

Motor Vehicle Office closed doors in protest

By BEN DUMMETT
the Herald

Local residents who tried to renew their driver's licence Monday but couldn't because the Georgetown-based Ontario Motor Vehicle Office was closed, probably thought the closure was due to Monday being Remembrance Day.

The truth of the matter is, however, the office was closed as part of an informal protest against the provincial government, confirmed Marilyn Wilson, Ontario Motor Vehicle Licence Issuers' Association, during an interview Monday.

Normally the issuers are open on Remembrance Day, she said.

However, 95 per cent of the issuers refused to open their offices this past Nov. 11 to show the government the association has the strength to close down the licence issuing system.

When the system is closed down, drivers are prevented from renewing their driver's licence or purchasing a used car.

The informal protest comes in the wake of a "disappointing" meeting with the province over the future of private licence issuers, said Ms. Wilson.

The meeting was in response to a

possible provincial plan to form a crown corporation that will deal with all vehicle-related licensing.

Heading into the meeting with the province, Ms. Wilson wanted assurances the issuers will still have their jobs if the crown corporation is formed.

However, Ms. Wilson left the meeting less than satisfied.

"I came out with nothing more than what I went in with," said Ms. Wilson.

"It was very disappointing," she added.

The province would only concede it has a moral obligation to the issuers but no expansion on this comment was made, said Ms. Wilson.

Ms. Wilson said the unexpected holiday gave the issuers some time for quiet reflection to try to figure out what to do next.

Ms. Wilson prefers the association only shut down the system for any length of time as a last resort.

The poor economic situation means it would be difficult to get public support if the offices were closed to protest government policy, predicted Ms. Wilson.

"However, we are so cost effective, our position shouldn't even be questioned. If government staff

did our jobs it would cost mega bucks," said Ms. Wilson.

According to Ms. Wilson, the issuers are 97 per cent cost effective, meaning the issuers get \$1.42 of the \$90 they receive for issuing a licence. The remaining

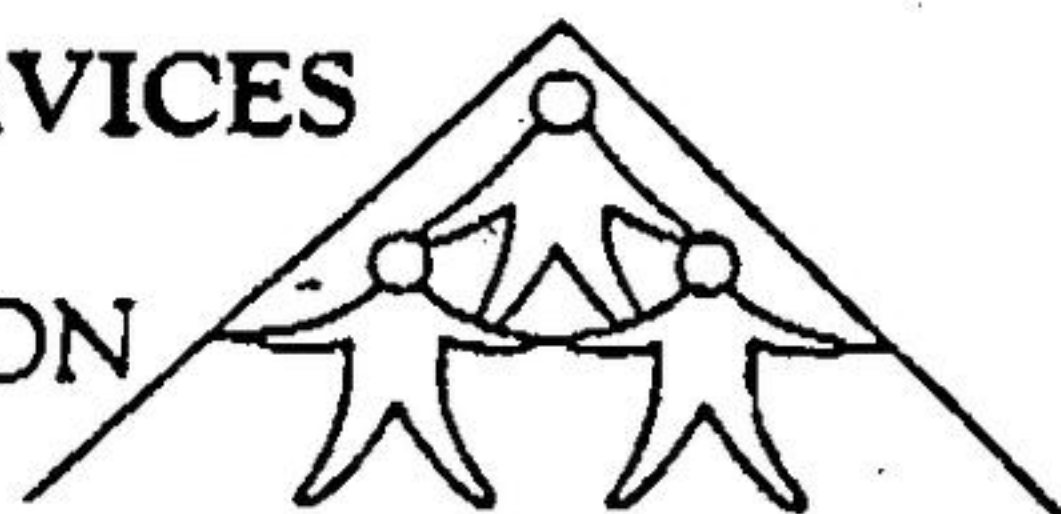
amount of money goes to the province.

Dave Clark, operator of the vehicle licence office in Georgetown, said he can't understand why the provincial government wouldn't include the issuers

in any new system since they are so cost effective.

If the province chooses to exclude the issuers from any new system, then they should at least offer a reasonable severance package, he said.

ACTON SOCIAL SERVICES AND INFORMATION CENTRE



National Seniors Safety Week

The Canada Safety Council and The Provincial Safety Councils and Leagues have declared Nov. 12-Nov. 18th National Seniors Safety Week. At Acton Social Services we have several programs to assist seniors in living safely.

The Letter Carriers Alert program provides a check on the well-being of those living alone. Acton 'posties' check on the elderly when they deliver the mail.

The Alzheimer Support Group assists caregivers of those with Alzheimers in coping. A library of videos, books and tapes is also offered.

The Wandering Patients Society enables those with Alzheimers disease to have their picture and a written description forwarded through ASSIC to the Halton/Wentworth Alzheimers Society and Halton Regional Police.

The Buddy System provides a daily phone call from a buddy who ensures that all is well.

The Vial of Life is an emergency response system which provides information on medications, doctors and other vital statistics. The vial is distributed by Halton Regional Police and Fire Stations and can be obtained from ASSIC as well.

If you require more information on these programs, please call Sue, 853-3310 and stop by ASSIC, 19 Willow St. N., Acton.

P.S. - Christmas Parade Alert! Watch for Cookie Monster and the Smurfs in the Christmas Parade. They are "Good Neighbors."

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The Library Board meets at least 10 times a year. Members will also be asked to serve on standing committees.

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- (c) is a resident in the municipality for which the library board is established; and
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(from An Act Respecting Public Libraries 1984)

Members of the Library Board serve without remuneration and are appointed for a three year term.

Please send your written applications and resume to Bill Harrison, Chair of the Board, 2050 Guelph Line, Burlington, Ontario, L7R 3Z3 by November 22, 1991.

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