

Provincial grant aids physically disabled

A provincial grant of \$50,000 will permit Halton Region to carry out a year-long strategic plan this fall to establish the types of social services needed during the next 10 years for those in Halton with physical disabilities.

"I'm confident this project will develop a community vision and plan of action for an integrated, accessible and cost effective health and social services system for people with physical disabilities in Halton," said Ontario's Minister of Community and Social Services, Zanana Akande in a provincial government press release.

Halton and Social Services Commissioner Bonnie Ewart said Monday the study is needed because the handicapped in Halton comprises the only large group left in the Region in need of social services yet to be studied. The Region has completed comprehensive strategic plan studies in daycare and seniors for example.

The program is aimed at Halton residents who have a physical impairment as compared to those who are solely

mentally handicapped, explained Ms. Ewart.

The study will identify the number of people in Halton who have a physical impairment, the existing social services for these people and what services will be needed over the next 10 years. To find out what services will be required, Ms. Ewart said part of the research will involve meeting with the public. She explained this could take one of several forms including telephone interviews, public meetings, or focus groups.

The Attendant Care Program is one that exists in Halton today for the physically disabled.

Under this program people confined to a wheelchair are assigned an attendant who will cloth, bath, dress or provide any other service so that the physically disabled person can live at home, explained Ms. Ewart.

Ms. Ewart said the Region still expects to receive between \$10,000 and \$20,000 more in provincial funding for the study. She estimates the study will cost approximately \$70,000 to conduct.

The study won't get underway until the fall because people are not always available during the summer months, said Ms. Ewart.



Steamer honored

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller, (second from right), presented long-time Georgetown resident and former Town Mayor Wheldon (Steamer) Emmerson with a plaque Friday at the Town Civic Centre in recognition of Mr. Emmerson's 50 years of

volunteer service to the community. On hand during the presentation were Mr. Emmerson's daughter-in-law Leesa Emmerson (far right), and Town employee Marlene Kellman, (far left). (Herald photo)

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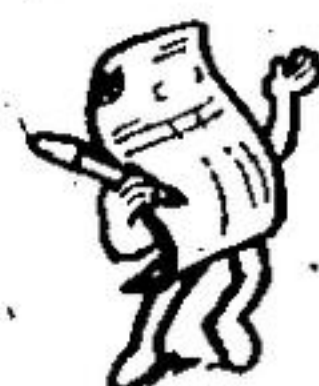
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