



MIX-MASTERS

Candy making often puts one in a bit of a sticky situation but these girls will soon be making some festive treats shortly thanks to a workshop in candy making for teens held last Wednesday at the Acton library. Above (left to right) are Lisa Lidbury, Kelly Bogart, Patty Stone, Susan Lidbury, Lisa McConughe, Peggy Ancker, Doreen Hepburn, Sabrina Papp and Lori Haddon. Instructor Anne Irvine stands to the left in the background. (Herald photo)

Authority scrapes up most of deficit

Cutbacks, project deferrals, land sales and drawings from surplus funds have helped the Halton Region Conservation Authority recover all but approximately \$40,000 of a \$234,000 1979 budget deficit discovered last summer.

Authority general manager Murray Stephen told The Herald Friday that the authority had already moved to cover \$73,515 of the 1979 deficit in its 1980 \$3.5 million budget, a

fact which the Oakville accounting firm conducting the audit failed to recognize when it presented its deficit findings.

In addition, the authority has also decided to use \$21,252 earned from the sale of two Burlington parcels of land, as well as a \$27,356 cutback in expenditures in its water support program and engineering study. "Water support" deals with the day-to-day

operation of dams and sluiceways along the watershed.

Capital expenditures of \$28,283 have been deferred for another year to help trim the authority's deficit. The expenditures include a \$17,300 addition to the Mountsberg Wildlife Centre (a new entrance was originally planned) and construction of an \$8,000 parking lot for the Hilton Falls Conservation Area.

Mr. Stephen said that \$42,000 anticipated to show as various account surpluses in this year will also be used along with provincial grants owing the authority to correct the 1979 shortfall. The balance of the deficit will be consumed through tight budgeting next year.

Although the auditors claimed that they were short-staffed and couldn't get the 1979 report out in time to plan a 1980 budget, the authority has decided to look for another accounting firm to possibly handle its audit in 1981.

HRCRA moving to Milton?

Insisting that any new headquarters has to be central to the Credit River watershed, the Halton Region Conservation Authority has tentatively approved plans to construct a new administrative complex in Milton.

Limited forestry and sawmill works carried out at the wildlife centre will be unaffected by the proposed maintenance move.

The building, planned for a 21-acre parcel of land east of the Appleby Line and sandwiched between the Hilton Falls Conservation Area and Highway 401, will join a proposed 13,570-square foot maintenance centre to headline the Authority's capital expenditures program for the next few years.

Authority general manager Murray Stephen told The Herald Friday that Milton's central location (where a number of its administrative offices are already located) is ideal, enabling staff to quickly reach any of the conservation areas, parks and dams for which the Authority is responsible. A proposal to move into Halton region's general headquarters in Oakville was rejected three years ago because of its lack of sufficient space and its distance from the northeast corner of the watershed, Mr. Stephen said.

While plans to build the new administration headquarters will probably have to wait two or three years while costs and final design plans are approved, the maintenance building could begin next year.

Located near the proposed administrative building, the estimated \$300,000 maintenance centre would alleviate servicing space shortages currently experienced at Mountsberg Wildlife Centre's garages on Campbellville Road.

The maintenance centre will not only repair the Authority's fleet of 30 cars and trucks and 20 mowers and tractors, but will also house a welding and woodworking shop to build and paint the 400 to 500 picnic tables which need to be replaced each year in Halton's

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RED CROSS NEWS IN BRIEF

Branch - Office will be closed last two weeks of December for Christmas holidays. For referral call the Contact Centre, 877-1211.

Loan of Sickroom Supplies - This service needs wheelchairs as they are constantly on loan; also walkers, crutches etc. Anyone having one available to donate, please call 877-5233, or 877-6385.

Emergency Response - Halton Hills teams took part in the two mock disasters recently held in Georgetown and Acton with HAM Radio members and a Scout group. A meeting will take place Thursday night with town officials, police and fire departments, hospital authorities and others to discuss their different plans, supplies, etc.

First Aid - A Standard First Aid Course is in progress at the Ambulance Hall. There will be another course in the

new year. The new dates for the cancelled Heart Saver Course will be advised.

Individual Emergency Aid - A Vice-Chairman for this service is still needed. Anyone interested in helping their fellowmen contact Sheila Ward, 877-2731.

Red Cross Corps - Volunteer-drivers are urgently needed to transport patients to and from their medical appointments in and out of town. Call 838-2093 or 877-3638.

Campaign-for-Funds - At an organizational meeting held last week, it was decided to set the Georgetown and District goal for 1981 at \$18,000. For this March campaign the Red Cross is looking forward to get some assistance from people to be district-co-ordinators, area-captains and industrial canvassers now and at a later date the hundreds of canvassers.

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