

Halton faces four options in dealing with housing issues

Judging by the number of people who attended regional chairman Jack Rafitis' "Housing in the Eighties" workshop last Thursday, many agree that, within the region's policy-making scope, housing issues have been largely unaddressed.

About 200 people, representing developers, government and social service and consumer groups, participated in the one-day event held in Burlington's Holiday Inn. The issues, such as restrictions on new development, the role of the federal and provincial governments in the housing market and the need for certain types of housing to meet specific social conditions, were debated in a series of three panel sessions.

Summarizing the comments made during the sessions, moderator Peter Barnard, a housing economist, said the region has four choices in its approach to the housing issue.

He told the audience that housing interest groups should consider the "three Cs: co-operation, commitment and co-ordination". The co-operation,

Mr. Barnard said, must exist among private developers, the region and government agencies and ministries to build more and better housing; on the other hand, Halton should commit itself financially or by co-ordinating programs to build up Halton's housing inventory.

OPTIONS

Mr. Barnard agreed the region has the option of doing nothing, hoping that the housing problems will correct itself under the status quo.

But there are three other, more involved options for the region: it could start research on Halton's housing problems—a housing study has already been proposed and is being reviewed by Halton's planning staff; or the region could set housing objectives for itself and take a more critical look at regulations it has which are thwarting new housing development.

In a most active scenario, Halton would plan budgets and staffing allotments to get involved with the housing industry, especially meeting the demand for subsidized accommodation

and housing for the physically and mentally handicapped.

Peel region's Non-Profit Housing Corp., the audience was informed earlier, has been organizing new housing projects since 1978, working closely with the development industry to ensure that Peel's housing inventory has something for just about every-

the regional administration is not insensitive to the housing needs of Halton and anticipated that it would "play a more important role to assist our housing needs" in the future.

Similar workshops, he said, may be sponsored by the region to deal with other social issues like children's services needs and Halton's growing elderly population.

Mr. Rafitis later told The Herald that it's likely Halton will do a housing study within a year. He said that enough regional councillors were at the workshop to make a commitment to this first step in addressing the housing issue.

One thing was made clear from the panel discussions, he said: the regional administration, and not the local municipalities, is expected to co-ordinate any intensive change in Halton's housing picture.

Housing issues of the eighties: a series of articles by Chris Aagaard

body. As an agency of the region affiliated with the social services department, it can take advantage of housing grants which may not be available to the private sector.

Over the last five years, the corporation's projects have earned Peel more than \$6 million in new tax revenue and its costs are not borne by taxpayers.

Mr. Rafitis commented, as he brought the workshop to a close, that



The message from the development industry was clear at last week's housing conference sponsored by regional chairman Jack Rafitis: If you want more of these, the region must be a little more flexible in helping new projects get off the ground. One businessman suggested that a person within the regional administration might assist developers through the lengthy — and discouraging — subdivision approval process. As many as 24 different agencies are asked to comment on housing proposals, and some chose to force often difficult changes before they endorse plans. (Herald photo)

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CAMPAIGN KICK OFF



The sun was shining brightly Saturday as Mayor Pete Pomeroy (left) joined Red Cross volunteers in hoisting up the flag for Red Cross month at the town's Trafalgar Road offices. Joining him were (left to right) 80-pint donor and area captain Trevor Williams, area

co-ordinator Kenneth Baskin, campaign vice-chairman Rose Marie Baskin public relations chairman Doris Tretter, and Marc Baskin, 7, sister Monique, 5, and Peter Tretter, 4. (Herald photo)

Pleads guilty to stabbing young mother

Kellar gets life sentence for 1981 Acton murder

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

Convicted of second-degree murder in the stabbing death of Acton housewife Colleen Oates, Eric Howard Kellar, 33, pleaded guilty and was sentenced Tuesday morning in Ontario Supreme Court to life imprisonment. He is eligible for parole after 17 years.

Mrs. Oates, 22, was stabbed to death Oct. 22, 1981, at her Bower Street residence. The mother of two young children, 3 years and 3 months old at the time, was found by her husband Kevin, then 23.

"This is a horrible killing. A photograph entered as an exhibit clearly indicates the savagery of the attack," Chief Justice Gregory Evans said. "Some 50 wounds, many of which apparently were following the death of this unfortunate woman."

"I always find it difficult to reconcile an attack of this kind with a person who is not in the category of an insane person," he said.

NOT INSANE

From psychiatric reports on Mr. Kellar, the judge said it was clear that Mr. Kellar was not insane, but did suffer from a severe personality disorder and was addicted to alcohol.

"The reports don't indicate you are psychotic," Judge Evans told Mr. Kellar in his sentencing address. "We have a long history of emotional problems as far as you are concerned."

Mr. Kellar has a criminal record of break and enters and theft from his 20s, crown attorney James Treleaven told the court. In 1980 he was convicted of indecent assault on a girl who suffered vaginal injuries from the incident, he said.

Mr. Kellar served the maximum period of 15 months and was released from the Ontario Correctional Institute Oct. 6, 1981.

Following his release, Mr. Kellar went to live with his sister and her common-law husband on Acton's Bower Street. He became acquainted with the Oates because his relatives were friends of theirs, Mr. Treleaven said.

RECEIVED CHEQUE
Tracing the events leading to the Oct. 22

Mr. Oates had to leave for work early in the evening. The male friends left too.

Mr. Treleaven said the murder victim expressed some concern about being left alone with Mr. Kellar, to her husband, but was appeased knowing the relatives were next door.

At 8:40 p.m. Mr. Kellar invited a neighbor to join them. Susan Patterson drank with them until midnight when she left Mr. Kellar and Mrs. Oates alone.

REJECTED ADVANCES
The Crown Attorney said modest sexual advances were made towards both ladies and they were rejected.

A pizza was ordered, and at 2 a.m. Mrs. Oates phoned her husband at work in Bramalea and asked him to come home,

expressing concern about Mr. Kellar being in the residence, Mr. Treleaven said.

Mr. Oates advised his wife to tell Mr. Kellar to leave, he said. When he tried to call his wife a little later, he got a busy signal. Concerned, Mr. Oates came home at 4 a.m. to find a broken bread knife in the kitchen and his wife on the floor, Mr. Treleaven said.

The post mortem report noted multiple stab wounds to the neck, chest, abdomen and limbs, many of which were deeply penetrating, the Crown Attorney told the court.

Most of the major arteries in the neck had been cut causing massive hemorrhaging, he said. Knife wounds had penetrated the abdominal cav-

ity cutting through the intestines, and there were knife wounds to the anus and vulva.

50 WOUNDS

"At least 50 separate knife wounds were identified to the right shoulder, the right lower abdomen and the left breast," Mr. Treleaven said.

Leaving the apartment after the stabbing, Mr. Kellar left Acton, travelling eventually to Pickering where he was arrested without incident by Halton and Durham regional police forces Oct. 25.

"It's hard to imagine a more vicious, callous crime than that which you perpetrated on the young mother," Chief Justice Evans said. "There was no evidence that there was any excessive drink

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'PTR' a stumbling block in teacher's contract

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

Although refusing to go to arbitration, the Halton board of education acknowledged Monday morning an impasse in negotiations with its 1,250 elementary school teachers.

Staffing for 1983-84 is the outstanding issue dividing the two sides.

Teachers have been working without a contract since September 1982. Negotiations have been especially long-winded, with both sides having begun in February 1982 to settle an agreement for the 1982-83 school year.

"The board believes its offer to its teachers to be fair in all respects, especially in light of today's

economy," trustee and salary policy committee chairman Elaine Riehm said at a specially called press conference in the Burlington board offices Monday.

OFFER MADE

Elementary teachers have been offered a nine per cent increase retroactive to September 1982, which is the maximum allowed within the guidelines of the provincial government's inflation restraint act passed in December. This offer provides a weighted average salary of \$31,756 for an elementary school teacher.

However, salaries aren't the stumbling block in the talks. Staffing is.

The Halton Elementary

Teachers' Association (HETA) is looking for an additional 36 teachers for 1983-84, but the board is only willing to take on 24 more.

The additional 12 teachers HETA is bargaining for would, based on an average teacher's salary and benefits, cost the board an extra \$399,072.

HETA president Robert Filman said the cost for the year to the average ratepayer, with a home assessed at \$8,000, would be \$2.52.

ACCEPTABLE

"We consider it an acceptable figure," he told reporters Monday. "The amount of money I'm talking about is reasonable and responsible."

However, the board

maintains it had a three-year agreement regarding staffing negotiated with HETA in the September 1981 collective agreement.

"We thought the issue of staffing had been solved for three years," Mrs. Riehm said. "We were really surprised that the issue arose at all. It should not have been an issue."

The collective agreement provided for the addition of 34 teachers in September 1982 and 24 in September 1983, with the aim of reducing the pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) from 20.9 to 20.0:1 by September 1983. The PTR is currently 20.4:1.

The board has said although the agreement

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Armed robbery

Two female juveniles were apprehended Monday and charged with robbery in connection with the armed robbery of two elderly Poplar Drive women.

The two elderly women were confronted by a female thief in their Acton residence, wearing a stocking mask and brandishing a knife Sunday night.

The thief demanded money from the women but fled the scene with only food stuffs when one of the women put up a struggle, Halton regional police said.

Neither elderly lady was hurt. Police searched the area for the juveniles and a short foot pursuit ensued, but the suspects eluded police. Following an investigation, a 13-year old and a 15-year old girl were apprehended. They'll be appearing in juvenile court.

False name

A Georgetown man who gave police a false name when stopped for a traffic offence was charged Saturday with obstructing police.

The man had been stopped on Milton's Sideroad 5 Friday and identified himself falsely to Halton regional police officer.

Women hospitalized

A 20-year-old Georgetown woman was taken to Georgetown Memorial Hospital by ambulance Feb. 23 following a two-car collision. Joanne Emmerson suffered minor injuries in the \$2,800 damages accident.

A vehicle was westbound along Guelph Street near Durham Street in Georgetown and when it stopped for traffic was hit from the rear by a second car.

Service work sentence

David Hall of Acton was sentenced Friday to 150 hours of community service work for his part in the theft of \$9,000 worth of leather from Beardmore Tannery last fall.

Canaries burn

Fifty canaries died Saturday morning in a fire on the Meadow Glen Mushroom Growers property at 210 Mountainview Rd. N. The birds were raised as a hobby by Meadow Glen employee Helge Puggaard and were in a coop attached to Mr. Puggaard's mobile home. Deputy fire chief Bob Hyde said there was an estimated \$4,000 damage in the fire started due to a faulty extension cord. The coop was burned and there was some damage to the trailer's siding and car port.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Entertainment:



The fantasy world of "Nurse Jane Goes to Hollywood" takes over John Elliott Theatre. Playwright Allan Stratton mocks the avant garde set of urban Canada.

There were 160 photographs submitted at Photo Art '83. The juried art exhibit of local camera buffs opens its doors tonight. Page A10

Community:

Day of prayer plans in Ballinasfad. Limehouse quilters set for weekly lessons. Page B6

Sports:

GDHS Rebels made off with Peel-Halton Championships. Page B1.

Opinion:

Daily traffic danger faced by Georgetown school children. Page A6.

Farmer differs on rural roads issue

While acknowledging the forceful cry of outrage last week by a citizens' group angered at the condition of a number of rural roads in town, Steeles Avenue farmer Peter Branch appeared before the town's general committee Monday night to present "another point of view before the public."

He urged committee members not to act hastily in light of last week's delegation of the Rural Roads Improvement committee which virtually demanded that the town repair the north-eastern stretches of the Ninth and Tenth Lines, as well as Sideroad 27.

The town's current road policy, in which it has tried to completely reconstruct sections of at least one rural road a year, has worked well, Mr. Branch noted, and has avoided high tax increases for the ratepayers.

Through the policy, he said, "the town has maintained good road maintenance and maintained sensible taxes." Changing this balanced approach of the policy might not have the desired effects on road reconstruction in the rural area.

Mr. Branch recalled that the town had faced the Ninth Line about eight years ago to

prepare for the International Plowing Match which was hosted here. Because the road was "done in haste", Mr. Branch argues, the region (which has since assumed responsibility for the route) must continually repair it.

When he moved to the rural area, he said he realized there was no promise of better services and roads which he enjoyed in the city.

Gravel roads, with their accompanying potholes, may take some of the charms out of living in rural areas, Mr. Branch commented, adding that rural life still has advantages over urban residency.



A LION'S SHARE OF ACCOLADES

It was a fine party Saturday night honoring Esme Ball's 25 years of community contributions. Hosted by the Georgetown Lions Club, the "do" presented Mrs. Ball with a plaque recognizing her as Citizen of the Year. A quiet worker in the community, credited with starting up

the girl guides, she has been employed by the library for over 14 years. Mrs. Ball was feted by (left to right) Lions Club president Ken Neely, and former girl guides Dawn Livingstone and June Lenz (far right). (Herald photo)