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Home Newspaper of Halton Hills

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1981

ESTABLISHED 1866

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About the Hills

Pleads guilty to manslaughter

Georgetown resident Brian Reid pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the Feb. 1 death of Hubert Wild at Milton Provincial Court Monday after Crown prosecutor Anthony Vale withdrew the original charge of second degree murder.

At the request of defense counsel John Smith, who said he believes Mr. Reid is a "severe alcoholic", Judge J. B. Lalimer postponed the trial until a presentence report is completed by social workers to suggest appropriate rehabilitation.

In spite of Mr. Reid's alleged drinking problem, "there will probably be a substantial period of imprisonment," Mr. Smith said. The new trial date is June 1.

Off the bus

Schoolbus drivers of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, local 2177, went on Strike Monday Morning. The strike will affect all buses originating out of Burlington.

Gord Allen, union representative in Hamilton, said that the "drivers" went back to work in good faith in December, when management promised them a new contract.

The contract offered Sunday night fell short of drivers' expectations and included an item that was rejected in the collective bargaining. "That was a deceitful tactic," Mr. Allen said.

Although the managing operation, Travelways, is the same as that in the Georgetown area, there is no possibility of a strike here, as local workers are not unionized.

Collect 407 packs

Red Cross officials reported that 407 donors attended their blood donor clinic Monday and donated 373 blood packs.

There were 34 people rejected for various reasons, including medications, active allergies, etc.

The Klansmen Club of Georgetown sponsored this successful clinic, lending special assistance with poster distribution, advertising and the club's "Bucket of Blood Award", for having the most donors in the interservice club challenge.

Next regular clinic for Georgetown will be August 17. Attendance is very important during the summer holidays.

LIFE'S GREATEST GIFT

There was plenty of generous giving and grateful taking at Monday's Red Cross donor's clinic. Here, John Nichols does the giving and Red Cross aide Cherie Dalton does the taking, thank you very much.

(Photo by Astra Pape)



NOW THAT'S EDUCATION!



Howard Wrigglesworth Public School on Georgetown's Guelph Street held a giant fun day and fair Friday for parents as part of their Education Week activities, and these youngsters decided to take time out to ham it up a bit.

Demonstrating a little "new wave" acrobatics in the photo above are (left to right) Charlene Christie, Bobby Christie, Teresa Pearce and Bobbi Hyde. Bringing in the rear are Wayne Campbell and John Hillier.

These three girls (left to right) Tamme Harren, Julie Perryment and Karen Dickson are joined by a few chums to settle who's better at blowing the ping-pong ball across the opponent's goal line. (Herald photo by Chris Aagaard)

CAS director says Acton offers better foster homes

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald Special

For the size of the community, Acton produces more good foster homes than any other area in Halton region, the director of the Children's Aid Society (CAS) says.

Ron Coupland told a small audience at M.Z. Bennett School Thursday that there are 28 to 25 foster homes in Acton which on a per capita basis is larger than the group the society has in Oakville.

The Halton CAS works with about 1,200 families a year, he

said. At any time there are about 250 children under CAS care.

The society has two years to help a child taken from a family and if that child needs to be transported into a new home environment, Acton is the best possible location, Mr. Coupland said.

Since foster children often feel like second-hand children or cast-offs, the school's role in helping them to adjust to a new community is very important. Even with help, there are about 20 per cent of children who will never realize their full potential, he said.

Acton foster parents are more supportive of each other than parents in other Halton communities, he said. They help each other in babysitting and in crisis situations such as when a foster child "goes off the rails" and the parents are stretched to the limit and need support and understanding.

The sort of community spirit these families give place Acton almost on the level of what Mr. Coupland terms a closed system community. Old rural communities has this closed system, he added, where newcomers found it hard to be accepted.

However, the accepted families were very open

systems and interacted freely so that children had two or even three age groups in their home: parents, grandparents and great-grandparents, who were willing to care for them.

Modern communities tend more to open systems where it is easy to be accepted into a new community and easy to leave it if a job necessitates a move.

The closed family is usually small and totally self contained. Often there aren't any relatives in the area to help care for children.

This isolation as a family unit, Mr. Coupland said, means there are no outlets for frustrations except among family members.

It also means there is no safety valve available for children to be taken away from a domestic dispute until parents relax and tempers are reduced.

This pressure results in family separations and divorce. It is also producing blended families, something people have no experience in dealing with since it is relatively new phenomenon where partners are living together with children from separate previous marriages.

Child abuse is also on the increase because of this isolation and tight family system.

Since the church has ceased to be such an important part of the open community, the school remains the best centre available to new families in a community for developing their community bonds.

He also sees the school principal as one of the key figures in new communities because often, when families break up, the school remains the only family doctor that does not change. For boys in female-led single-parent family, the school principal may be the stable male figure in their lives.

Female principals can also have a heavy role responsibility since the incidence of women deserting their families is increasing and more men are attempting to raise daughters alone.

Limehouse women concerned over proposed deer hunt

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Two Limehouse women have successfully managed to convince regional council to withhold approval of a proposed three-day deer hunt in Halton until it has been further discussed with farmers, representatives of the provincial natural resources ministry (MNR) and the region's public works committee.

Debbie Kilmer and Pauline Martland told councillors last Wednesday they are concerned that not enough information was collected on Halton's deer population during last year's hunt to justify continuing with the controlled hunt this coming season.

Warning that they would organize a petition if council approves the hunt without considering new information, the women charged that the MNR's method of assessing deer population based on road kills fails to take into account the increased traffic on many roads throughout Halton.

The MNR maintains that road kills, up almost 250 since a 1960 total of about 100, indicate that Halton's deer population is large enough to warrant a controlled hunt. Farmers in the Cambridge MNR district, of which Halton is a part, blame large deer populations for ruining areas of corn crops and destroying seedlings and new growth on apple trees.

But Mrs. Kilmer pointed out that along some regional

roads, notably Highway 7, between regional road 3 and Churchill Road in Acton and Highway 401 between Trafalgar Road and Highway 25, traffic has quadrupled in a 20-year period.



Pauline Martland and Debbie Kilmer are two Limehouse residents who have decided to ask some serious questions about Halton's next three-day deer hunt, proposed for November. At last Wednesday's council meeting, the women maintained that the natural resources ministry inadequately assesses the deer population in the Cambridge district and that any hunt should be handled by excellent marksmen or provincial game wardens. They warned that seriously depleting the deer population could mean the area's coydogs and coyotes will start feeding on livestock.

(Herald photo)

"An additional concern for council," Mrs. Kilmer said, "should be coydogs which will start to kill livestock" if they can't feed from the deer population.

While some councillors cautioned against succumbing to the "Bambi complex" refusing a hunt on sentimental grounds, Mrs. Kilmer said they didn't object to a hunt as long as it is strictly controlled by the MNR, well-researched and handled by qualified game wardens.

However, she said the MNR hasn't got the manpower to keep as close a watch on the three-day hunt as they would like, adding that permits for the hunt should be issued only to hunters who show competent gun handling techniques.

Holding up a bullet-ridden "no trespassing" sign and expressing concern for the safety of residents in rural areas, Mrs. Kilmer and Mrs. Martland recalled how their families treated one deer last year which was left almost faceless from bad marksmanship.

"If this is the kind of people that we have hunting in the forest," Mrs. Martland said, "then I don't agree with any hunting."

Supporting the proposal to delay a decision on the three-day hunt, Coun. Terry Mancell said the MNR report submitted to the region's planning and public works committee three weeks ago failed to give adequate evidence that the hunt is needed.

Techniques used in assessing the deer population fly "in the face of reason", he said, questioning whether or not the hunt was proposed for

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Council sets objectives

Official plan: first step taken

With only one change, the town planning board has approved a list of goals for the Halton Hills official plan currently being revamped by a special task force appointed about four months ago by council.

Asked by the province's housing ministry last January to expand the time frame encompassed by the official plan, planning staff and the task force presented their goals to the board Monday night and hope to have more detailed policies ready for scrutiny by September.

In a letter to the board, task force chairman Pam Sheldon said her committee has attempted to streamline parts of the plan, cutting out areas of repetition where the old plans of Georgetown, Acton and Esqueping overlap and recreational, transportation and rural objectives were expanded.

Goals covering the town's industrial growth, community energy use and mineral resources were also added to the new plan.

Supported by fellow board members, Coun. Ray Booth proposed that the town's energy goals should encourage energy efficient housing, prompting builders to construct well-insulated homes or homes which incorporate alternate forms of energy for heating.

In addition, while anticipating "something with a little more teeth later on," he said he hoped the wording of the mineral resources goals indicate to the province that the town wants distinctions made between ongoing aggregate mining and wayside pits.

Describing wayside gravel pits as "something which the province is trying to jam down our throats", Coun. Booth

called on the province to distinguish one form of aggregate production as industry and the other as a "nuisance".

As outlined in objectives drafted by the task force, mineral resources in Halton Hills should be exploited, "while at the same time ensuring that future licensed and non-licensed operations shall be satisfactory to the town in the terms of location, extractive practices, accessory uses and after-use."

Although the plan needs to conform with the region's official plan, signed last August by housing minister Claude Bennett, Coun. Harry Levy said that the town's rural area may not necessarily follow the two per cent growth rate forecast by regional planners if it means building on prime agricultural land.

He argued that the "limited number" reference to estate housing developments in Esqueping is "too loose" and would be subject to a number of interpretations from future developers.

However, Coun. Sheldon said that policies currently being written for the plan will encourage development away from prime growing soil, building, instead, on lower grade land.

Spanning a 20-year period and scheduled for revision every five years, the plan includes goals for balancing the town's employment needs with housing, expanding and diversifying industrial opportunities in town, enhancing commercial and freight transportation and aims towards providing residents with social services policies that will meet changing urban trends and build a healthy community.

The task force hopes to have the revamped plan ready for council's approval by the end of December after it has passed through a phase of public meetings during the previous month. In January, it will be sent to the printers and copies will be forwarded to the housing ministry in February for final approval.

Council awaits Hydro figures

Annual report puts town \$69,000 ahead

The town's financial statement released this week shows a \$54,241 surplus at the end of the 1980 fiscal year, \$69,241 more than budgeted in the 1981 operating budget.

cent profit margin.

The delay in getting Hydro's figures, Mayor Pomeroy explained, is largely due to a shift in auditors for the commission caused when accounting for the utility was moved from the Niagara region to Ontario Hydro's Central Ontario district.

The financial statement includes figures received from the town's parking authority, the Georgetown and Acton Business Improvement Areas and the town library board.



DO YOU BELIEVE IN MAGIC?

Jimmy Heik of Scarborough - better known as Conrad the Magician - delighted dozens of Halton Hills youngsters Saturday with back-to-back performances at the Acton public library and Georgetown's Cedarvale Park gym. Eager assistants from the audience like Kristie Johnson and Paul LaLonde (above) and five-year old Elaine Baker, who proudly displays her Magician's Helper certificate (right), aided Conrad as he wove some spells.

(Herald photos by Dave Rowney)



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\$36,651

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