monday night, but suggests criteria for funding grant eligibility which are "a little too broad".

While outlining the ramifications of three options open to the town, the treasurer pointed out that the suggested criteria can apply to scouting and guiding groups, the YMCA and other agencies which may belong outside the special committee's definition of social service agencies.

Recommended changes to the system currently under consideration at the region could see Halton Hills' share of the funding costs rise anywhere from \$1,375 to \$8,953, Mr. King reported, depending on whether or not six specific Burlington agencies are deleted from the lengthy list of applicants, as requested by that city's council.

**REQUESTS REFERRED**

If the six groups are omitted, he explained, the recommended system would see all grant requests forwarded to the region from across Halton in an arrangement that would have cost Halton Hills \$27,840 in 1979, more than \$1,300 higher than the town actually contributed.

If the region chooses not to delete those six groups, however, the town's share would be \$35,418 in 1979 dollars, he warned.

At Coun. Russ Miller's suggestion, the general committee voted to ask regional council to defer its decision on the recommended system so that all concerned can study possible effects, ready for some form of implementation in 1981.

The committee's cautious-

ness was questioned by Coun. Terry Grubbe, whose position as co-ordinator of the Acton Community Services Centre won her a berth on the region's special study committee.

Urging the town to adopt the report, Coun. Grubbe noted that Halton Hills had provided grants to four social services agencies in 1979, all of which are "regional in nature".

"I like to feel that all the (grant) requests are regional," she contended in her first formal remarks to the committee since her election last month. "All requests should be referred to the region so we can get an overall view of the servicing situation, so we can monitor how effective the funding is, so the system will be more accountable to the taxpayers, so we can plan effectively and so the services are more accessible to all residents of the region."

**STILL TIME**

"There's still time to implement this for 1980, according to (regional treasurer Don) Farmer."

Coun. Harry Levy maintained, however, that "chaos" dominates efforts to define both the nature of services and town or regional jurisdiction over their funding. Coun. Russ Knechtel agreed that a decision should be postponed as long as the town is "divided" on the issue and cannot offer "more constructive" recommendations.

Terming the jurisdiction over grant allocations "a political football", Coun. George Malby argued that those who know the system best should be allowed to examine the options "at a

business level" and then let the region divide up grant funds "as equitably as possible".

"I think you'll find that some of these services are going to get cheated down there the same way as we cheat them up here," Coun. Miller commented.

This year, Halton Hills council allocated \$11,500 to four social services agencies as part of the \$26,916 contributed toward various causes across the region.

Those receiving funds locally were the Halton Helping Hands, which collected \$17,838 from the region, \$4,000 from Halton Hills and \$1,000 from Milton; the Acton Community Services Centre, which was granted \$6,964 from the region and \$4,950 from Halton Hills; the Mental Health Association, which combined a \$50 grant from Halton Hills with a \$1,500 grant from Burlington; and the North Halton Contact Centre, which received \$2,500 from Halton Hills and \$500 from Milton.

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**CORRECTION**

The ad for Robert Gougeon's which appeared in Nov. 7, 1979 pg. 5 should have read Dryer \$279.95. Washer \$489.95. The Herald apologizes for any inconvenience caused.

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