

County turns down consultant

Halton County Council has turned down an attempt to engage an outside consultant to represent the county in negotiations with the 22 Halton County Health Unit nurses who plan to resign on Monday, September 12.

A special two-hour meeting of the county council's personnel committee and Board of Health was held "in camera" on Friday afternoon, followed by a 45-minute session of the whole council. B. Paulin of the firm of Ferguson, Montgomery, Cassels and Mitchell, barristers and solicitors, appeared briefly at the earlier closed session but stayed just five minutes. It had been expected Mr. Paulin would be engaged by the county to act on their behalf in the dispute with the nurses.

There was no open discussion of the nursing situation during the brief open council meeting. A report from the "Warden's Special Committee" was listed on the agenda but never discussed. This special committee had met a week earlier but the report was not made public. Following the meeting R. R. Parker, Deputy Reeve of Acton and chairman of the county's Board of Health, said he had no statement to make at the time. "The County Council has decided not to make the report public," he said.

Mr. Parker indicated the Board of Health has not yet made definite plans for any meetings with the nurses. Problems over the Health Unit

it nursing staff began a year ago when the nurses applied, through the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario, for certification under the Labor Relations Act. The County Council blocked this move by invoking Section 89 of the Labor Relations Act, excluding themselves from its provisions.

The Board refused to recognize the R.N.A.O. as a bargaining unit. "At no time since the present Board took office in January has there been any request by the nurses of the County Health Unit to discuss working conditions or other matters," Mr. Parker points out.

The R.N.A.O.'s Director of Employment Relations, Lloyd B. Sharpe has asked the Board of Health to begin a series of meetings pertaining to salaries and working conditions. Further correspondence indicated the R.N.A.O. would "grey-list" the Halton Health Unit by asking other nurses in Ontario not to work there, and by having the present staffers submit resignations, if the Board did not comply.

The Board of Health notified Mr. Sharpe the Board was prepared to negotiate with the nurses, when and if they were certified as a bargaining unit. Mr. Sharpe was reported as stating the nurses do not wish to be certified.

On August 11, the letters of resignation were mailed from 22 of the 26 public health nurses, indicating they would resign September 12.

In an August 16 letter to the nurses, Mr. Parker noted "the Board can decide only that Mr. Sharpe is determined to obtain the power to negotiate a union contract for the Halton nurses without recourse to the Ontario

Labor Relations Board. Why he should choose to operate in this way, the Board does not know. If you want a union, by all means tell us. If, on the other hand, you are concerned with other matters, we are ready at any time to discuss them with you."

He urged the nurses to call a meeting with Dr. A. Bull, Medical Officer of Health, to discuss their problems.

Gallagher, Coulter represent Halton on jail committee

Reeve Gordon Gallagher of Burlington and Reeve William Coulter of Nassagaweya were named Friday afternoon as Halton County's representatives on the Regional Detention Centre Board.

Motions calling for the appointments were passed without opposition at Friday's special meeting of County Council.

Reeve William Hunter of Georgetown stressed the appointments to the Detention Centre Board should be made each year from different municipalities. Deputy Reeve Frank Rogers of Burlington suggested, "I don't think we should have

two new members on each year." Reeve George Leslie closed the topic with the suggestion, "we should leave the decision up to next year's council. We've done our job — we've appointed the representatives for this year."

An agreement calling for the establishment of a five man Regional Detention Centre com-

mittee with three members from Peel County and two from Halton County was signed earlier this month by Peel County, Halton County and Minister of Reform Institutions Alan Grossman. The committee will be responsible for choosing the site and subsequently for construction and administration of the new reforms centre, which will likely be called Maplehurst.

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Nurses will meet Bd.

Halton's public health nurses have turned down a suggestion they negotiate individually with the Halton County Board of Health, and instead have again banded together with the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario in a joint fight to get a contract with the Board.

In a letter to the Board of Health Friday, R.A.O. director of employment relations Lloyd B. Sharpe says the association will be pleased to meet with Halton M.O.H. Dr. Archie F. Bull — but as an association, not as individuals.

Last week R. R. Parker, Deputy-Reeve of Acton and chair-

man of the Board of Health, wrote the nurses asking them to come individually to the Board to discuss salaries and working conditions.

"On Monday evening, August 22, nurses of the Health Unit had a meeting of their association and instructed their agent (Mr. Sharpe) to reply on their behalf and accept your invitation to meet," Mr. Sharpe's letter explains.

"Our delegation will include the Negotiating Committee of the Association and their R.N.A.O. agent. We are pleased that you have decided to meet with us."

Ask superintendent

Investigate leak in pool

A leak in the swimming pool is to be investigated by the town works superintendent, as well as inspection and overhaul of any pool pumps and motors, Milton Council suggested Monday after the matter of the pool leak was drawn to its attention by the Recreation Committee.

Council members agreed the work on the pool should be

Child hurt in laneway

Quick thinking by neighbor Jerry Timbers is credited with saving the life of a five-year-old Milton boy after he was pinned between a car door and a house in a laneway at a neighbor's home Monday afternoon.

Mr. Timbers rushed across the road and applied mouth-to-mouth resuscitation when Michael Shepherd of 84 Fulton St. was pinned by the car. The car owner was reportedly making repairs on a faulty transmission when the car lurched backwards, pinning the boy between the open door of the car and the side of the house and causing a severe chest injury.

Dr. R. A. MacKay was summoned and he rushed the child to Milton District Hospital. He was then transferred to Burlington Hospital for an operation and he is still in the intensive care unit there. His mother Mrs. Ivan Shepherd reported Tuesday the boy was improving.

done this fall, rather than wait for the next spring or summer. Councillor C. Fay and the works superintendent compared information on the pool problem and Mr. McKerr was to study plans of the project.

Responsibility for the work with the council, the recreation committee and the parks committee was not clear, but council members indicated the maintenance of the pumps and the pool repair must be looked after. They decided to refer it to the Parks Board in consultation with the works superintendent.

It was noted the Board had probably not budgeted for such a project but funds would be made available to augment what the Recreation Committee had available.

Rail strike...

(Continued from Page One) Freight shipments have been completely halted and as a result postage is paid. Mail going from Ontario to the United States is transported in the usual manner and there is virtually no delay. Some local stores and industries are suffering stock shortages. Furniture for the new Union Centre on Martin St. was to be shipped by rail but instead arrangements have been made for trucks to be sent to get the furniture.

The strike is also delaying the opening of the new Senior School at Ontario School for the Deaf. Beds, furniture and classroom equipment have been delayed.

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