

Local homemakers join march on Queen's Park

Local North Halton Red Cross homemakers joined over 500 people in a march on Queen's Park Monday, to lobby the provincial government for higher wages.

North Halton Supervisor Valerie Cook said 10 Red Cross homemakers hit the pavement at Monday's rally demanding starting wages be upped from \$5.54 to \$7 an hour.

The provincial government presently pays Red Cross a total of \$8.80 for each hour worked by homemakers who perform services for the elderly and infirm - cooking, cleaning, shopping and doing laundry.

"We'd like to pay the women more," said Mrs. Cook, who said

the wage range is between \$5.54 an hour and \$6.62 an hour. One woman working as a homemaker for 15 years makes only \$6.62, she said.

But Red Cross cannot afford to pay its workers more without government assistance. North Halton operated last year on a \$15,000 deficit. The overall deficit for Ontario is \$1.1 million.

"Where would Red Cross get this money?" said Mrs. Cook. "By the time you pay the girls, transportation and office staff wages, your money's gone."

Since 1986, Red Cross has sent several letters to the provincial government - including the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Social

Services - requesting more funding.

"We were ignored," said Mrs. Cook, "(so) we threatened to go out of business by the end of June."

In a Dec. 5 letter to Ontario Treasurer Robert Nixon, Red Cross Commissioner Douglas Franklin said if Red Cross could not "break even" during the fiscal year, there would be an immediate "orderly withdrawal" of homemaker services province-wide.

And the areas hardest hit by such a withdrawal would be the rural clients, said Mr. Franklin. He said 75 per cent of the elderly and infirm served by homemakers are in rural areas. Mrs. Cook add-

ed that many clients in North Halton are in the rural areas, including Terra Cotta.

The provincial government agreed to consider paying the province-wide deficit of \$1.1 million, said Mrs. Cook, but not without a fight.

"We screamed and we're getting some action," she said. "Mr. (John) Sweeney (Minister of Community and Social Services) and Mrs. (Elinor) Caplan (Minister of Health) have to sit down and decide where we get this money from, to increase our rates," she said.

However, the provincial government will release details of possible funding at a Jan. 21 committee

meeting of the Red Cross at their Mississauga headquarters, said Mrs. Cook.

The Red Cross "will be discussing the (funding) ultimatum given to Mr. Nixon," she said.

Horticultural meeting

The Acton Horticultural Society will open the new year with a meeting this Tuesday, Jan. 17 at Knox Presbyterian Church in Acton.

Guest speaker for the evening will be Bob Hankinson of Dominion Seed House, who will discuss "What's new for 1989."

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m.

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In the hills

Newcomers meet

New to town? So are we.

The Georgetown Newcomers Club holds meetings that are of interest to women, but there are also family outings offered, and monthly social clubs to include spouses.

Georgetown Newcomers will meet Wednesday, Jan. 18 at St. Andrew's United Church, 89 Mountainview Road South, in Georgetown at 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker is Barbara Martin, a skin care and make-up consultant from Mary Kay Cosmetics. Scarf-tying will also be demonstrated.

For more information, contact Deb at 877-7878, or Elaine at 873-0200.

Car wash

The public will have their say about a proposed new automatic car wash to be located on the grounds of the Georgetown Toyota dealership on the north-east corner of Guelph Street and Armstrong Avenue.

The application, submitted by Georgetown Chrysler Ltd., will likely mean the land needs rezoning, a planning report says.

Currently, the land is being used for overflow parking for the Toyota dealership.

The town will be holding a public meeting on the application.

Town retains same law firm

The Toronto law firm of Thomson, Rogers have been hired by the town - again - to help fight the proposed Acton landfill site.

The town passed a motion to hire the law firm late last year but on a request by the citizens group POWER (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources) the town asked for proposals from eight law firms, including Thomson, Rogers. Seven proposals were submitted to the town and four firms were interviewed.

The interviewing team of administrator clerk Dan Costea, and lawyers Fred Nelson of Helson, Kogan, Ashbee and Schaljo, and Peter Walker, of Walker, Wright, Young and Associates unanimously chose Thomson, Rogers, said Mr. Costea.

Chamber OKs amalgamation

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce voted unanimously to accept bylaw changes, allowing for the amalgamation of the Acton and Georgetown chambers Tuesday.

Georgetown Chamber president Murray Lawton said the bylaws were accepted relatively quickly at the chamber meeting in Georgetown.

More than 30 directors and members were present.

Acton's chamber members voted to amalgamate at a meeting in November.

The two chambers will "rubber stamp" the amalgamation at a

meeting on Jan. 28 at the Acton Legion.

That meeting, which was originally scheduled to be the annual meeting of the Acton chamber, will be more of a celebration, said Mr. Lawton.

After a short meeting to approve the amalgamation, a dinner and dance will follow. Mr. Lawton is expecting 200 to 250 people at the Jan. 28 meeting.

Tickets are \$10 each and are available at the Georgetown Chamber office at Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena or by calling 877-7119.

the HERALD

Outlook

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Crooks Capture-ed live

Convicted suspects in Halton Region will be captured on "Capture", a video system that files mugshots on a computer disc.

Capture was implemented by Halton Regional Police two months ago, when Identification Systems Incorporated, a Canadian computer firm, lent the \$85,000 system to the force on a trial basis. ISI asked Halton police to demonstrate the system to other police forces.

Some 10 forces, including Metro Toronto, Peel, Hamilton-Wentworth and Durham visited the Halton Regional Police Headquarters in Oakville recently to preview what is considered "a first in the world."

"We're the only force doing live entry of mugshots," said Identification Technician, Chris Ellison. Mr. Ellison said one Capture Computer disc holds 25,000 images and descriptions, and cost only \$250 per disc based on a two-year replacement.

The equivalent number of photographs taken with 35 mm film would cost \$4,000 for the blank film itself, and added costs for chemicals to process the prints. Capture would "pay for itself pretty fast," he said.

To set up the video shot, Mr. Ellison prepares the subject's information beforehand, entering the criminal investigation number into the computer. The subject is taken to the videotape room, where he is told to stand in a designated spot and to hold his head a certain way, as is done with photographed mugshots. A monitor screen in the background lets the technician see his film work.

Mugshots taken in the last year on 35 mm film will be entered into Capture. But other photographs, from among the 48,000 collected by Halton police since 1960, will be selectively added to Capture.

The list of entries will include repeat offenders and those convicted of major crimes, such as



Halton Regional Police ID technician Chris Ellison captures the image of a sample criminal on the Force's new system for listing

mugshots on a computer disc. The volunteer on the screen is Sgt. Carey Smith. (Herald photo)

murder or armed robbery. There are presently 700 to 800 images on Capture, said Mr. Ellison.

To protect against the catastrophe of losing disc information, Captures' disc information will constantly be recorded on a back-up system, said Mr. Ellison.

"If the disc (holding the up to 25,000 images) doesn't want to work anymore, you might as well throw it out," he said, because all the information would be lost.

But Halton will reach its goal, he said, to "get everyone (convicted of an offence) on the video disc."

Capture is another first for a police force that is world-renowned for its breakthroughs. This summer, a group of officers from Australia and the United Kingdom came to Halton to study the force's methods.

TIP, Taped Interview Procedures, now widely-used in Halton, was first initiated in the Burlington area several years ago.

TIP is a system of videotaping suspects during their police interrogation. Statements are recorded as a clock ticks in the background. The film sequence, without disruption is admissible in court as evidence.

Halton Regional Police also came up with Scenes of Crime Officers, field officers specially trained for investigation. The officers are taught to take photographs and to dust for fingerprints at a crime scene, in addition to their regular duties. They can "eventually become investigation officers," said Mr. Ellison.

Halton Regional Police haven't received final approval on Capture - that will be determined in the January budget meeting of the Police Board - but Mr. Ellison remains optimistic.

"We've put (Capture) in our budget, and we're hoping to get it," he said.

Poppy's

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