

Region to discuss problems in family services program

By CHRIS AAGAARD
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After three years of indecision on the matter, Halton health and social services committee will finally present recommendations to council this afternoon, (Wednesday) to help solve a flagging family counselling program.

The health committee agreed last Tuesday to some of the suggestions made in family services, presented to council in June. The committee recommended that Halton's own family services division be gradually phased out in favor of a cheaper program purchasing services from established, independent agencies in the region.

Contrary to one of the recommendations, Halton may not buy its services from any single agency. Instead, the health committee will recommend today to arrange contracts with more than one counselling service, temporarily calming fears that the Burlington Counselling and Human Relations Institute (COHR) - one of the most

active counselling services in the region - would not survive without regional funding. The study of Halton's family services discovered that North Halton (Milton and Halton Hills) as well as Burlington may not be adequately served by smaller-size agencies, although it stated that the quality of the service is good.

ONLY 60 PER CENT
It also revealed that Halton is getting only 60 per cent of the level of service to which Ontario residents are entitled. The Oakville family services bureau provides the largest chunk of the service to Halton families seeking counselling,

followed by Burlington's COHR, the region's family counselling division the North Halton Mental Health clinic and the psychiatric out patient clinics at the Joseph Brant and Oakville-Trafalgar hospitals. A report submitted by the Oakville family service bureau to the health committee says it can offer a staff with an average of 14 years' experience in family counselling and notes that, as a large agency, it has access to highly specialized staff. The family counselling division in north Halton currently provides residents with individual, marital, family and group counselling, but the Oakville bureau says by 1984 it will add child therapy, counselling for the dying and their families, family life education, advocacy and counselling to patients with muscular sclerosis.

COHR argues that Burlington residents want it as the sole counselling agency, and a proposal to the health committee to provide family counselling in Halton says it may not be able to survive without "a reasonable share" of the purchase of service contract. The proposal states that it is "willing to enter into conversations" with regional officials concerning the provision of services in Milton and Georgetown.

There is added incentive for the region to discuss a purchase of service agreements with the agencies. Approximately 80 per cent of the cost of family counselling will be picked up by the province in the future, which means the region may only pay \$120,000 by 1984 for contracted services. Halton's family service costs provided by the region's three agencies amounted to \$212,967 last year.

SINGLE AGENCY
Both the Oakville family services bureau and COHR have indicated they would support the creation of a single Halton United Way to help subsidize family services in the region.



ALL ONTARIO WINNER

Tristan Sones (centre) correctly decoded the words and clues in the Ontario Safety League's summer safety contest and wound up the all Ontario winner. The Ontario Command of the Royal Canadian Legion played a major role in sponsoring the competition, so it was only fitting that Georgetown (Branch 102) Legionnaires Norm Ward (right) and Harold Badham present Tristan with the 1980 Elmer space computer game.

(Herald photo)

Plenty of new attractions at 67th annual Acton Fall Fair

The 67th annual Acton Fall Fair this Friday, Saturday and Sunday has plenty of new attractions, as well as the old favorites to provide fun for everyone. Acton Agricultural Society President Brian Evans said the fair board has added a number of new events this year in its continuing efforts to attract visitors.

heavy event. The fair will be venturing out onto Fairy Lake for the first time with a model boat race of remote-control model boats. Mr. Evans said the fair board is expecting about 40 competitors in these races.

In addition to the heavy horse pull, there will be an antique tractor pull and a mini-tractor pull, both for the first time this year. The heavy horse pull should be a spectacular event, since 24 teams have promised to attend.

The Miss Acton Fall Fair competition will be held Friday night. Mr. Evans said there were 13 entrants as of Monday. The parade to the fairgrounds begins at noon from McKenzie-Smith Middle School. At 1:30, the baby contest will be held in the arena, for babies from newborns to 18 months of age.

Parents' meeting

Parents of Grade 8 students at McKenzie-Smith Middle School in Acton will be meeting with trustee Betty Fisher and members of the Halton Board of Education administration tonight (Wednesday) to discuss what the parents feel are unnecessarily large class sizes, some involving 38 students. Betty Dunn, one of the concerned parents, said the parents will be meeting tonight at 7 p.m. to discuss the problem which has arisen since one of four Grade 8 teachers was transferred and her class split up among the other three classes.

New arena lights

The town's general committee has recommended that council accept a \$12,338 tender from Ideal Supply of Listowel, Ontario, to provide new lighting for the Acton arena. The committee also recommended Monday that the installation tender for the lighting be awarded to T.S. Electric of Georgetown at a cost of \$6,590.

NARROW ESCAPE

There were no serious injuries Saturday morning when this bus carrying 20 people to the Meadowglan Mushroom plant in Glen Williams went out of control and rolled over into a field near the Ninth Line and 10 Sideroad, but 18 suffered minor injuries. Police estimate damage to the bus at \$10,000. Charges are pending in the accident.

No signs on Churchill without further study

Although stop signs were put up along Churchill Road South in Acton last July, the town's general committee decided Monday night that the same solution to the route's "drags-trip" reputation may not apply to Churchill Road North. Speaking on behalf of a number of Churchill North residents, Tom Oliver said that stop signs erected at the Macdonald Boulevard and Norman Avenue intersections of the road might help to curb speeding, which he said is endangering the hundreds of children attending schools in the area.



THE LUCK OF THE DRAW

Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy drew the tickets Saturday morning at the weekly Acton draw. In spite of the drizzle in the air, a large number of people turned out for the draw, only to hear that most of the names on the winning tickets were from out of town. Marlon Sanvido of Georgetown won the

\$250 prize. Nine vouchers supplied by Acton merchants were handed out to lucky winners. Entertainment this week was supplied by the Van Soelen of Puslinch, who sang a few songs and accompanied himself on guitar.

(Herald photo)



BELL SWINGS

Members of the Bell Canada Construction Group are seen here, along with Mayor Pete Pomeroy, trying out the playground equipment donated by Bell to the town for the John Street Park. The donation was a centennial project for Bell. From left to

right, are Jack Harper, Claudio Michelutti, Barry Downs, Mayor Pomeroy, Mike McGrath, Russ Elliott and Rick Pearce.

(Herald photo)

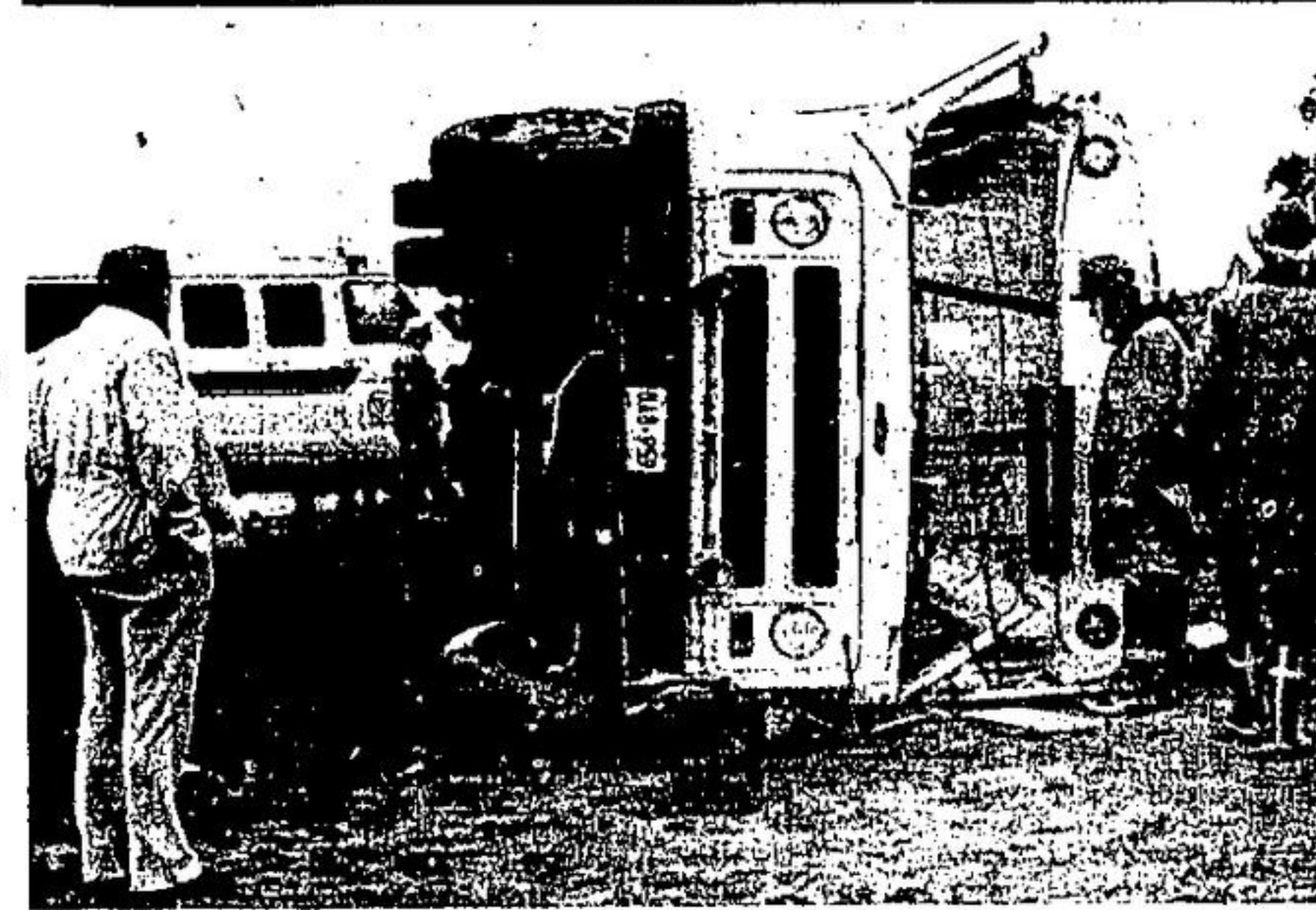
Halton Hills to get nursing home after 10-year struggle with ministry

Halton Hills will have a ten-year-long struggle. Provincial health minister Dennis Timbrell announced Monday in Oakville that the ministry would be accepting proposals for the construction of a nursing home in Halton Hills. Anyone is free to submit a proposal and the ministry will make the final choice as to who will be awarded the project.

Mr. Armstrong said the hospital is hopeful that it will be allowed to construct the nursing home. "We feel our request has been long-standing, and we feel we should have priority," he said. "We've got the land - we made sure of that many years ago. This is a long-term planning proposal. People before me made sure

the land was available." The hospital has no capital and could not finance the construction of the nursing home itself, Mr. Armstrong said. There are possibilities however, such as having someone else build the facility, and then lease it back to the hospital. The board will be considering the different possibilities at future meetings so that it can place its

proposal before the ministry as soon as possible. "It's been needed for some time. We've been patient," Mr. Armstrong said. "We've got a lot of older people who are concerned about the way their days are going to be lived. They've contributed a lot to the community, to the province and the country, and they deserve better."



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(Herald photo by Lori Taylor)

Transportation proposed for handicapped

Physically disabled residents in Halton Hills will get around town easier if a proposed transportation service is launched next spring.

The findings and recommendations of the working committee established by town council in July, 1979, were presented to a congratulatory general committee Monday night by chairman Marilyn Serjeantson. The committee consisted of one councillor from each of the town's four wards, as well as representatives from Halton Helping Hands and the town staff.

The committee surveyed 26 agencies and 265 individuals, using questionnaires. Although the response from the various agencies and the public was somewhat apathetic, over half of the 94 people who answered the survey said that a transportation service for crippled residents is badly needed.

Service clubs are also enthusiastic and some indicated that they would like to get directly involved with the program.

Studying similar services in Burlington, Guelph and Oakville, the committee was able to make a proposal of its own for a transportation system for the physically disabled. The purchase price of a van may be \$24,000 or one could be leased for about \$381 a month. The committee estimates that the operating costs of the van, including paying a driver \$10,000 per year, five days a week, will be about \$16,000. Much of the cost of establishing and operating a van service will be absorbed through provincial funding, but a proposed 50-cent per trip fee is expected to cover part of the van's operation and councillors Monday night indicated they would favor some sort of municipal assistance if necessary.

About the Hills

Eight girls in contest

Junior Miss Halton Hills pageant organizer Jim Barrett told The Herald Tuesday morning that eight girls are confirmed as contestants in the competition October 4. Mr. Barrett also said that there is room for about half a dozen businesses wishing to sponsor a contestant and that one has already expressed an interest. He said he expects about 12 to 15 girls in the competition.

Baby contest at fair

While Jim Barrett has been organizing the Junior Miss pageant for this year's Georgetown Fall Fair and dealing with the controversy it has created, his wife Rita has been busy with the baby contest also planned for the Fair. There are four categories in the infant competition: newborn to four months, five to eight months and nine months to one year old. The last category is flexible, Jim Barrett said Monday, adding that contestants a couple of months over the limit would be accepted.

Police HQ on schedule

Construction on the new Georgetown police station is proceeding on schedule, police commission vice-chairman Glenn Magnuson said Friday. The outside walls have been erected and the builder is beginning work on the inside now, Mr. Magnuson said. The architect's schedule calls for the building to be ready for occupation by mid-December. Police administrator George Moores and District 1 commander Inspector Matt MacPherson were to meet yesterday with architect John Harkness and the building contractor to discuss color schemes and floor lay-outs so the work schedule will proceed smoothly once the actual construction is finished, Mr. Magnuson said.

Manslaughter trial set

A Milton farmer charged in the shooting death of a Milton man has been committed for trial. Robert Marshall Esplen, 49, of R13 Milton, appeared in provincial court in Milton Monday for a preliminary hearing to determine if there was enough evidence to hold a trial. Mr. Esplen is charged with manslaughter following the death of Andre Francis Wysman, 23, of Milton May 11. Mr. Wysman died of a gunshot wound in the back. He and two other young men were fishing in a private pond on 10 Sideroad near Highway 25 when the owner of the property discovered them. He is alleged to have fired three shots to scare the men off, and Mr. Wysman was accidentally struck in the back. The other two men weren't injured.

Parking restrictions

Parking along Raylawn Crescent in Georgetown could get a little tighter if council adopts a committee recommendation made Monday night. The recommendation to forbid parking along a 60-metre stretch of the inside curve of Raylawn, west of the Gower Street intersection, will improve visibility and space for drivers rounding the curve from either direction.

children should become a little more safety-conscious when travelling along the road.

The main concern of the area, Coun. Maltby said, is not speeding, "but the carelessness of the parents and children living there". He said a three-way stop at the corner of Churchill and Norman Avenue would endanger youngsters, whose parents should take the responsibility of showing children how to ride bicycles properly and where they should cross the street. Coun. Wood suggested that stop signs in the area would give Churchill North residents "a little more feeling of safety," especially for children crossing the street. Coun. Mike Armstrong said that there hadn't been enough time to evaluate the effects of stop signs on Churchill South and he did not want council acting on its own to order signs for Churchill North without a staff study. Without a report, Coun. Armstrong said, erecting stop signs would be a "haphazard way of handling a dangerous situation." "Let's get a staff report and find out exactly where the problems are," he said. An earlier recommendation to put up the stop signs was defeated in favor of Coun. Armstrong's suggestion that the problem be presented for a staff study. Mr. Oliver said that while the residents have not yet got the stop signs they requested, Coun. Armstrong's motion "proves that the issue is not dead". He said he expects council will help us to reach a solution to a very real problem on the street."