

Region seeks solutions to big lawsuits

Insurance companies have been burned one too many times and Halton region is finding itself in a dilemma getting coverage for environmental spills.

It's not the only one. Neighboring regions and their municipalities are also finding themselves unable to get coverage against the liabilities the new environmental legislation places upon them.

Last week, the region's administration and finance committee members asked their treasurer to work towards setting up an environmental insurance fund on a "pool" basis with the region's four municipalities.

As well, the treasurer is to look into a pooling of finances on a provincial basis to establish an Environmental Compensation Fund.

The spills bill places complete responsibility, financially as well as otherwise, on Halton should there be any spill related to municipal operations using hazardous substances (such as chemicals in water and sewer plants, salt and asphalt on roads) with no upper limit on liability. Furthermore, the purchaser of hazardous substances is held responsible during transportation of these hazardous substances.

"It's not a question of not accepting our responsibility. It's, what in the world is going to happen to the insurance industry when you're getting claims of this magnitude?" Oakville Coun. Carol Gooding said, of the region's move. "It's really quite a horrendous problem. We just simply don't know the ramifications of this

whole new ball game."

Regional Treasurer Joe Rinaldo said he was worried about the open-ended coverage that limits how much the region's insurer is willing to pay out. Right now, it's \$10 million.

The Frank Cowan Company currently insuring Halton and its four area municipalities has been unable to confirm pollution coverage would be available in January. If it's not available, the region would be vulnerable to significant financial losses, Mr. Rinaldo reported.

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett recalled the spill of sludge four years ago on Bronte Road when a regional truck tipped over. Regional Administrator Dennis Perlin said there were no lawsuits brought against Halton as a result and the cost of clean-up was covered by the region.

"I can't ever remember seeing the windows of insurance companies boarded up - the odd bank, but not the insurance companies," Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy commented.

He said he would like to see a large priced deductible taken out by the region and let the insurance people worry about the ceiling.

Coun. Mike Armstrong called councillors "such do-gooders" and said he wanted to see a great deal of emphasis being put on environmental co-operation among the municipal governments in the province.

"They've (provincial government) goofed, clearly and simply goofed, and hopefully they will recognize that and help take care of the region," Coun. Armstrong said.



FLOATING ABOUT

Perhaps the Acton YMCA Daycare float in the Acton Santa Claus parade Saturday was just too comfortable. Most children found the event thrilling or at least curious. (Herald photo)

Milton woman wins Farmer of the Year

For the first time a woman has won the Halton Farmer of the Year Award. Barb Ford from the Fifth Line, south of Britannia Road in Milton received her award from retired dairy farmer Ross Segsworth at the Acton Legion Friday night.

Mrs. Ford is also a dairy farmer, and she is married to a dairy farmer, Clarence Ford. The competition between the five nominated was very close, said Phyllis MacMaster, the Ministry of Agriculture representative for Halton.

The award is based on special achievements in 1984, contributions to the local farm organizations and the community, and past agricultural achievements.

Mrs. Ford received a certificate of quality milk production in 1984, and she

sold three dairy cows to Columbia. Her herd is known for quality. Last year her cattle achieved seven 'excellent' and 25 'very goods'.

She and her husband are partners in a 340-acre farm, 100 acres they rent, and have 100 Holsteins. Each operates their part of the farm separately. Mrs. Ford inherited part of the farm from her father, who was also a dairy farmer.

The evening was sponsored by the Halton Federation of Agriculture. Two \$300 scholarships were given to young farmers pursuing an education in agriculture. Charles Bird from the Eighth Line in Georgetown and Greg Stemman of Milton won the prizes. Charles Bird is in his first year at the Kemptville College of Agriculture and Technology.

Food deliveries at Christmas help make them 'good neighbors'

Every year for the past 25 years, the Good Neighbor Service has tried to make certain everyone has had a good Christmas. Working with churches, service clubs, police and firefighters the Good Neighbor Service delivers food and toys to those who cannot afford a Christmas meal and gifts for their children.

"Often I go into a house and there are a lot of tears. I've had a woman put her arms around me and kiss me. I've also been in places with dirt floors," Pearce Porter said. He assists the chairman of the Good Neighbor Service, Mrs. VanHoekelen.

The number of needy families who receive deliveries in Halton Hills range from 75 to 120. That number depends upon the economy, Mr. Porter said. Families get about \$120 in food, including a 12 to 20 pound turkey. The amount depends on the size of the family, Mr. Porter said.

Deliveries of food can be made after Dec. 16 at 265 Guelph St. in Georgetown between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. If you know someone who needs the service call 877-4357 or 877-3255. Names will be accepted as late as Dec. 23.

The names on the delivery list come from ministers, welfare, or people who know someone who needs help. The Good Neighbor Service is considering having two deliveries a year. The other date could be Easter, Mr. Porter said.

The service would not succeed without the help of the community, he said. "Many merchants donate and we don't even have to ask," he added.

The Lions, the Lionesses, the

Legion, the Kinettes help every year. Toys are the Kinettes' department. Food is collected at the schools and picked up by the police. Firefighters help by making deliveries to rural homes because they know the side-roads so well.

Boy hit by car

Lloyd Rokols, 7, of 114 Poplar Ave. in Acton suffered major injuries and was transported to the Hospital for Sick Children after he was hit by a car on Young Street near Peel Street in Acton Nov. 18.

The accident happened at 4:15 p.m. Lloyd was standing on the Young Street curb and darted into the road just as a car was two to four meters away, police said.

The car, a 1980 Ford, was driven by an Acton man who swerved to the left and braked but could not avoid the boy, police said. Lloyd is still at the Hospital for Sick Children where his condition is listed as 'good'.

Mud highway

Mud is being spread all over Eighth Line by the wheels of trucks leaving the Albion Sand and Gravel Ltd. pit.

The town engineer recently told members of the pits and quarries committee that he's negotiating with the operators and owners of the gravel pit to resolve the dirty problem.

The pit is located at Lot 23, Concession 8. Trucks leaving that area are fouling the highway with mud.

Liberals prepare for election, 4 ridings

The Halton-Burlington Liberal Riding Association revised their constitution and elected a larger executive at their 10th anniversary supper Friday night.

The changes will help prepare the riding for a provincial election, as well as help prepare for a possible fourth riding in Halton, said David Steckley, executive vice-president. Don Knight also gave a report from Queen's Park at the supper.

Executive membership was increased from nine to 15 members. Each area of the riding now has a director. The area director for Acton is Gord Dawe, Georgetown's director is Bill Manderson and in Esqueness the director is Carol Lawson.

New committee chairs from Halton Hills are chairman of election preparedness, David Blaney; chairman of communication, Jim Coenigsburger; chairman of finance, Don Heath and chairman of young Liberal liaison, Charlie Gibbs.

Don Knight made a presentation to the past five presidents and the present one, Al Wilson, for their contributions to the association. Among those past presidents were Halton Hills residents Grant Caseley, Frank Allen and Dolly Moulden. Kay Lawson of Acton was made an honorary life member of the association.

The evening concluded with a chinese auction which raised \$140.

First chimney fire

Firefighters were called to 8 Clare Ct. in Acton at 3:57 p.m. Sunday to put out the first chimney fire of the season. There was no damage.

No casualties

For the first summer in a long time, the town didn't have a young person drinking and driving and smashing up, causing fatalities, the chairman of the Halton Hills Anti-Drinking and Driving Committee said Monday night.

"THANK YOU"



WITH YOUR VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IT WILL BE MY PLEASURE TO SERVE ALL RESIDENTS OF WARD TWO.

ACTIVE AND COMMITTED
JOE HEWITT

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