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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1982

**Helping Hands major beneficiary**

## Grants committee doles out \$450,000

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
Herald Staff Writer

Halton Helping Hands (HHH), the group which helped launch ActiVan, Halton Hills' transportation service for physically handicapped residents, received a major chunk of the region's social services grants as approved by the Halton's health and social services committee.

While the \$453,870 grant total (about \$14,000 less than 1981's figure) reached by the committee after numerous cuts last week will be reviewed by the town's regional council

next Wednesday, HHH is expected to receive all but \$991 of \$58,991 it requested.

North Halton HHH rep Barb Stevens told The Herald Friday that the region's generosity is a reflection of the group's volunteer efforts which, over the winter, have ensured that elderly residents and shut-ins have had their sidewalks and driveways cleared.

HHH is currently looking for handmen to help seniors cope with problems around the house.

The grant represents about a 41 per cent increase over the \$41,453 received by the group from the region last year.

Only the region's social planning council received more money, (\$64,850) which will be divided among the Halton agency and similar councils in North Halton, Burlington and Oakville.

Although each social planning council applied to the region for individual funding, committee members argued that next year the region expects only one grant application from the regional council.

It added that this year's money will be divided so that the north Halton branch is to receive \$10,000 (it had asked for \$16,419), \$23,250 for Oakville's social planning council, \$18,500 for Burlington's and \$13,100 to the regional council which will eventually encompass the other bodies.

However, other north Halton organizations did not fare as well as they had hoped as the committee chopped thousands of dollars from the grant requests—refusing some entirely—to come as close as possible to the \$422,319 it set for grants last month.

In its first presentation,



### BIENVENUE A L'EXPOSITION DES LIVRES

Surrounded by a large selection of French language children's books displayed at the Halton Hills library-cultural centre art gallery is nine-year old Georgetown resident Marilyne St. Pierre. Marilyne and her family attended opening ceremonies at the centre for Halton Hills French Week and listened to VIP's speeches and performances by the Sacre Coeur School choir and folk Toronto-based group, La Rivaline. Other festivities, running through to Saturday, include French theatre, movies, "une soiree musicale", and clown-guitarist Eglantine. The books were displayed by La Librairie Champlain de Toronto.

(Herald photo by Chris Aagaard)

### About the Hills Time to beware watery hazards

Last spring, several Ontario school children drowned in swollen rivers and creeks. It should not have happened.

This year, if we make kids aware of local spring water hazards, we may not see those ugly statistics again.

Stress these points with your children: river and creek beds are not safe places to play—nor are ice surfaces, no matter how safe they may seem. Culverts and areas under bridges are dangerous and can suddenly flood without warning. Know the dangers of your neighborhood...and always know exactly where your children are playing. March 14 to 20 is Red Cross Spring Water Awareness Week. Help us keep kids out of cold water.

Georgetown and district schools making a request will be visited with a film presentation and hand-outs about ice safety.

### MP anticipated move

Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid was among members of parliament who urged the House of Commons early last week to appoint a woman to the Supreme Court of Canada. Although Liberal MPs routinely denied Mr. McDermid's motion the unanimous consent needed for debate March 1, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau appointed Bertha Wilson of the Ontario Court of Appeal to the nine-member Supreme Court Thursday. Mr. McDermid had pointed out in the House that no woman had ever been appointed to the federal Supreme Court, although many women had served with distinction on provincial Supreme Courts. Madam Justice Wilson, 58, replaces Mr. Justice Roland Marland, who retired last month, when he reached 75, the mandatory age of retirement.

### High speed police chase

A young man spotted committing a minor traffic violation on Sideroad 22 east of Limehouse sped off with two police constables in pursuit Saturday afternoon.

The Maple Avenue resident eventually lost control of his vehicle and went into a snow bank, putting an end to the police pursuit at Sideroad 15 west of Speyside.

He was charged with dangerous driving, failing to stop for police, continuing to avoid police and passing on the left of centre with no clear view. There was minor damage to the police cruiser.

### 'Acid' trafficking charge

A 16-year old youth was stopped by Halton regional police Monday at 12:40 a.m. for a minor traffic infraction on Georgetown's Guelph Street, and was subsequently charged with possession of a restricted drug for the purpose of trafficking.

A police investigation of the car revealed there were 17 doses of acid in his possession. A bail hearing was held Tuesday afternoon for the Park Avenue resident.

## School board budget may bring 19% mill rate hike

By ANI PEDERIAN  
Herald Staff Writer

Effects on the local mill rate will be significant if the Halton board of education's 1982 draft budget is accepted.

Board finance committee chairman Bill Priestner told The Herald at Thursday night's board meeting that Halton's mill rate is expected to increase by 19 per cent for 1982—a weighted average of 14 mills.

He blamed the increase on salary increases, expenditures approved by the board last year, requirements of Bill 82 and on the board's reluctance to close classrooms as school populations decrease.

The board's proposed 1982 budget of \$131,946,755 is up 13.7 per cent from last year's \$116 million.

Halton's cost per pupil at the elementary level has increased by 17.6 per cent to \$2,542 from \$2,108. At the secondary school level, it's gone up from \$2,930 to \$3,455, an increase of 17.9 per cent.

Although enrolment has decreased by 3.3 per cent, indicating there should be a proportional staff reduction of 106 people, Mr. Priestner said that instead there is an increased staff of eight.

He attributed the increase to the special education requirements of Bill 82, and contract negotiations with both elementary teachers' (HETA) and secondary teachers' (OSTF) unions in which the board agreed to hire extra teachers.

Contracts with the teachers' unions are making up the bulk of costs for the school board. Wages are up 15 per cent over last year, while other expenditures are up only ten per cent.

"We are, financially speaking, heading on a poor course," Mr. Priestner said. "But at present we haven't relinquished the good position once held."

He was referring to the fact that the board is third lowest in cost per pupil compared with nine other area boards.

"Do you realize the cost we are bearing for keeping classrooms open?" Mr. Priestner asked. "If we maintained the same square footage per student in 1982 as we used in 1981, our budget could be reduced by \$600,000."

He said if the board followed its own policy on the amount of school space to be provided for each student, another \$2.8 million could be pared from the 1982 budget.

"In order to achieve these savings, trustees must help in closing and keeping closed areas of schools as well as entire schools. The benefits derived from these expenditures are at best marginal—convenience perhaps, but not essential," Mr. Priestner said.

He said the cost of not closing classrooms as school populations decrease is staggering when added up. It means higher costs in terms of maintenance and caretaking staff. Instead of a drop of ten caretakers, the board has an increase of seven, he said.

Mr. Priestner also poked a warning finger at trustees in his closing remarks of the budget presentation, saying living within guidelines should be a 12-month job for trustees and not a March consideration.

"Every approval we make keeps adding to the pot," he said. "We've got to be tough approving expansion of programs that are nice."

The bulk of the budget, 76.5 per cent, is going toward instruction costs, which includes teachers' salaries. Another 11.6 per cent is going toward building operations and the remainder for transportation and debt costs.

The revenue portion of the budget which will tally provincial grant funding towards the budget will be outlined at the March 18 board meeting. Final approval of the budget is expected at that meeting.

### No more coffee, cookies for trustees

In a symbolic move, free cookies and coffee were deleted from bi-monthly school board meetings Thursday night.

The cut in free break-time snacks means a \$7,000 saving to taxpayers, and a few hundred calories saving to trustee waitresses.

"You can take away a million here and a million there, but you take away the coffee and the cookies and you cause trouble," Trustee Jim Bradley joked. He was hoping Trustee Bill Priestner, chairman of the finance committee, wasn't serious about the snack cut.

Admitting it was a symbolic move on the part of the finance committee to curb costs, Mr. Priestner said he will pay 25 cents for his coffee, but "if the public doesn't want to, we won't be checking up on them."

Another trim cut from the budget was the Christmas party which this year treated trustees to sandwiches and sweets prepared by high school students.

## Major blaze cuts short firefighters' dance

A family of four was left homeless Saturday night when a fire caused an estimated \$160,000 damage to their sixth line home about one mile north of Steeles Avenue.

Left with a burned-out shell of their former home are owner Robert Aitken, 43, wife Carol, 37, and children Bobby, 16, and Michael, 12. The home was insured and nobody was home at the time.

The fire, reported by neighbor Lou Dreyer, was put out through the combined efforts of firefighters from the Halton and Halton Hills fire departments.

Unfortunately, Saturday night was the evening of the annual fireman's ball in Halton Hills, and firefighters had just finished their dinner when the fire call came in, sending them scrambling for their gear.

The disc jockey at the ball felt badly about the ruined evening and packed up his equipment from the St. George's Anglican Hall to set it up again in the Georgetown firehall. When the firefighters returned at 1 a.m., they picked up where they'd left off and danced until the wee hours of the morning in the firehall.

Cause of the blaze is still unknown and is under investigation by the fire marshal's office and the Halton regional police.



### LIONS' HIGHEST HONOR

There was standing room only in the Georgetown Lions Hall last Tuesday night as members and guests paid tribute to Lion Fred Zorge, whose 22 years of outstanding service with the club earned him the prestigious Lions life membership. Mr. Zorge (left) was congratulated by District 11A governor Ron Lucey at the event, which turned out to be quite a surprise for the new life member who originally thought he and his wife, Rita, were attending a Lions Club ladies' night. The late Dick Licata was the only other local recipient of the life membership, bestowed upon members by the club's international executive. Mr. Zorge was president of the local club in 1965, vice-president in 1963 and has, for years, been active at the club's district level promoting the Lions' commitment to community service.

(Herald photo)

### A LOOK BACK AT AGE OF STEAM



Small steam engines made by John Layman were displayed at the Cub Resource Day in Baltimore by his wife, Jean and enjoyed by cub packs from all over town Saturday. Getting a closer look at some of the intricate engineering which goes into making the miniature machines are (left to right) John Addison, David Boyle, Ken Toyne, Michael Bieby, Tommy Rasmussen and Leslie Colby.

(Herald photo)

## Cops' budget puts limit on new hiring

Four new uniformed policemen will be hired for Georgetown and Acton if Halton region approves the new police budget.

At their Thursday morning budget meeting, police commissioners allowed for 15 new uniformed policemen and four civilian employees compared to the 22 police and six civilian staff Police Chief James Harding had requested.

Accounting for about 50 per cent of the total regional budget, the police budget was reduced to \$15,600,000 from \$15,968,930.

Commissioners pared of the chief's request for a five-man regional traffic squad which would deal with serious vehicle accidents. They also said no to two more detectives.

Altogether, the police budget got a 17.5 per cent boost over last year. Because the force is a labor intensive organization, about 84 per cent of that goes toward wages and benefits.

## Anti-metric campaign has 3,000 signatures

Fresh from a Florida vacation, Georgetown resident Erna De Rose has resumed her campaign against the federal government's ongoing "metrication" program which recently usurped "pounds" from grocers' meat counters in favor of "kilograms".

Mrs. De Rose, who began her campaign in late January collecting signatures inside the Georgetown Market Place Loblaws outlet, was asking Zeller's residents Saturday if they support Canada's shift to metric measure. So far, she has over 3,000 signatures saying local consumers don't.

Mrs. De Rose told The Herald this week that the metrication program is another attempt by the federal government to "govern and regulate every aspect of our lives", adding that she hopes to deliver the petition to Brampton-Georgetown Conservative MP John McDermid by the end of the month "or later" depending on continued enthusiasm from the public for her endeavor.

A similar anti-metric campaign launched by the Toronto Sun recently has already collected 40,000 mail-in coupons from readers opposed to the demise of the Imperial system, Mrs. De Rose noted.

Mrs. De Rose's campaign moves to the Canadian Tire store this weekend where she plans to collect signatures all day Friday as well as a stretch of Saturday.

While volunteers have been carrying Mrs. De Rose's efforts into several area industries during her vacation, there's still room for some extra assistance.