

Outlook on Halton Hills

Halton helps East Africans

Imagine living in a sprawling city teeming with more than two million people with little or no garbage collection, virtually no sewage treatment facilities and no way to deal with the influx of more than 200,000 people who are drifting into the city every year.

Imagine trying to deal with the massive health problems, using the most rudimentary equipment available.

Those are just some of the problems facing officials of the coastal Tanzanian city of Dar Es Salaam in East Africa.

And Halton is going to help. Tucked between Kenya to the north and Mozambique to the south, the Tanzanian city is placing itself under the tutelage of Halton's most experienced administrators.

It's all a part of a program entitled Africa 2000: the Municipal Response, run by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The program is based on the premise that cities like Dar Es Salaam lack the basic knowledge to institute comprehensive collection and treatment programs, build roads and sewage systems and implement public education programs. Because these responsibilities fall under the jurisdiction of municipalities in Ontario, the federal government and the FCM could play an important role in helping cities like Dar Es Salaam.

Under the program the FCM and the federal government will pay for any expenses, such as travel, while municipalities contribute staff time. In Halton's case that 70 days of staff time will cost just under \$25,000 in the coming year.

The magnitude of Halton's commitment was established by Chief

Administrative Officer John Fleming, Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy, and Burlington Councillor Barry Quinn during a fact finding mission to Dar Es Salaam late last year.

Mr. Fleming described the jaunt as "an overwhelming experience."

Thirty years ago, Dar Es Salaam was a small coastal town of just 10,000 people. But people have been migrating to the city in search of jobs - Tanzanian law requires full employment - and a better future. Dar Es Salaam had abandoned local government 18 years ago leaving it without the infrastructure to deal with the phenomenal growth, said Mr. Fleming.

The growth has been so quick and so widespread in Dar Es Salaam that officials haven't been able to keep track of where the people are in order to institute even a basic property tax system for many of them.

And the city is desperately short of funds to implement new programs, said Mr. Fleming.

However, the city has potential. It is an excellent port, it has a host of bright, energetic and reasonably well educated senior officials, adequate fishery and agriculture in the surrounding regions to feed the population and the potential to exploit tourism, said Mr. Fleming.

The purpose of the Africa 2000 program "is to provide practical urban management expertise to Dar Es Salaam, primarily by means of an exchange of officials," said Mr. Fleming.

Halton, with its recent experience in dealing with growth, is well equipped to help a city such as Dar Es Salaam, said Mr. Fleming.

Halton will be sending staff to

Dar Es Salaam and that city's officials will be visiting Halton to work with Regional staff and even attend Sheridan College in Oakville for a short time throughout 1989.

The whole project should cost around \$92,550, said Mr. Fleming. Dar Es Salaam and Halton's officials' staff time is estimated at \$24,500 each. FCM hopes Halton will be able to raise about \$50,000 in a community fundraising effort to supplement the program.

While Dar Es Salaam won't be transformed into a modern city in a short period of time, Mr. Fleming hopes Halton's contribution will be "a major first step in Dar Es Salaam's attempts to improve its physical ability to deal with its problems."

ASK KATHY

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Planning process begins

Despite Halton's efforts, Tanzania's coastal city of Dar Es Salaam has too many problems to tackle in one fell swoop, Halton's Chief Administrative Officer says.

John Fleming, Halton Chairman Peter Pomeroy and Burlington Councillor Barry Quinn zeroed in on several areas Halton will tackle during an information gathering trip to Tanzania late last year.

Under the Africa 2000: the Municipal Response program, Halton will contribute staff time costing about \$25,000 to help Dar Es Salaam officials cope with unprecedented growth.

The federal government and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities initiated the program late last year.

The first area is finances. Dar Es Salaam can't generate enough money to support its existing operations, never mind building new sewage facilities and roads, said Mr. Fleming. The city has huge communities of squatters who don't pay taxes. Even a modest property tax levied on those squatters would help tremendously, he said.

Dar Es Salaam will send a senior planner and a senior finance official to Canada to work under the guidance of Halton's finance commissioner Joe Rinaldo, and Halton's planning commissioner Rash Mohammed. The idea is to acquaint them with the depth finance and planning

system Halton runs.

Dar Es Salaam, with a rapidly increasing population, has extremely poor water purification and sewage treatment systems. And the pollution is generally not educated in sanitation and hygiene. To help, Halton will send environmental health director Peter Wilcott to Tanzania to train city administrators in sanitary and hygiene education.

Dar Es Salaam also needs to establish local government. To that end, the city will send their solicitor Joseph Mbuna to Halton to study the Region's two-tier municipal government under the direction of Mr. Fleming.

To help Dar Es Salaam develop a waste disposal system, Halton's Waste Reduction Manager Albert Shames will travel to Tanzania to review Dar Es Salaam's collection system and provide procedural and technical advice.

Halton is also recommending FCM spend \$25,000 to help Dar Es Salaam establish methods of operating various departments. "Virtually every area of the administration of the city is acutely hampered by the lack of basic equipment necessary to function," said Mr. Fleming.

Halton wants FCM to spend \$6,000 more on new initiatives for the administration of Dar Es Salaam.

Finally, under the sponsorship of Rotary Clubs in Halton and in Dar Es Salaam, Halton wants to help set up a small youth agricultural co-operative near the city. One larger co-operative, actually a small farming village, is now run very efficiently by people aged 15 to 31, said Mr. Fleming.

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