

# Rest home bylaw too lax, operators say

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
Herald Staff Writer

A "lodging-house" bylaw designed to upgrade building standards among the town's resthomes and boarding houses not already under provincial licensing continues to confuse resthome operators in the area.

Attacked by two operators at Monday's general committee meeting, the bylaw, they claim, doesn't go far enough to set resthome health and safety regulations.

"You're treating it like you're mending another road in Halton Hills," Katherine Kelly, former owner of Jean-

ette's Home for Senior Citizens Ltd. in Acton, told councillors. "You're dealing with people here."

Resthome operators suggested that because of the specialized care residents in their establishments receive, resthomes should be considered under a separate bylaw, rather than being grouped under the "lodging house" classification.

But clerk administrator Ken Richardson explained that regional regulations must be compiled with before resthomes are considered for "purchase of service" agreements. While a great number

of safety and health concerns are covered in the standards, he said, municipalities are forced by law to encompass resthomes as lodging houses in order to set minimal standards of their own.

Both Mrs. Kelly and Brian Cherwoniak, operator of Cher's Nursing Home on Acton's Main Street North, earlier expressed concern to Mr. Richardson that the number and type of fire extinguishers on each floor may not be adequate in the town's bylaw. Only one water pressurized extinguisher is required under the new regulations scheduled to go before council for approval next Monday.

The town's fire prevention officer and fire chief offered advice while the bylaw was drafted, Mr. Richardson said, adding that wherever other government regulations overlap the town's bylaw, the more stringent standards must be adhered to.

This could prove especially difficult for the town's four homes affected by the bylaw, since it insists that each resident in a lodging house must have 75 square feet of living space. The smaller homes may actually only have half that much.

Speaking for Mr. Cherwoniak, Gordon Dawe said the bylaw still requires more input from resthome owners before it's finally adopted by council, and argued that there hasn't been enough time for operators to study the bylaw since it was first presented at the Jan. 28 general committee meeting.

"Two weeks is not long enough when you're dealing with people," Mr. Dawe said, stressing that council should "get the best information, best professional advice right from the start", rather than working on revisions to the bylaw after it has been approved.

However, Mayor Pete Pomeroy maintained that resthome operators could continue to apply for changes.

"The public process goes on forever," he said.

Licenses for lodging or resthomes must be purchased for \$100 each year and the building will be inspected by every six months. Violations of the bylaw, enforced by the town's new bylaw enforcement officer, could cost operators fines of up to \$1,000.

## About the Hills

### New children's librarian

Joy Showell, a Guelph resident who's been working at the Brantford Public Library, has been appointed Halton Hills Children's Librarian, replacing John Currie, who is now chief librarian in Fort McMurray, Alberta. Mrs. Showell obtained a Master of Library Sciences degree from the University of Western Ontario last year and has worked as a researcher for the Canadian Deaf, Blind and Rubella Association. She and her graduate student husband, Mark, plan to move to Acton soon.

### Top dairy yields

Two Georgetown cattle breeders have produced award-winning results recently recognized by the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada. Bred and owned by George Dixon, 13-year old Mardix Nancy Toro earned a Superior Production award last month for yielding nearly 10,000 kilograms of milk and 420 kilograms of fat during twice a day milking in 305 days. Eleven-year old Walnut Acres Pearl, bred by Howard Dolson of Georgetown and now owned by a New Brunswick farmer, earned a Combined BCA (491) award for producing 12,000 kilograms of milk and 439 kilograms of fat during an identical milking period. Her BCA was 248 kilograms milk to 245 kilograms fat.

### Birthday for Bessie, 96

Still fully embodying the spirit of the Tremaine-Britannia Citizens Group and their battle against Halton region's proposed 248-acre landfill site, Bessie Smith of Milton will celebrate her 96th birthday Feb. 21 with a massive celebration. Nearly 1,000 well-wishers and TBCG supporters turned out to help Miss Smith mark her 95th birthday a year ago, and the Group has again organized a fitting tribute at St. Paul's United Church, 123 Main St., Milton for Feb. 21, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. On tap for the big party are pancakes, sausages, home baking, coffee and cider. Admission is \$2.50 per person, and all proceeds will "help save Site F", the agricultural property which includes Miss Smith's family home and which the region is now negotiating to use as a dumpsite.

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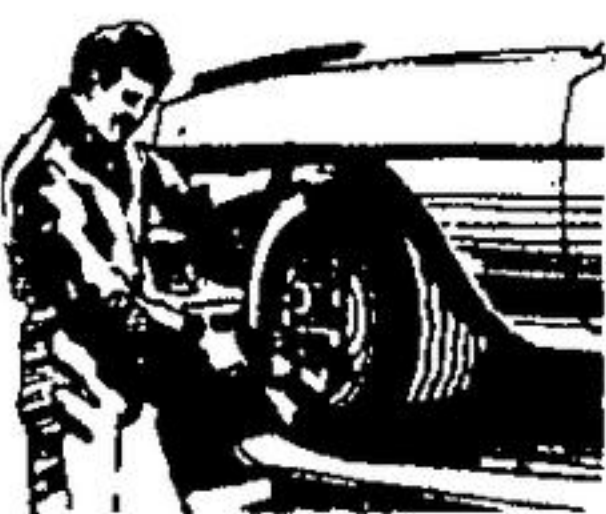
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