

Recovery House fights for funds

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald staff writer

The annual struggle to find funds to keep Halton Recovery House (HRH) a residence for recovering alcoholics, in operation for another year is again in progress.

House director Helen Fineran told The Herald last week a submission has already been made to provincial health minister Dennis Timbreel and to the Oakville United Way, while an application to Halton Region is now being prepared.

The province has been asked for a \$20,000 grant, and the United Way for \$4,000. In discussing the HRH application, region representatives have warned directors not to ask for more than the \$2,000 they received last year, Ms. Fineran said.

Halton Recovery House's total budget for the coming year is \$36,123, she said. Private donations as well as those from businesses and industries have helped the cause in the past and she is confident that these sources will support them in the future.

Last year's grants will maintain the house until March and private donations could keep it operating until summer.

What the house really needs, she said, is a firm commitment from which budgets could be based each year. If the house was assured of a definite percentage of the budget through government grants on an annual basis, it would be able to raise the remaining funds through the director's own ingenuity, Ms. Fineran said.

"It isn't healthy for the image of the place to keep going begging for funds every year," she said. "We hope this will be the year we get recognition from the province in the form of continuous funding. We need the security of a base. If they would provide us with a percentage of our budget, we would use our ingenuity to fill in the rest."

NINE BEDS

The house sheltered 25 residents in 1979. It has a nine-bed capacity and residents stay an average of three to six months.

Many residents are physically run down when they first come to the house. They are "plugged into welfare" for a short time until they are capable of taking a job. Usually in three or four weeks, they begin visiting Manpower and nearly all of them are eventually successful in finding some type of employment. It may not be the sort of job most people would fancy, but it is work and it enables them to regain a bit of dignity once they are again contributing to society.

Even while they are on welfare, the men pay room and board.

All the residents come to the house voluntarily. Although referrals may come from anywhere, the residents are basically Halton people.

Ms. Fineran said community response to the HRH cause has been good since most of the men have found work in the Milton area. There is still a tendency in some areas to think that alcoholism is a problem of the lower class or

of those with lower intellects, however, and changing this misconception is Ms. Fineran's biggest challenge.

All the support agencies agree with the need for the house and approve of the results it is achieving, she said. "The fact that this need is not recognized provincially, in terms of continuing funding, makes you wonder where our priorities lie in terms of allowing facilities such as ours to continue to operate," she said. "Comparisons of the cost of keeping a man in hospital, in jail or in the house boggle the mind in terms of savings to the community in a place like this."

FILLING NEED

Figures show a hospital bed requires \$36,500 per year to maintain; a jail inmate costs \$13,000 to \$18,000 per year; a bed at Halton Recovery House costs \$4,000 a year to maintain.

The house is filling a tremendous need in Halton, she said. At present it is meeting the region's need but Ms. Fineran could offer no guesses as to how long that will last. Since surrounding areas have more facilities than Halton for such services, HRH has not been asked to take in people from other areas.

Ms. Fineran said the recent trend is to younger referrals. While this could have a pessimistic overtone, she prefers to think of it as a sign that today's youth is realizing it has a problem at earlier ages and finding the courage to do something about that problem.

Mayor, MP to snip ribbon at opening

The official ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the Georgetown Motor Inn will be held Friday afternoon, although guests have been staying at the Inn almost since the first rooms were ready.

Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy, MP John McDermaid and Deanna Reed, standing in for absent husband Julian, will be taking part in the ceremony, which will be held between 5 and 6 p.m. There will be an open house between 3 and 6 p.m. for representatives of business and industry, owner Tom Reed said, and a party for invited guests in the evening.

The motel has 23 single and double motel rooms, ten studio-efficiency units (chancellor apartments) and 19 one-bedroom suites. The studio-efficiency units have a bed-chestfield and kitchen-

ette. The one-bedroom suites have a living room with a queen-sized bed-chestfield, a fully equipped kitchen, bath and bedroom with queen-size bed.

Most of the one-bedroom units on the second floor have been designed so that they can be converted to motel units in the future as needed, Mr. Reed said that six of the units will remain as they are.

Most of the one-bedroom units have been rented for some time now. Many of them were rented before any of the units were completed. People from all over Ontario have already stayed in the motel, Mr. Reed said, and one of the guests now in the motel is from Japan.

The motel will also feature an English pub-style restaurant, which Mr. Reed said should be ready to open by February 15.



Tom Reed, one of the owners of the Georgetown Motor Inn, is shown here in one of the motel rooms now available in the motel. Most of the units are expected to be completed in time for the official opening Friday, and most of those already completed are occupied. (Herald photo)

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Hang onto '80 water bills, treasurer urges

Halton regional treasurer Don Farmer is urging all area ratepayers to hang onto water-sewer bills for 1980.

Mr. Farmer told The Herald last week there is a possibility that sewer rates paid in 1980 may be classed by the ministry of revenue as property tax for Ontario's 1981 tax calculations.

He said he's urging ratepayers to hang onto their 1980 bills so the utilities won't be swamped with calls early in 1981 from people trying to get information on 1980 payments.

According to Mr. Farmer, Georgetown ratepayers can use their 1979 sewer rate payments for their tax calculations in 1980.

"Because Georgetown ratepayers paid sewer rates in 1979, the ministry has advised us - and we're waiting for the specific wording to be sent here - 8.51 per cent of the total sewer rates for 1979 may be treated as property in addition to the full amount of property

taxes which they paid," he explained. "In 1979, the only calculation which the ministry would recognize was related directly to debt charges payable to the ministry of environment for the Georgetown water pollution control plant."

Mr. Farmer added that since Acton has no facility for financing by the ministry of environment, the same ruling could not be applied.

RECENT TRANSFER
He said he also advised the ministry of revenue that the recent transfer of sewage rates to utility bills should not adversely affect ratepayers who apply for property tax credits.

"The subject, for my part, is still being reviewed," Mr. Farmer said. "In the meantime, I would urge that ratepayers throughout the region retain copies of their utility bills for 1980 to calculate any property tax credit which may result from any ruling for the 1980 tax year."

Region delays road exchange

Communication problems between public works directors in Milton and Oakville and their respective councils have delayed the implementation of a recently-completed regional road reclassification study.

Prior to adopting its recommendations, Halton regional council voted last week to send the report back to local councils for further input after councillors from Milton and Oakville complained they'd had insufficient time to study the report.

The recommendations had

Teachers' talks resumed

The Halton board of education resumed negotiations with its 1,150 high school teachers yesterday (Tuesday), superintendent of instruction Ray Stoness said Monday.

Talks have been suspended since before Christmas when the Halton teachers turned negotiations over to representatives from their provincial federation, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF).

The teachers have been without a contract since August 31. They are seeking an eight per cent increase, not including increments for experience, improvement in benefits, reductions in the average class size and reductions in the pupil-teacher ratio.

already been approved by all four area public works directors.

Councillors Bill Johnson of Milton and Ron Planche of Oakville told council that their works directors had not informed them of the report's status. They claimed they first learned that the recommendations had been approved by the works directors at the region two weeks earlier.

Councillors from Halton Hills and Burlington reported that their respective works directors had discussed the report's recommendations with their town councils.

RE-INVENT WHEEL
Coun. Joan Allingham of Burlington contended that approvals granted by the works directors should be sufficient for council.

"We've gone this far with the study and now (Milton and Oakville) want to re-invent the wheel," she said.

Coun. Johnson said he does not disapprove the recommendations, but simply wants Milton's planner and treasurer to study the report.

The report recommends the exchange of several sections of road between the region and the area municipalities.

If the recommendations are adopted, the region will delete 2.9 miles of road, which will become area municipal responsibilities, and add 7.5 miles, which were formerly local responsibilities.

Under the recommendations, 4.6 miles of regional road within Halton Hills would revert to the town and 3.8 miles of the Ninth Line between 10 Sideroad to Steeles Avenue would revert to the region.

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