

Town alerted to 'dangers'

Rest home challenges safety charges



ALLISON DEALER TOPS

Bill Garner (left) of Murt Allison Equipment in Georgetown has received the Outstanding Dealership Award in parts sales for this region by Massey-Ferguson. The award was presented by James Wimpess, Vice President and General Manager Parts Division, at a dinner held Friday in Racine, Wisconsin. As part of their stay in Racine, all recipients toured the Massey-Ferguson North American Parts Division Headquarters prior to the awards dinner. Out of 1,400 Massey-Ferguson dealers in North America, Bill was one of the 22 honored at the awards.

Herald Special
Not only has Halton region's health and social services committee refused to conduct business with Cher's Rest Home in Acton, it also believes the home is unsafe.

A recent recommendation from the committee declining the service of the home for regionally supported senior citizens was approved by regional council last Wednesday.

The recommendation called on the town of Halton Hills to be notified of committee members' safety concerns. Major criticism centres on a fire inspection report that lists problems with smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and combustible building materials.

The recommendation said home operator Travina Cherwonik "has not complied with requirements to protect the health and welfare of its occupants". It further states the committee supports such private sector operators provided they comply with

regional standards approved in December, 1979.

Brian Cherwonik, Mrs. Cherwonik's husband, said last week he was unaware the region had established regulations rest homes must meet in order to get regional service agreements. These are the contracts under which the region subsidizes residents in rest homes which need some financial support.

"I didn't know about it when they were set up," he says. "We've been in business seven years so you'd think they'd tell us about it. We've had agreements with Wellington County for the past six years."

"We've tried to get agreements with Halton before but they always said Jeanette's (Home for Senior Citizens Ltd.) had to be filled up first before they'd give us any."

Jean Kirkwood, of regional social services, was surprised to learn that Wellington County had purchased subsidy services at the rest home.

She said the ministry of community and social services which pays 80 per cent of the subsidy for senior citizens would not approve the Wellington agreements unless Halton region approves the establishment meeting regional standards.

A spokesman for the Wellington County social services said they were not aware that Halton had no agreement with the Cher Rest Home.

Douglas McLennan, director of social services, said he had never heard of any restrictions with ministry funding because there is no licensing of rest homes.

When the Cherwoniks applied for service agree-

ments recently, they heard about the regulations they must meet but only piecemeal. No one gave them full details of all the requirements.

The regional committee listed Ontario Hydro, Halton Hills building and fire departments, Halton regional health unit, medical and x-ray reports for all the staff, federal government assistance forms and the 1980-81 operating budget as the reports or approvals which were missing from the application.

Problems listed did exist at the time of the inspection, Mr. Cherwonik says, but since he has found out what is needed, he has corrected the deficiencies.

Mr. Cherwonik says he and his wife intend to call in people from the regional social services department and have another inspection made once the problems have been

corrected. They say they will re-apply for purchase of service agreements with the region and favor the establishment of licensing regulations so long as they are enforced equally in the town.

Council delays ruling

Halton Hills town council has delayed its decision on a town bylaw regulating lodging houses in town, a bylaw which sets down standard safety regulations for some old age rest homes. Licensing under the bylaw would be renewed each year, following an inspection by town building inspectors. The bylaw also states that each resident must have at least 75 square feet of floor space, which could pose problems for smaller rest homes.

LAND BARGAINS

Municipalities and counties throughout Ontario are disposing of lands which have been seized for non payment of taxes.

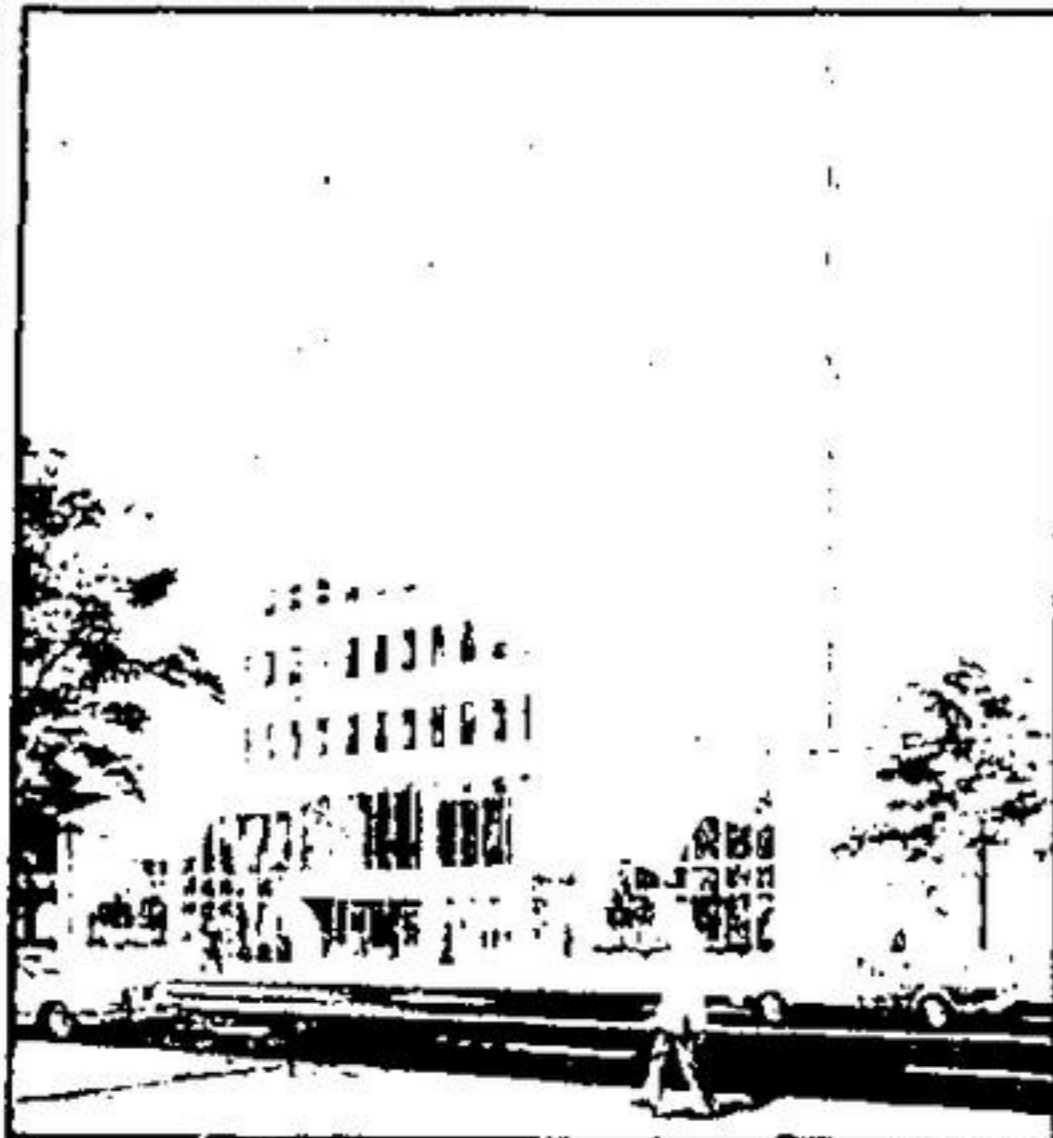
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