



GETTING THE BUSINESS. Members of regional council's Community Services Committee along with some other councillors took part in an orientation day Friday. Several booths and exhibits were set up for the councillors' benefit at the Halton Health Unit. Nurse L. Sprague checks blood pressure for committee chairman David Coons while Mrs. Elaine Garrett gives Councillor Pat McKenzie the once-over at the booth promoting proper care of teeth. At left, Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill gets his eyes checked by Marjorie Bylsma. (Photos by B. Burt)

**Orientation**

**Day long seminar for councillors**

Alcohol is one of the most frequent ailments that causes family problems in Halton County, according to Pat Doherty, a family counsellor

with the Social and Family Services Committee. Doherty explained the role of the family counsellor Friday during a two and a

half hour presentation to regional councillors. The presentation was part of an all-day seminar organized by the Community Services Committee to enlighten members of the committee about the services offered and the problems encountered.

**Biggest problem**  
Doherty said that alcohol was more often the cause of family problems than financial difficulties or parent-child conflicts.

He told the committee that the four counsellors employed with the regional department dealt with a wide number of problems.

Unwed mothers, marital conflicts, single parent families and adolescents with overpossessive parents are typical situations the family counsellor in Halton finds himself or herself dealing with.

Doherty said cases were referred to the family counselling division from schools, doctors, police, courts and a number of other community agencies. Several clients come directly to the counsellors for help.

**Poor impression**  
Mrs. Roddy Fulcher, one of several welfare workers, offered the audience a glimpse of a client. According to Mrs. Fulcher many people have the wrong opinion of people on welfare. She suggested the popular opinion was welfare recipients wouldn't do a day's work even if they had the

chance. She spoke of one man who continually lost jobs he held as a laborer because of poor health. The man's wife was pregnant.

He underwent surgery to have a plastic tube put in his leg. During the same time the wife lost the child and subsequently had a nervous breakdown and needed counselling.

The man called the welfare worker recently to say his operation had been successful and he would start work soon as a janitor and would no longer need to be on the welfare rolls.

"Some people thank the three most beautiful words are 'I love you'. They are not for these people. The three most beautiful words are, 'I'm working now.'"

**Other services**  
Mrs. Marlene Swarbrick explained some of the other services the welfare department becomes involved with. Those services include subsidizing fees of Red Cross Homemakers, VON visits, day nursery fees and foster child allowances.

According to Director Rennie Vivian, the Department of Social and Family Services is often the end of the line for people.

He noted his staff often worked with youngsters rejected from their home. He spoke of some cases where individuals stormed the administrative offices and said they'd paid taxes all of their lives and wanted to

collect welfare now. Some went as far as threatening to park their kids in the office and calling the newspapers.

He spoke of many other cases where the recipients had fallen on hard times and reluctantly asked for help. He said the workers had to be a cross between someone cruel and nasty and a "wishy washy do-gooder."

Other portions of the day-long seminar saw regional councillors tour Halton Centennial Manor and visit Halton County Health Unit.

While at the Manor members examined problems with the old laundry and explained proposals for a new one in addition to other renovations deemed necessary at the Manor.

Staffers at Halton County Health Unit set up booths in the basement and on the main floor and used visual aids to illustrate the many services provided by that department.

Pre-natal courses, public health inspection, nursing care in elementary schools, mental health, proper care

for eyes and teeth were among the many concerns of the public health unit.

Community nurses and public health inspectors were available to talk with councillors and explain the different phases of work and the variety of programs being carried on by the Health Unit at the present time.

Community Services Committee Chairman said he felt the program had been successful in giving councillors a better understanding of the programs offered. "I feel they'll be better prepared to vote when recommendations come before them," he said.

**SPLINTS**

A splint for a fracture must be long enough to immobilize the joint above and below the fracture and be sufficiently wide and firm, according to St. John Ambulance. The splint should also be well padded to fit accurately to the limb and be applied over clothing.



DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL and Family Services Rennie Vivian told members of the Regional Community Services Committee and some other councillors attending a tour what his department was all about. He called on a number of staff members to explain different phases of the service provided. Councillors visited Halton Centennial Manor and Halton Health Unit after leaving Mr. Vivian and his staff at headquarters on Steeles Ave.

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