

Red Cross celebrates 125 years of protecting life

By LESLIE ARNISON
Herald Special

Do you know who was given the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901? Here's a clue: the person who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1901 founded a society which in turn received the award three times: in 1917, 1944, and jointly with the "League" in 1963.

If you know the answer you know a bit of history. Furthermore, these past events are related to our present lifestyle, here in Georgetown. For the society that

ference convened by the Swiss Federal Council. The 10-article treaty for 'The Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field' formed the basis of the humanitarian law applicable in time of war. From then on, ambulances, military hospitals and medical staff were recognized as neutral parties and protected. The wounded and sick combatants were collected and cared for by these neutral parties. This signing established the importance of the

Service, we drove 161 persons, primarily seniors, to out-of-town medical appointments. We put in 9,915.7 kilometres of driving and 679 manhours of time to do so.

We helped 27 persons through our Individual Emergency Aid service, providing aid on a short-term basis in the form of food, shelter and clothing.

Volunteers with our Sickroom Equipment Loan service loaned 241 various articles, such as wheelchairs, crutches and commodes, etc. Of the many people who received such articles, 104 of them were senior citizens!

The Senior's Fun and Fitness Classes provided classes for 50 seniors, free of charge, at their buildings through the efforts of our volunteers.

In Emergency Response, Training and Preparedness, we have 75 people registered on teams, prepared to be called upon to assist in case of a major emergency, which may require providing food, clothing and shelter for a large number of people.

We also held 11 blood clinics and continued to provide services in first aid, minor disaster, water safety and speakers and films upon request.

We are able to provide these above services through the generosity of the public through the United Way Campaign in October. Red Cross volunteers donate thousands of hours each year working for you and your community.

If you too wish to be a volunteer at our Georgetown and District Branch of the Red Cross, please call the Red Cross Office and talk to Bernice at 877-5233 and find out more!

It'll cost more to peek at tax roll

Anyone wanting to take a peek at the town's assessment roll will have to pay \$250 a crack.

Halton Hills town councillors suggested an increase from the previous rate of \$150 to \$250 to get a microfiche copy of real estate property values in town.

The assessment roll for 1989 is prepared, and will be used mainly by realtors.

The increased microfiche rate increase would put Halton Hills on par with Burlington, which also charges \$250 for a microfiche copy. Oakville charges \$185, and Milton charges \$150.

But before town councillors voted to suggest a \$100 increase at next week's council meeting, Coun. Alf Spence suggested that the list "which is almost an invasion of privacy" be sold to interested parties for \$1,000 a copy. He said anything less would be "a

giveaway."

But Coun. Norm Elliott said no one would pay \$1,000 for the document. "I find it laughable that anybody would pay \$1,000 when they can get the voter's list for \$5 when it's six months old," he said.

"We're not charging any more than Burlington, so why not charge the going rate for (the microfiche)?"

Coun. Joe Hewitt said he agrees with selling microfiche copies but he wants to be sure information will be used for business purposes only and will "have some sort of confidentiality."

Town administrator Dan Costea said assessment roll copies would be sold with a signed statement saying the document can't be resold.

Town council will vote on the microfiche issue at next week's meeting.

Red Cross



A United Way Agency

was first started in 1864 is very active today serving many in our community. This is how we are continuing to make "history" with something that was founded 125 years ago.

On May 8, the Red Cross Societies around the world will celebrate 125 years of protecting human life. May 8 is World Red Cross Day, and it is celebrated in honor of Henry Dunant's birthday, the Swiss businessman who conceived the idea of the Red Cross.

On August 22, 1864 the first Geneva Convention was signed by 12 states at a diplomatic con-

ference convened by the Swiss Federal Council. The 10-article treaty for 'The Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field' formed the basis of the humanitarian law applicable in time of war. From then on, ambulances, military hospitals and medical staff were recognized as neutral parties and protected. The wounded and sick combatants were collected and cared for by these neutral parties. This signing established the importance of the

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Get fishing gear out

Get your fishing gear together because the Brook, Rainbow and Brown trout fishing season opened on Saturday, April 29 - September 30 on the Credit River.

Opening season for Northern Pike is May 13 - December 31 and if you're looking to catch Bass (Largemouth and Smallmouth) you'll have to wait until that season opens on June 24 - November 30.

For more information on fishing season openings, contact the Ministry of Natural Resources, Maple District (416) 832-7200 or the Credit Valley Conservation Authority at (416) 670-1615.

Most poisonous?

The saw-sealed or carpet viper kills more humans than any other snake, according to the World Almanac. The 2-foot long snake, found in dry regions from India to Africa, causes high fever and severe internal bleeding.

U.N. budget

The General Assembly of the United Nations approved a total budget of \$1.77 billion for 1988-89, notes The World Almanac. Only Israel voted against the budget. But Australia, Japan and the United States abstained.

Credit rights

The Fair Credit Billing Act permits you to dispute the accuracy of charges listed on your credit statement, notes The World Almanac. To file a notice of a "billing error," send a letter to the card issuer within 60 days. Keep a copy to prove you sent the letter.

Halton hurls harsh words at MOE

There were some harsh words for absent Ministry of Environment officials at a Regional meeting last week following the hasty shutdown of a Regional hazardous waste depot in Milton.

Representatives from the MOE were scheduled to appear before Regional councillors last week to explain the ministry's reasons for the sudden closure of the Milton Household Hazardous Waste Depot on Steeles Avenue. But a letter was hand-delivered to councillors stating that the ministry had spoken to Regional representatives April 17 and would not attend the meeting while "this incident is under investigation."

"They're on a witch-hunt now. They've made some allegations," said Milton Coun. Bill Johnson. He said the province is looking for evidence to support allegations made against the Region, "that's why they're not here today," he said.

The Region was given notice April 11 that it was operating contrary to hazardous waste disposal rules agreed upon by both the Region and the Ministry. The agreement was reached before the depot was opened to handle household wastes, such as solvents and bleach.

While the Region was not told by the MOE to close the Milton waste depot, ministry planning coordinator Lyle Parsons said there could be legal action if the depot, allegedly having inappropriate handling and containers for the hazardous waste, remained open.

Halton's Chief Administrative Officer John Fleming said the ministry's handling of the closure was "disappointing." Like other Regional staff, he said Halton has no mandate to handle hazardous chemicals and is a leader in the field. Mr. Fleming, Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy and

Regional Public Works Commissioner Bob Moore signed the ministry agreement to originally open the depot.

"All three of us have taken a personal risk," said Mr. Fleming. He said the three are "subject to fines and imprisonment."

The Region responded to the closing of the Milton depot with understanding, but said that violations were "blown out of proportion," according to Mr. Pomeroy.

"In my own opinion, the violations are extremely minimal (although) the issue of violations is extremely important."

When contacted after the notice of violation was issued, Mr. Parsons said he was "just doing his job" when he sent the letter to the Region.

But some say the job was done too harshly. "The ministry has used a sledge hammer instead of a fly swatter to make us comply," said Oakville Coun. Liz Behrens.

Coun. Johnson said last week that the Region would have preferred time to fix whatever problems were discovered by the ministry when the depot was surveyed April 5.

Despite the admission that the Region could be "in error" regarding treatment of hazardous chemicals, councillors maintain that the operation is not industrial waste, but "user friendly" waste, including such items as pool chemicals, weed killer, and paints and thinners.

"They are harmful to the environment and need to be disposed of in an environmentally protective way, but they are after all handled by the general public day in and day out throughout Halton," says a Regional report released by Mr. Fleming and Mr. Pomeroy last week.

The report says the hazardous waste depot was never a threat to the environment, but adds that the Region will propose "immediate rectification before the facility is re-opened."

The Region has discussed the re-opening of the Milton depot with Ministry officials and Mr. Fleming said progress is being made.

Councillors agreed to re-open the Milton hazardous waste depot as soon as the Region conforms with ministry guidelines.

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