By Brian Ward

(one of a series)

Environmental Sanitation and

Food Control is a big name for a

big and involved job carried on

by Chief Health Inspector Jim

Powell and his public health

inspectors working for the

his men's duties, saying, "If

we're not directly responsible,

then we're indirectly involved."

The staff of 10 public health

inspectors is responsible for

Mr. Powell bluntly summed up

Halton County Health Unit.

JAIIARY CIACLERA LIFE

Public health inspections

Health can order the restaurant

to close down in extreme

cases-although we haven't had a

closure in the county in many

Checking food outlets is just

one of the jobs done by these

men and Mr. Powell pointed out

one of their other duties

involved the inspection of all

private sewage disposal systems

in the county. This included

checking everything from septic

tanks and weeping tile fields to

under the Public Health Act to

disposal of sewage. Last year we

did nearly 2,400 septic tank

inspections and many of these

orders this past year."

count of the water.

the government.

County. Summer camps are also

inspected to be sure they are

operated according to special

sanitation regulations set out by

"We handle many complaints

through this office every year,"

investigate complaints when the

person complaining gives his

name to us. I can remember

when I was just starting out as a

public health inspector, the

office received an emergency

complaint which was up in the

dropped everything and went up

only to find the woman who

called the office saw her

neighbor's wash was brighter

than her own and wanted to

know why," chuckled Mr.

The 10-man health inspector

county in offices at Burlington,

Oakville and in the head office

in Milton. Each of the men is a

registered Canadian Public

Health Inspector, a two-year

course leading up to this was

taken at Ryerson Polytechnical

Other jobs handled by the

inspectors include the

investigation of suspected cases

of rabies. Mr. Powell says his

office receives between 500 and

1,000 calls per year on this

They work in close

Institute in Toronto.

north-east part of the county.

"Our men are empowered

years," he said.

outdoor privies.

checking all outlets in Halton enforce controls over the

area councils to govern the local will speak fire brigade. appointed by Milton and four

Reason for the shortage last year was the large number of fires recorded in 1969. Fire Chief A. E. Clement reports more large fires last year than ever before, and they all cost money. The town's part time firefighters are paid for each hour they are at a fire and several barn and home fires in the past year caused the budget to hit rock bottom.

To make up for the deficit the Fire Area Committee is billing the five municipalities, Milton, Oakville, Burlington, Esquesing Phone 878-2341 to place your and Nassagaweya for their shares want ad in central Halton's of the overdraft. Meanwhile the busiest marketplace. committee is operating on a savings account it was keeping for a new alarm system, to keep the general expenses paid.

Newest member of the committee was welcomed to the group's first meeting of the year on Wednesday. Councillor Mrs. Ella Foote of northern Burlington replaces former Councillor Art Lindop, whom she defeated in the town's December election. Others returning from last year are Reeve George Currie

Senator Richard J. Stanbury, president of the National Liberal Federation will address the Halton Wentworth and Halton West Liberal Association at their annual meeting Feb. 7 in Burlington.

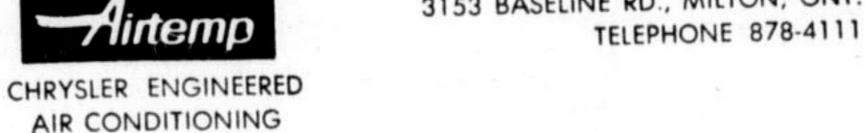
Constitutional amendments, election of officers and regular business will be taken care of at 2 p.m. business session followed by a "Meet the dignitaries hour" and a dinner and dance.

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were done on new home sites. We can suggest people improve their sewage disposal facilities and can even order them to do it through the Medical Officer of Health. In fact, there have been two court cases involving such Summer months see public swimming facilities in full operation and Mr. Powell's men are out in force to keep an eye on all beaches and swimming pools. He said they check public swimming pools thoroughly, keeping an eye on the change rooms as well as the bacteria Periodic checks are done at the Kelso pools and swimming 12-Mile and 16-Mile Creeks, the Credit River as well as various sites along the shore of Lake Ontario where it touches Halton

area and inspectors take water JAMES POWELL is the chief samples at various sites along the Public Health Inspector Halton County Health Unit.

County which handle food in any way, from small restaurants, delicatessens and food stores right up to the largest of the chain food stores. They also check private sewage installations along with many facets of life in the county which will be dealt with later in the story.

"We try to check each food outlet eight times a year or better," said Mr. Powell. "There are many things in restaurants we can check for, including the refrigeration and storage of foods. We check the temperature inside freezers and refrigerators and meat stored here is checked by appearance and odor only, not by quality."

Slaughterhouses are provincial responsibility, mentioned the chief inspector, since they produce government

inspected meats. His inspectors check the dishwashing procedures used in restaurants and will take tests using special sterile swabs to determine the presence of harmful bacteria on utensils used

in the restaurant. "Our inspector will run one of these cotton-tipped swabs around the areas of the cup or glass or utensil which are most in contact with the customer. These are then sent away to the Department of Health labs in Toronto and the results are sent back to us.

"A list of the faults found by co-operation with the family our inspector is then sent to the physician in the case where a owner and he usually complies person has been bitten by a with our suggestions. If the suspected rabid animal. worse comes to worst, we order Inspectors keep the suspected him to clean up his operation animal quarantined for 14 days and the Medical Officer of and if it dies during that period,

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A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH is important to county restaurants and public health inspectors such as Terry Murphy, shown here taking a swab of a restaurant's cup, are responsible for seeing a thorough inspection is done of the business. The swab he takes of this cup is then sent to a laboratory in Toronto where it is tested for bacteria and the results are sent back to the Milton health unit

800 checks are done on the

water taken out of private wells

and during 1968, Mr. Powell's

(Continued next week)

municipal water supplies.

its head is sent to the federal laboratory in Hull, Quebec, for said Mr. Powell, "but we only testing. If it proves to be rabid, the doctor will then begin anti-rabies treatments, if he has not done it sooner.

office. - (Staff Photo)

Still more jobs handled by Mr. Powell's department include insect and rodent control. They can recommend, for example, that a restaurant owner who has cockroaches in his place of business call in a professional exterminator to get rid of the

Sampling well water, both private and municipal sources, is another big job done by the inspectors. Between 700 and team is stationed throughout the

> -Feb. 1 to 7 is Dental Health Week. The slogan is "smile



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