



BEAVER DAVID WILSON was busy making a wolf out of a foam egg carton Saturday at Milton Mall. The five-year-old was part of a Scout-Guide display in the Mall as part of the national Scout-Guide Week.

### 'Juggling the books'

# Committee says budget deceptive

Halton Region's Administration Committee will attempt to have Regional Council reverse a stand the council took on the budget when it dealt with it a few weeks ago.

At that time council agreed to take \$552,000 that would be raised in revenue at landfill sites and use it to offset the increase in the mill rate.

The Administration Committee is now saying the

money was earmarked for landfill or resource recovery purposes and that the money should be left to cover those costs, instead of reducing taxes.

The decision followed charges by councillors that the action was "dishonest, misleading and deceitful".

Oakville Councillor Carl Eriksen said the idea of using the funds to lower the impact on taxes was an attempt to

hide the true cost of regional government.

"This is dishonest and deceitful," he said.

Burlington Mayor Mary Munro said that Chairman Ric Morrow had convinced council it should take the money raised to cover landfill costs and use it to reduce the mill rate. "The increased dumping charges were whisked into revenue and now we are spending \$1,000,000

that doesn't show in the budget. This is juggling the books," she said.

She argued that when it came time to pay for a landfill site the money would have to be raised and council would say taxes are going up to pay for a new landfill site. "But in fact the people have already paid for it."

"I say this is dishonest and deceptive, to approach it in this manner. Council was

misled and the public will be misled," she said.

Councillor Mac Anderson said he supported Morrow's proposal at the budget meeting earlier, but had since decided he was wrong. "This had played on my conscience ever since that meeting," he said.

During the meeting Wednesday, Chairman Ric Morrow, who was absent, came in for heavy personal criticism. Several committee members claimed the whole budget procedure was a "hodge podge" this year.

Asked to comment after the meeting, Morrow would say

only that he was sorry the committee had taken that approach and acknowledged the matter could be taken up at council.

But later the same day Morrow told the Public Works Committee that the Administration Committee had no legal right to even consider the council action.

"This must be reconsidered by the committee of the whole. It causes me great concern that the process is breaking down because of the action of the Administration Committee," Morrow said.

A number of the members of the Works Committee were provoked at the Administration Committee's action in reviewing the council decision.

## Condominium conversion moves one step closer

A proposal to convert a 12-unit Georgetown rental apartment to a condominium received approval from the regional planning committee last week. The decision reversed a staff recommendation calling for the application by Larrad Construction Ltd. to be refused.

Staff recommended refusal on the grounds there was limited rental accommodation available in the northern urban area.

Halton Hills Councillor Roy Booth told the committee the application had been approved by Georgetown Council and, later, twice by Halton Hills Council. "It's irksome when the local municipality spends so much time on a minor issue to have the region say no," said Mr. Booth, who queried the point of having local planning staff when the region overturned its work.

The committee also recommended the approval of two proposed plans of subdivision in Milton. One is located off Commercial St. and the other at the north-east corner of Derry Rd. and Bronte St.

All applications must be approved by the Ministry of Housing as well.

In other business the committee began the process of hearing delegations concerning the draft official plan for Halton.

Councillors heard members

of the Regional Land Use Committee complain about the lack of specificity in the plan. Several members also objected to the plan's proposal for development control. Des Morrow of Halton Hills called development control a "special type of possibly undemocratic control", which he said might be appropriate when applied to the Niagara Escarpment but at the regional level represented further intrusion by government into its citizens' affairs.

Terence Baines, chairman of the Halton District Health Council, presented a brief

outlining the Health Council's comments on the plan's social and health services policies. He said the Health Council questioned the region's mandate to be involved in health and social services.

The Health Council also objects to the establishment of an integrated health and social advisory committee as called for in the plan. Mr. Baines suggested separating health from social services, saying both areas were too large for any one committee to handle. He added the District Health Council could respond to the region in health matters.

### 'Unacceptable'

## Health minister angers region

Members of Halton Region Administration Committee are angry because Ontario Health Minister Dennis Timbrell won't consider picking up what the committee feels is a fair share of hospital costs.

Committee members argue that because they have no effective control over the operation of hospitals, they should not become involved in debenturing to cover costs of hospital construction and additions.

Under the current system the region picks up one third of the costs and the province assumes two thirds.

Committee members feel that the province has complete control over the hospital additions or construction of

new hospitals and because of that, the province should pay 100 per cent of the cost.

At one point during the committee meeting, Wednesday, Burlington Councillor David Coons said the region shouldn't be involved in hospital financing but should charge it back to area municipalities.

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett explained that patients from various communities rely on hospitals in other communities and because of that, it didn't make sense to charge the full cost to municipalities where hospitals existed.

After a long discussion the committee agreed to support

a recommendation from Burlington Mayor Mary Munro.

Her recommendation indicated that the region found the minister's position unacceptable. She suggested the region should pick up the cost of one third of any expansion project, but charge back costs of interest and carrying charges for debentures to the hospital boards. That way the expenses incurred by going with debentures would be reflected in hospital board budgets and become eligible for provincial subsidies.

She noted the scheme would also see the users of the hospital contribute through OHIP premiums to the cost of a project.

## Committee to explore Green's allegations

Halton Region's Administration Committee has called for a full and complete investigation into allegations concerning the Land Division Committee.

The allegations were levelled by a Milton member of the committee, David Green. In a letter announcing his resignation from the committee, Green said he felt he'd reached "the level of a third or fourth class citizen" with the committee.

He claimed that a committee of three members dealt with matters relating to other departments in the region and staff matters. "No other committee members appear to be considered," he said.

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett said Wednesday he felt the committee shouldn't accept the resignation until they had asked Green to substantiate his allegations. "If there are problems, let's deal with them."

Halton Hills Councillor Russ Miller agreed. "Let's table this, pending a full re-

port on the matter. It might be that it is a tight little group and if you're not on the inside, you just don't fit in at all."

Burlington Councillor Walter Mulkevic said the charges had to be answered.

Milton Councillor Jim Watson went along with the idea of a full report but felt Green's resignation should be accepted. He felt the committee should accept Milton Council's recommendation and appoint Lloyd Chisholm as Green's replacement in the meantime. He said Green refused to reconsider his resignation.

Chisholm was recommended to replace Green on the committee and a staff report into Green's allegations has been requested. Council will ratify that action today.

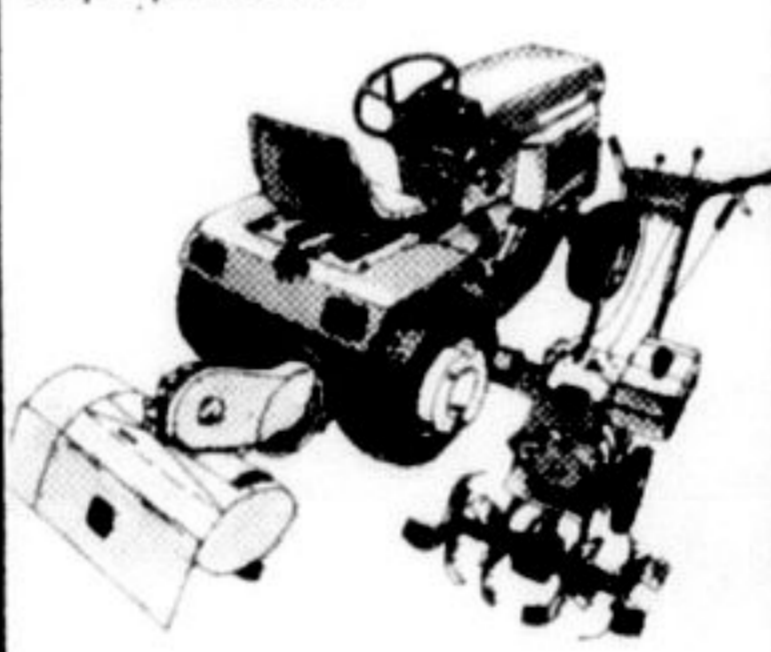
### Tailgating is dangerous

In winter, treacherous road surfaces make tailgating even more dangerous. Often, it results in an accident that delays hundreds of other road users, says the Industrial Accident Prevention Association.

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<b>FLORIDA ORANGES</b> 99¢ doz.	<b>ANJOU PEARS</b> 59¢ lb.
<b>CARROTS</b> 2 lbs. for 49¢	<b>LETTUCE</b> 45¢ head
<b>CHRISTIE BREAD</b> 3/\$1 15	<b>MACS, GOLDEN &amp; DELICIOUS APPLES</b> \$4 99 1/2 Bushel
<b>RED GRAPEFRUIT</b> 4/ 89¢	<b>GREEN CABBAGE</b> 49¢ head
<b>CELERY HEARTS</b> 67¢ each	<b>EMPEROR GRAPES</b> 79¢ lb.
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