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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1986

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Halton consulted

Rail safety committee wants input

By PETER HAGGERT
Toronto Bureau

TORONTO—A task force, studying the safe carriage of dangerous goods by rail in the Toronto area, will be in constant contact with Halton Region municipalities, says the task force chairman Harold Gilbert.

Mr. Gilbert, the former provincial deputy minister of transport and communications, met with reporters Wednesday to outline the strategy to be taken by his federally appointed task force.

"We have already advised regional municipalities of our existence and have asked for input. We have heard back from a number of municipalities saying they will be providing information," Mr. Gilbert said.

The chairman said input concerning rail safety problems will be solicited from the regions of Halton, Peel, Durham and York.

Concern has been expressed by municipalities around Toronto, said Mr. Gilbert, adding that the municipalities don't want future safety plans to interfere with local transit service.

The task force will examine the safety of transporting dangerous goods through Toronto and study whether there are alternatives to present transportation routes or methods.

"If goods are not carried by rail, then they have to be carried by some other mode," Mr. Gilbert said. Adding that the most likely alternative would be to transport by truck. He said that

would open up another area of concern. The chairman said two per cent in the Toronto area carry dangerous goods and "that affects 30 per cent of total train movement in the area."

The task force will consider relocating rail lines or rerouting current rail routes.

"Moving railroads can be very costly," said Mr. Gilbert, adding that expense of alternatives will also be a consideration.

Mr. Gilbert said the study will use previous reports, government commissioned or railway produced, as reference. "Some of the suggestions are very sketchy. You talk to the authors of those reports and they are the first to admit it," Mr. Gilbert said.

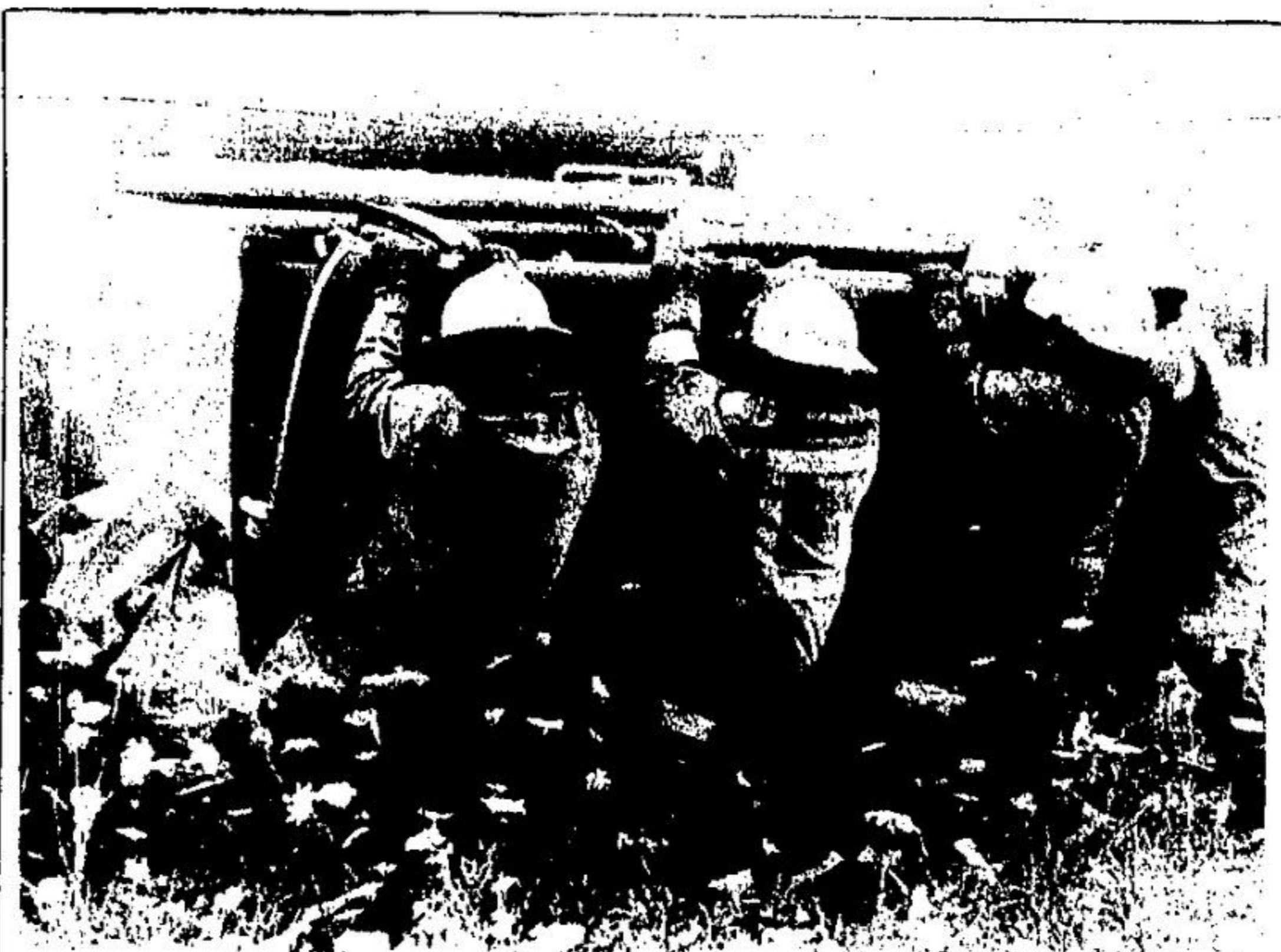
The task force was struck in March after a series of rail accidents, including the upset of acid carrying tanker cars in Medonte, near Parry Sound. The task force will make recommendations to federal transport minister John Crosbie in March, 1988.

During the study Mr. Gilbert said the public will be consulted constantly and public hearings will be held "prior to the task force coming up with any major recommendations."

Public hearing are expected in July of 1987.

"I don't want to go to the minister with recommendations so-called out-of-the-sky as far as the public is concerned," Mr. Gilbert said.

"We have a safe rail system in Canada," Mr. Gilbert said. "We have to have the rail carrying dangerous goods. Let's just carry them as safely as possible."



Teamwork

After getting the top of the station wagon off, firefighters and members of the Georgetown Volunteer Georgetown volunteer firefighters had access to the victim of the simulated crash on a simulated auto accident behind the Georgetown fire station on Maple Avenue. (Herald photo)

Butts out the goal of Project Smokeless

Herald Special
Halton Region could ban smoking in regional buildings as early as Sept. 1 if council approves Project Smokeless.

In a report to social services committee Monday, Halton's medical officer of health, Dr. Graham Pollett, said designated smoking areas have been set out in regional facilities. Smoking will be permitted only in those specific areas.

Regional lawyer Ken Anderson said the method worked out will meet legal tests as well as the region's responsibilities under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. New staffers will also be made aware of the regulations before they start work.

Mr. Anderson assured committee members there has been no loss of productivity in his own department even though three of the staffers smoke and smoking was banned in the legal department five years ago.

The region will also share half the cost of a stop-smoking program offered to staffers to a maximum of \$200 each. Mr. Pollett said he could see no way the region's share of such a program should not exceed its budget.

The region will be asked to budget \$24,000 to cover the cost of the stop smoking program, the no smoking signs and fans to increase ventilation in designated smoking areas in certain buildings.

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz, a nonsmoker, said he disliked the idea of spending money on such items.

"You and I should quit voluntarily in light of the health information available," he told committee members. "The money would be better spent on paving a quarter mile of municipal road. But if it will save a life I'll support it."

Mr. Anderson pointed out a private member's bill banning smoking totally from the public workplace has already received first reading at Queen's Park.

Courtesy Guelph Mercury

Public, separate schools won't share facilities

It will be years before the Halton Board of Education will sell a school to the Halton Roman Catholic Separate School Board for \$1.

New Ministry of Education regulations state secondary schools not used by the public board can be sold to the separate board for \$1 if the separate board needs a secondary school. Elementary schools are not affected by the new regulations.

As compensation from the Ministry of Education the public board receives a once only grant of \$600 for every pupil place in the sold secondary school. The separate boards must pay any debt the school has.

There are no secondary schools in Halton that have a low enough enrolment, now or in the near future, to be affected by the new regulation, said Jerry Jenkins the Halton Board's superintendent of business services. The secondary schools in north Halton have more than high enough enrolments.

A section of the regulations which may have some effect on Halton in

the future is the sharing of secondary schools between the separate and public boards. The Ministry of Education requests public high schools with low enrolments share their space with the separate school board. If the separate board needs the space.



Arlene Bruce

The separate board would have their own territory within the public high school. The public board would be given a once only \$750 grant for each pupil space they give to the separate board.

Sharing is possible in some of the larger high schools in Oakville and

Burlington but not in Halton Hills. Trustee Arlene Bruce said. She favors the idea, especially if the programs of both systems are improved by students taking some classes together. Classes which couldn't be offered at either system because of low enrolments.

North Halton's new high school, Bishop Reding Secondary School, will not be affected by the new regulations. There are no high schools to buy in Halton, and sharing would only be a short term solution, said Cliff Byrnes, the separate board's director.

"Our numbers are such that we should be able to establish our own identity," Director Byrnes said. In its first year Bishop Reding Secondary School should have about 210 Grade 9 students. An additional grade will be added each year until Bishop Reding has all high school grades and a population of around 1,000 students.

The separate school board would like to be leasing Sneyside Public School in September until a high school is built in Milton. That new high school should be completed in September, 1989.

The new regulations of the Ministry of Education are also on leasing. Public Secondary schools can be leased for \$1. They must be leased for a minimum of five years and the separate board must assume the debts of the school.

As compensation for leasing, the public board gets a once only \$500 per pupil space grant. There are no high schools to lease in Halton, Superintendent Jenkins said.

Leasing and buying public secondary schools for \$1 is a fair compensation to separate school taxpayers, Director Byrnes said. Separate school taxpayers have been paying into the public secondary schools for years, he said.

March centres on Chernobyl victims

A 100-kilometre hike dedicated to the Ukrainian children taken from their families by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster highlighted activities for 40 young people at Camp Weselka this summer.

Weselka, at Lot 31, Con. 5, Halton Hills, is run by the Ukrainian Youth Association and has operated as their Ontario camp for more than 30 years. In English the name means rainbow.

Camp counsellor Stephen Bandera, 16, of Toronto, said much of the discussion during the three-week camp period centred around Chernobyl and the severe fire at its nuclear plant earlier this spring.

The campers, aged six to 13, have written to external affairs minister Joe Clark demanding the press the Russians to release more information about the disaster.

They have held a mock court of inquiry seeking evidence from a plant worker and members of the government. One young man has even writ-

ten to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

After learning how many young Ukrainian children were taken from their parents and sent to safety at camps far from the disaster site, the youngsters decided to dedicate a hike to those children.

Forty boys and girls aged 12 and 13 left a drop-off point north of Orangeville Monday and followed the 100-kilometre route along the Bruce Trail to Terra Cotta. They arrived Thursday.

Long hikes are a regular part of Weselka activities but the purpose behind the trek is not.

"We figured at 100 kilometres times 40 people that was 4,000 kilometres we marched for the children of the Ukraine," Bandera said.

The hike combined both the major aspects of Weselka's purpose. The children come to learn more of their cultural heritage as well as enjoy sports and the usual camp activities. —Courtesy Guelph Mercury

IN THE HILLS

Labor pool

Mayor Russ Miller and Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy are sending out word to companies who may need a ready and eager labor pool.

Acton's Beardmore tannery is closing September 12 and about 330 employees will lose their jobs if a buyer can't be found for the processing plant.

In a letter to Halton companies, Mr. Miller and Mr. Pomeroy are asking about anticipated new jobs that would be suitable to the displaced Beardmore workers.

Report finished

The North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded annual report is now available.

The report provides highlights of the past year, recognizes the many individuals and groups who helped to support the Association and points to some of the issues and trends which the agency will face in the year ahead.

Copies are available on request by calling 877-5557.

Sailboard regatta

Board sailing enthusiasts can test their skills against the competition at the Kelso White Cap Sailboard Regatta Aug. 24.

Registration is \$5 and takes place at the Kelso Conservation Area in Milton between 8 and 9 a.m. The first race begins at 10 a.m. Awards will be presented at 4 p.m.

Clarification

In a page one story in The Herald July 23 about cost-sharing of school swimming pools, it was said Burlington and Oakville recreation

departments refused to share the cost of maintaining their pools.

Actually, the municipalities only received and filed a request to share swimming pool maintenance costs.

On the air

Radio Sri Lanka is on the air. For the first time in Canada a radio show on Sri Lankan issues and in Sri Lankan languages will be broadcast. That first time will be August 10 from 9 to 10 p.m. and every Sunday thereafter.

The radio station is CKMW in Brampton. The show is hosted by Rohan Swaminathan and will feature news, music and interviews. Languages spoken include Sinhalese and Tamil. For more information contact Mr. Swaminathan at 453-7111 or 453-1964.

Day care study

By this fall, Halton Region should have a structural analysis of the Maple Avenue Day Care Centre.

Owned by the Region, this day care centre is being looked at as part of an update of the 1982 day care study. The study update is being done by Regional staff.

Halton is also doing a structural analysis of the Sedgewick Crescent Day Care Centre. The two studies are estimated to cost \$5,000 and should be completed in time for the 1987 budget preparations.

Until the provincial government comes out with its White Paper on day care, David Szware of the Region's Social Services department doesn't think Halton should undertake a more in-depth look at the current day care situation in the Region.

The study update would look at expanding or changing the three existing Regional day care centres, assessing the child care needs in Halton and updating the 1982 study on day care.

Recommendations

Council urges new ways for public input

Councillors want to make public meetings easier for residents to share their input.

Concerned by a hot, overcrowded meeting recently which lasted past midnight, council decided to make some suggestions to prevent the same situation from happening.

At a development review meeting Monday councillors discussed ways to improve the public meeting format.

Consideration was given to holding public meetings in another location than the Trafalgar Road council chambers to prevent overcrowding. "I'm in full agreement of getting them out of this building if possible," said Coun. Joe Hewitt.

He also read a survey from Wildwood Road residents which indicated many were not satisfied with

the notice given for public meetings.

Assistant Clerk Stephen Thomson said the planning department advertises in local newspapers 35 days in advance of a public meeting. Then a courtesy reminder is advertised and signs are posted on the site requesting input. "What else can we do?" Mr. Thomson asked.

Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson suggested an additional sign be posted on the site in question with the actual date of the meeting.

To keep meetings from dragging on for hours, councillors talked about holding public meetings on a different night than when council meets (Monday).

"I don't want to see every public meeting on a separate night because not all are controversial," said Coun. Pam Sheldon.



Pam Sheldon



Betty Fisher

Council has to be aware of "audience sensitivity" and make sure that residents are getting direct answers to their questions at meetings, said Coun. Betty Fisher.

Councillors should only ask questions for clarification and allow the public to have their complete say. "It gives the public their right," by not having council ask questions, Coun. Fisher said.

In defence of the planning department, it's difficult to answer queries without knowing the questions in advance, said Coun. Sheldon. She said residents need to have the next steps explained to them in the public input process.

Coun. Norm Elliott said his biggest concern was if council ever held a public meeting in council chambers like the last over-crowded one.

The public were reading over councillors' shoulders and it was intimidating, he said.



Where are the clowns?

Forty Acton children and their adult supervisors were the guests of Acton Welding who supplied tickets to the Garden Bros. Circus. Ted

Tyler donated the bus ride to Burlington for the July 29 trip. Seen here with bus driver Joanne Miller are Ken (left) and Tim Rokols. (Herald photo)