

Region pulls plug on "911"

By RICHARD PETRASHEK
Herald Staff Writer

A regional "911" emergency telephone number system will not be installed in the foreseeable future, due to potentially high cost of implementation, despite a determined last-minute lobbying attempt by Oakville Coun. Ron Planché.

Regional council approved last week an administration and finance committee recommendation to simply receive and file a study by Halton police consultant Ken Skerrett on the "911" system.

Council also approved the committee's recommendation to investigate the feasibility of sending each resident in Halton a list of emergency numbers.

Prior to the council meeting, Coun. Planché approached several of the councillors in an attempt to convince them of the system's merits.

Coun. Planché argued that the "911" system would reduce delays in reaching emergency services for people who now rely on operator assistance.

"With the way the system is now, a person in Halton who dials '0' for the operator can

find themselves talking to an operator in Brampton who knows nothing about emergency services in Halton and has to relay the call back to a Halton operator," he said.

GOOD IDEA
Although many councillors agreed that the "911" system was a good idea, the majority found the potential cost to be too high.

Mayor Harry Barrett of Oakville said that the \$165,385

figure listed for the yearly operation of the system only scratches the surface of the real costs.

"Bell has asked for a letter of intent committing the region to proceed with the project or to pay the development costs incurred if it was subsequently abandoned," he explained.

"We can't guarantee the end costs", he said, adding that Bell stated it could not set a price for development.

Coun. Roy Booth noted that a trunk line would have to be built from Halton Hills for the new system, adding to the cost of the project.

Mayor Roy Bird of Burlington noted that Peel region is considering a similar system and suggested that Halton should wait and see how that

system works.

Bell has said that the system in Halton would be unique to the region because it would have to be developed from the ground up. The number of calling areas involved and the fact that part of Halton Hills uses a different area code present severe problems.



BABY DOLL WINNER

Sixteen-month old Cheryl Ann Janknegt was quite happy with the prize her mother won for her in the Beta Sigma Phi Christmas lottery, in Georgetown. Marlene Steckley, representing the Xi Delta Beta chapter of the sorority presents her with a Mandy Doll, a canopy bed, a wardrobe and 18 handmade doll outfits. The presentation was made at the Langeraft shop in Georgetown. The proceeds from the lottery were donated to the Georgetown Cancer and Cerebral Palsy funds. (Herald photo)

About the Hills Hypnotic Evening In Store

The public is invited to hear Dr. Boyd Hodinott speak on "The Use of Hypnosis in Medicine" January 8, at 8:45 p.m. in Sacre Coeur Church hall in Georgetown. The evening is sponsored by the Georgetown University Women's Club.

Caledon Bridge Club Results

Results of the Caledon Bridge Club on December 12 were 1. Barb and Bruce Wilcox, 2. Tanya Blatnick and Jim Paterson, 3. Ann Reid and John Franklin, 1. Marg Glassford and Sandy Edwards, 2. Fleming Jorgensen and Ken Pearce, 3. George Marr and Bob Curton. Results of December 13 were 1. Janet and Jack Martin, 2. Elaine and Ron Smith, 3. Marlene McFadden and Ken Pearce, 1. Fran Curry and Muriel Merlina, 2. Naurreen and Des Devereaux, 3. Nancy and Brian Adamson.

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