



Many lives in Bangladesh are saved through access to clean drinking water, proper sanitation, immunization and basic health care education. (Photo courtesy of USC)

Group needs funds to help Third World

The executive chief of an Ottawa-based organization serving Third World countries was in Georgetown last week to protest federal government cuts to overseas aid.

John Martin said the Unitarian Service Co-operation of Canada (USC Canada) has had federal government support since the group's inception under Dr. Lotta Hirschmanova in 1945. But under the federal government's April budget, the USC will lose \$360,000 in funding for the 1989-90 fiscal year.

"The impact of these cutbacks is already being felt by our Third World partners," the USC said in a report sent to 30 cities visited in Ontario last week. "The first people to fall victim to these cutbacks are children living in Third World communities."

The USC serves six countries in Africa and four in Asia, spending \$700,000 annually on Bangladesh, a poverty-stricken country in India. But Bangladesh funding will be cut by \$100,000 next year. CIDA (Canadian National Development Agency), the federal body that

dispenses federal funds, will pass decreases on to the USC, Mr. Martin said.

The USC attempts to educate those in Third World countries in all aspects of life - from reading and writing to farming and sewing. It is a "bottoms-up, grassroots organization," said Mr. Martin, who has visited many of the USC projects in Africa and Asia.

"The focus is basically on training people to get control of their own lives," Mr. Martin said.

The USC chief said it is "discouraging" for the group's overseas partners to hear Canada's foreign aid budget is cut. The USC learned that federal grants through CIDA, will be frozen over the next three years. The USC will not meet the rate of inflation or expanding overseas aid, as hoped, Mr. Martin said.

The USC is urging people to write their local MP for funding to be restored to overseas foreign aid charitable foundations.

"USC dollars translate into life for thousands of children," the group says. "Without USC's help, many children will die."

When trucks, trains and fish collide

What's it like to be in a train crash?

This is not something you ponder over breakfast each morning, and it certainly isn't something local resident John Sommer expected as he left Saturday morning for Kitchener.

Mr. Sommer hopped on the 8:18 a.m. train Saturday. It was a little chilly that day - eight degrees Celsius - and the sun was shining into the windows when the train came to an abrupt stop.

"On a crossing outside Guelph, the train collided with a truck loaded with dead trout from a trout farm on its way to market," Mr. Sommer said.

"We passengers sat in the immobilized train for about 1½ hours and were eventually taken away by taxi," the hapless passenger from Georgetown told the Herald.

But during the entire time the train's diesel power was snuffed out and the brake system was jammed, passengers were left in the dark about the train colliding with the truck. Mr. Sommer later found out the

truck's driver was taken to hospital "badly cut up, and damaged, but alive."

The damaged train was pulled by a diesel locomotive into Guelph station. The seven Georgetown passengers aboard the out-of-commission vehicle arrived back at the Georgetown station at about 11:30 a.m.

"It was rather a macabre touch," Mr. Sommer said. "Some of the dead trout had attached themselves to the train. That's how we guessed, when the train had finally stopped kilometres away from the accident, what we had collided with."

When the Toronto train taking passengers back to Georgetown passed the scene of the accident, dead fish were "littered" around the tracks, Mr. Sommer said.

"Some of (the trout) had been gathered into wooden boxes, presumably still fit to be eaten."

Maybe John Sommer's next train trip will be less eventful.

Parents meet

The Bishop Reding Parent's Association will meet on Monday, Oct. 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the school's Resource Center. Come and find out what's happening at your child's school and hear interesting guest speakers. This is our election night - come and get involved - it's a lot of fun and a great way to meet people!

Immunization clinics

Halton Regional Health Department is holding immunization clinics every second Tuesday of each month from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Apple day

It's Apple Day this Friday and Saturday in Halton Hills. You'll be able to get an apple from scouts at the shopping plazas on Friday evening and scouts will be carrying apples throughout the town all day Saturday.

Proceeds from Apple Days go towards scouting in Halton Hills.

Town comes out against GTA

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Other councillors speaking against POWER's proclamation said there was no proof that the GTA is accountable to the people. Coun. Serjeantson said the group is becoming more democratic. Rural Coun. Alf Spence said he would support the POWER proclamation if the group took the "damnation" out of its letter to the province.

Coun. Bonnette said it is "premature" to leave the GTA in its early stages.

"It's a trial thing," he said. "It's going to have its growing pains, the GTA, we're all aware of this."

Several councillors admitted they knew very little about the GTA. Couns. Al Cook and Pat McCarthy both voted for POWER's proclamation and both said they were ill-informed.

Tax should be lowered

Cont'd from Page 1

meetings that I would take their suggestions back to Ottawa," Mr. Turner said.

"I've certainly taken steps to make sure that the message is passed on. (Finance Minister) Wilson knows my particular position."

Halton Hills residents asked the MP to cut the federal government spending, to lower the deficit and the sales tax.

"A number of Tory MPs are coming up with similar messages," Mr. Turner said following the morning session of the House of Commons Monday.

"The people of Halton Hills are echoing a fairly widely-held public sentiment."

But Mr. Turner said there is no guarantee Mr. Wilson will listen to him or to other representatives in Ottawa.



Garth Turner

The finance minister might not believe the proposed goods and services tax needs changing, he said.

"Right now, he's adopted a pretty firm stance that he feels he got (the proposed tax) right," Mr. Turner said.

"But maybe there's some way of getting (the tax) down a little bit more."

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