

# Plunkett Launches Needs Study Promises Look at Regional Jail

The Halton and Peel Counties needs study — officially to be termed "The Halton and Peel Local Government Review" — was officially launched last week in Halton when municipal heads from the county gathered in Milton with the man who is to head the study.

Thomas J. Plunkett, M.A., held a 90-minute "get-acquainted" session with County councillors, town and township clerks, managers and treasurers, and other county officials at the County Court House in Milton to outline his terms of reference for the study and answer preliminary questions. The two counties recently agreed to help the provincial government share the estimated \$65,000 cost of the probe into governments in the area.

**Begin Right Away**  
Mr. Plunkett said he and his staff would be spending a lot of time in Halton and Peel during the next year and would begin by sending questionnaires to municipal clerks within the next few weeks. Next January or February, public hearings will be held to give those outside the realm of municipal politics a chance to express their views on the future government of the areas.

Councillors at the Wednesday meeting, at the urging of Acton's Deputy-Reeve Roy Goodwin, extracted a promise from the consultant that the first area to be studied would be the regional jail problem. It was pointed out that Halton must decide whether or not to enter into a regional jail agreement with neighboring Wentworth and the City of Hamilton by mid-September, and the Commissioner agreed to have some opinions on the move by early in September.

Mr. Goodwin pointed out the regional jail question had been fairly thoroughly studied by Halton's councillors and at the present time, it looked like their answer was going to be "no". But he said it would seem unwise for Halton to vote for or against the project until Mr. Plunkett could make a report.

**Cost More Later**  
"If we go ahead now, for \$200,000 to \$300,000, we can get the best facilities known to the Department; but four or five years from now, on our own, it would cost us \$1,000,000 for the

same jail," the Deputy - Reeve added.  
Reeve Gordon Gallagher of Burlington said it was a "complete fallacy" of the provincial government's responsibilities when that senior government would not assume more of the construction and maintenance costs toward the jail. "I'm disappointed," he said. Mr. Plunkett replied he would make a statement by the County Council meeting in mid-September and "I'll certainly ask for some clarification of provincial responsibility."

Mr. Plunkett, a veteran of two other area government studies in Ottawa and district and Lincoln and Welland Counties, was appointed by the Hon. J. W. Spooner, Minister of Municipal Affairs for Ontario, to handle the Halton - Peel probe. The government is financing the review and when it is completed, Peel and Halton councils will be asked to share in the costs.

**"No Fixed Ideas"**  
Mr. Plunkett pointed out there is no set pattern to follow while he does the government review, and he has "no fixed ideas" before he starts. "At this stage, I don't know what I can recommend after a year of work," he went on, adding that his recommendations do not necessarily have to be adopted when they are presented—they can be wholly or partially adopted or dropped completely.

He said the study would include the structure, financing and organization of all municipalities from the county right down to the smallest township, and would include all their elected or appointed boards, commissions and committees. He said he would make note of any problems that relate to any two or more municipalities within the boundaries of the two counties.

His study would also chart anticipated future development of the area and any reorganization or revision of the existing governmental system. It would cause and it would also look at the effect of present and planned projects and operations of the Ontario or Canadian governments, as they affect this area.

**Maybe No Changes**  
"We may see no need for changes in some areas; or there

could be a wide range of fundamental changes necessary."

The commissioner pointed out the researchers would begin first with any completed studies that have ever been done in Halton and Peel. He mentioned Halton's road needs study and Peel's sewage and welfare studies would be helpful and would save some duplication of work.

"Over the next four or five months, our most important task will be to get over the whole area, meet the appointed and elected officials, and find out what you consider are the problems," he continued. Early in the new year, public hearings will be held to hear submissions from anyone not directly involved in the needs study.

Asked for a hint about what might be recommended that would affect the county system of government, Mr. Plunkett said it was impossible to predict. "I cannot say if it will be regional government or a revamped county government. The question is, is this structure of government adequate to serve?"

**No Idea of Merger**  
Councillors were assured the survey of the two counties was not being undertaken with the idea of a merger between the two counties to stage off, or act as a buffer between Hamilton and Toronto metropolitan centers. Mr. Plunkett added he could see no reason why either county should merge with either city—pointing out the recent Goldenberg study of Toronto recommended that city's boundaries remain as they are at present, on the west side, at least.

He added both Peel and Halton would be studied individually as well as jointly. "You cannot really look at one without the other... you are both influenced by major metro development." Warden Herb Merry, who chaired the meeting, hastened to add that the study of the two counties was being undertaken more to "preserve the pulse strings" than with an eye to amalgamation of the two.

It was agreed during the meeting that Mr. Plunkett would meet with the county council whenever he felt it necessary; and also, if the need arises, for a committee of councillors from each county to work with the consultant.

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30 APIARISTS FROM NEW YORK STATE took a "busman's holiday" this week as they toured six Ontario apiaries, two packing plants and the Ontario Agricultural College apiculture division. Among their Monday morning stops were visits to the Hornby plants of F. A. Anderson and Ed Robertson and Sons. Jack Robertson, son of Ed Robertson, is shown demonstrating how he loads the combs into the extractor to start the honey processing.

## Beekeepers Hold "Open House" For 30 Visiting U.S. Apiarists

Two Hornby apiarists, Alvin Anderson and Ed Robertson, held open houses Monday morning for 30 American beekeepers who were enjoying a two-day educational tour of apiaries, honey packing plants and apiculture schools in Ontario.

For two and a half hours Monday morning, the visiting apiarists — all big producers in New York and many of them owners of bee colonies in Florida as well — swarmed (like bees) all over the Hornby buildings as they studied time-saving or product-improving facilities in practice here. And from their comments, they learned a lot about Canadian honey operations and picked up a lot of pointers in processing procedures.

**Total 2,700 Colonies**  
Mr. Anderson operates a 1,700-colony operation and Mr. Robertson has 1,000 colonies of bees working for him. Both extricate and process their honey and beeswax.

The trip was organized by Prof. E. J. Dyce and Assoc. Prof. Roger A. Morse of the apiculture extension staff, Cornell University. Some of those on the tour were university students but most were successful beekeepers from throughout the state, some of

them operating up to 3,000 colonies. Some of the visitors also own apiaries in Florida, so they can have a year-round operation. Their trip took them to apiaries in Smithville, Hillsdale and Tara, as well as to two packing plants at Toronto and Mississauga and a visit to the O.A.C.

### Montreal Embargo Only Holdup at P.O.

An embargo on third class mail to Montreal is the only thing keeping postal services in Milton from returning to normal. Postmaster W. Bell reported this week the existing embargo on third class mail will probably be lifted very soon but he notes, "There is very little third class mail from Milton to Montreal anyway."

Normal mail services throughout the nation were crippled recently by nearly 12,000 postal workers in major centres who went on strike for higher wages. The Montreal workers were the last to return to their jobs.

—Students have just 25 more days of holidays.

## Heat Produces Almost Record Park Attendance

Attendance at the Kelso Conservation Area reached almost record numbers on Friday and Saturday. On Friday 160 cars paid entrance to the park. The usual number for a weekday is 50 cars. One of the highest number of cars to enter the park on a Saturday came last Saturday when 302 were admitted to the area. Large crowds were explained by the hot weather. Sunday attendance was down to 504 cars from the usual number of 900. The record number for a Sunday came on June 27 when 973 cars entered the park.

Cold rainy weather cut attendance figures at the park during the Sunday and only 375 cars paid admission. The rain was so heavy on the holiday Monday that no record of the number of cars entering Kelso was kept.

### SIX PERMITS

Six building permits with a total value of \$52,700 were issued in the Township of Nassagaweya during July. Two permits were for residences, two for cottages and one each for a garage and for an addition.

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