

# Sees Halton shaking off its growing pains

By Bob Burt

It was a little more than a year ago when Allan Masson set up shop in the county buildings on Steeles Ave. in Milton as the first regional chairman in Halton. With him he had just an acting clerk Garfield Brown and a secretary Susan Jacobs. The region now operates out of rented headquarters in Burlington and has about 900 people in its employ.

In an interview recently, Chairman Masson outlined the trials and tribulations he and his 24-member council encountered during the first year of operation.

Most of the first year was spent in developing new departments that had never functioned on a regional scale before, hiring new department heads and taking over functions that had been formerly handled at the local area level.

**In turmoil**  
For onlookers, the region was the scene of turmoil during the early months as new departments were being

formed and old ones revamped.

The process was hampered considerably by some councillors who in an attempt to keep the regional staff in check, bucked progress and from time to time sidelined plans.

Conflicts between local area governments and the region also highlighted the early months of Halton's regional government. Masson claims regional politicians have improved as their knowledge of what the region is all about has increased.

He suggests fences have been mended and relationships between the region and the area governments have improved as well.

**CAO's big help**  
Masson claims council's decision to go through the better part of the year without a Chief Administrative Officer also hampered progress.

Ernie Reid was hired to do that job only a few months ago and according to Masson, Reid's experience in regional government in Sudbury and

Thunder Bay has proven valuable in Halton.

Work has begun on the official plan and Masson says the job will keep the planners busy during the coming year. He hopes the document will be done within the three year period specified in the regional bill.

Masson sees 1975 as a year the region will be heavily involved in engineering for public works projects.

**Big project**  
The addition of a laundry to Halton Centennial Manor will be a major project and is estimated to cost more than half a million dollars.

Public transit is an area that is apt to dominate headlines intermittently through 1975. Masson sees that as a service that must be co-ordinated throughout the region, but not necessarily taken over by the region.

He notes that Oakville and Burlington both run bus services. Milton runs a limited service and Halton Hills has no bus service. According to Masson Halton Hills council isn't interested



ALLAN MASSON

in having the service introduced.

Masson said he was optimistic that GO train connections could be made to serve the people of Milton. He sees the need for co-operation between the various municipalities in the region to

organize bus routes and schedules so that passengers could cross political boundaries and traverse the region without a great deal of inconvenience. From a regional point of view, transportation services that now exist in the region are chaotic, he says.

**Joint venture**  
The chairman is optimistic that the region can be in permanent office headquarters before the current council's term of rental ends in two years' time. He noted the region was considering co-operating with other government agencies in a

joint building venture. The provincial government has given the region a good reaction in that regard.

Masson sees the possibility of a District Health Council being introduced in Halton during 1975. The chairman said there had been some suggestion that the province would have liked to have done that during 1974.

"At that time I said we had our plates full. We're blessed with good health service in the region. We have four good hospitals and four good hospital boards. We shouldn't disturb that," he said.

The function of a district health council is to supervise the health services. Halton Human Services Council will do that job as part of its role, once it is set up and operative.

During 1975 Masson sees expansion of pollution control plants as a priority item that must be dealt with before the region can expand its housing stock to any degree. Pollution control plants in all four area municipalities are at or over capacity now, he noted.

## Firefighters thank helpers at dinner

Milton Firefighters' annual Christmas social night was held Friday, Dec. 20 at the fire hall with over 50 on hand for a dinner prepared and served by the brigade's social committee.

The annual party is for firefighters and others who have helped them through the year.

Fire Chief A. E. Clement was master of ceremonies for a brief program following the

dinner. Councillor Brad Clements extended best wishes to the firefighters and season's greetings on behalf of the town council. Former chief Bill Randell, Dr. C. A. Martin, Sgt. Al Grainger of Milton OPP and Deputy Fire Chief George Bundy also spoke briefly.

**New firefighters**  
The three newest members of the brigade were introduced—Bill Russell, Pat Ryan and Allan Wilkie.

Guests this year included Charlie Johnson, George Swann, Ed Ramsbottom, Bill Duignan, Bert Jones, Delmar Coulson, Russ Robertson, Fred Timbers, Roy Downs and Percy Barr plus eight former members of the fire department. A dozen chickens were given away in draws.

Bill Van Rooyen headed the social committee which arranged the roast beef dinner. Helpers were John Johnson, Doug Gervais, Don Marshall, George Prior, Harold Coulson, Ivan Clarridge and Harold Penson.

## Area Witnesses look to future

Dave Sheppard, presiding overseer of the Milton congregation, has announced today a two day, semi-annual Circuit gathering of Jehovah's Witnesses in the Milton, Brampton, Georgetown, Burlington and Port Credit areas. It is anticipated that approximately 1,500 persons will attend from a total of 11 congregations. The assembly will be held at the newly dedicated Assembly Hall built by Jehovah's Witnesses, located one mile west of Mississauga Rd., on Highway 7 near Norval, Dec. 28 and 29.

**For the future**  
"Will continued inflation destroy your security? How will you pay rent or buy food? Will food supplies run out? Will dangers to your health or safety grow? Can the nations outbreak of terrifying wars?" asked Mr. Sheppard. "The Bible has much to say about the future—not mere human guesses," he explained. That is why we are looking forward to the public talk scheduled for Sunday afternoon, on the subject "What the Near Future Holds?"



CHOIR LEADER Gary Carter reviews a piece of music with pianist Chris Penrice and soloist Ginny Penrice before the Christmas service at Emmanuel Baptist Church.

—The 1975 licence plate renewal stickers are on sale until Feb. 28.

—The Champion resumes regular Wednesday publication next week.

—Students had a full two weeks of Christmas and New Year's holidays this year.

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**Toyota Community Calendar**  
What's doing in the Central Halton Area!  
**HOCKEY TOURNAMENT**  
There's still time to sit in on some of the action at Milton Minor Hockey Association's week-long Beaver Tournament, being staged Dec. 26 to Saturday, Jan. 4, at the Armstrong Arena, Brown St. About 1,000 boys are participating, with 80 games scheduled.  
**ARENA OPENING**  
Milton Memorial Arena on Thompson Rd. will be officially opened to public use this weekend, with festivities Jan. 4, 5 and 6. The Finnish hockey team will be playing a Milton midjet team on Monday and special ceremonies are planned.  
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