

Region debates purchase of counselling services



ELIZABETH BRIDGES, Milton OPP Constable, checks out the safety knowledge of this young motorist taking part in a police safety course at Milton Mall. Milton OPP and Halton Regional Police set up a driving course for all interested youngsters last week. The idea enjoyed good success, according to police. It was co-sponsored by Milton Mall and The Champion.

Provision of counselling services to North Halton was the major focus of discussion concerning the region's future involvement in counselling. The matter was raised during last week's Health and Social Services Committee meeting.

At present, a staff of three social workers offers counselling services to Halton residents. The service was initiated several years ago to serve those residents who needed counselling but couldn't pay for it. Since then a fee system has been introduced for those who can afford to pay some amount toward the cost.

Now the committee is considering the desirability of phasing out the regional service, in part or in whole, and buying counselling from a private agency for those residents who can't pay.

Two private agencies, Burlington Counselling and Human Relations Institute (COHR) and Oakville Family Service Bureau, are prepared to take over the region's work in Burlington and Oakville respectively.

On questioning from counsellors, they indicated willingness to negotiate services to the north as well.

But councillors from Milton and Halton Hills were concerned the north would get shafted in the deal.

"To get the contract they'll say they'll take the north," Halton Hills Councillor Pat McKenzie commented.

Mr. McKenzie advocated testing the purchase of service concept in Oakville and Burlington to start with, while continuing to serve the north with regional staff. If it works, then the new system could be extended to the north later.

But Halton Hills Councillor Roy Booth argued if the plan was adopted for the southern municipalities only, some council in the future could come along and wipe out services to the north altogether.

Mr. Booth said any new arrangements should provide for the north as well.

J. Basil Adams, executive director of COHR, and Nancy Brown, executive director of

Family Service Bureau, offered to provide counselling at a cost to the region of \$30 per hour, up to a maximum cost of \$38,000 and \$24,000 respectively.

Mr. Vivian estimated it would cost an additional \$25,000 to service the north when the cost of maintaining an office is included.

But Mrs. Brown questioned the need for a full-time worker in the north. "I am not convinced there are 35 hours of counselling problems in the north. It's possible the north could be served with a day and a half to three days a week."

Both agencies were eager to enter into purchase of service agreements with the region.

"We feel the purchase of service would be a progressive move and highly economical for the region," Mrs. Brown said.

She said Family Service Bureau and COHR were already serving low income clients without getting any assistance. Noting a staff report indicated the region's services were underutilized, Mrs. Brown commented: "You have counsellors who aren't adequately busy and we have the clients."

Rennie Vivian, regional administrator of regional social and family services, said an argument could be made the region was offering its residents an alternative service.

But Grant Jones, of the Family Service Bureau board, said, "Even if it is an alternative, I think the handwriting is on the wall regarding which agency is the choice of the community."

Currently the region is spending in the neighborhood of \$80,000 annually on its counselling program, of which part is subsidized 50

The committee postponed a decision on purchase of service and asked Mr. Vivian to bring in a report on alternative ways of providing counselling to people in financial need.

Trident tallies

Final score in the Tuesday night game in Milton:

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Postpone expansion at Glen Eden slopes

Several recommendations were made by the conservation areas information education advisory board at its regular meeting last week. The recommendations go before the full conservation authority for approval Oct. 26.

The committee recommended:

- payment of a 15 per cent holdback on the purchase price of the triple chairlift at Glen Eden provided the firm agrees to carry out specified work on the lift. Payment was withheld when Skyway Engineering failed to install the chairlift in time last year. The settlement is recommended to ensure continuation of servicing to the chairlift.
- postponement of any further expansion at Glen Eden Ski Area for at least another year. The committee felt the conservation authority was not in a position to spend another three-quarter to one million dollars for a second chalet, a T-Bar for the beginners' slope, and another parking lot.

—to limit ski instruction at Glen Eden, which is located in the Kelso Conservation Area, to the direction of Tony Petrov. In the past groups were allowed to bring their own instructors, but this practice will be discontinued.

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SARAH BLACK learns the meaning of the STOP sign during a special safety program held at Milton Mall Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Milton OPP and Halton Regional Police designed a safety course for youngsters with the aim to teach children the value of the different traffic signs. With four-year-old Sarah is Halton Regional Police Safety Officer Raj Swaminathan.

May file grievance over special constables

The Halton Police Association may file a grievance over the Halton Police Commission's decision to hire seven civilians as special constables for court escort duties, Police Association President Al Ruelens indicated at a police commission meeting Thursday.

The threat of filing a grievance was made in September, but a meeting was arranged with Acting Commission Chairman Harry Barrett, Police Chief Ken Skerret and Ruelens, where action was supposed to be held off until a report on the civilian employees was made by Ruelens.

A long harangue developed over two reports, both by Ruelens, but submitted separately to the commission and the police association.

Police Civilian Administrator Ray Munro contended he requested an officer to work on a report, with Inspector Southward gathering information from other sources. Then the whole report would be presented to him. He said after discussion he intended to bring it to the Commission.

The report was sent to the Commission members by Association president Al Ruelens.

Dave Coons, a member of the commission, pointed out the request to hire the special constables was in front of them now.

Barrett emphasized there is no question the commission endorses the concept of special constables for escort duties.

"I would hope you would not make a decision based on a biased report by the Police Association president," commented Munro.

Barrett demanded a retraction of the statement and pointed out the constable was commissioned to do the report.

Munro refused to retract his words.

Coons again pointed out the chief has been authorized to hire up to seven special constables.

While the report was never discussed, Barrett indicated it now recommended only four special constables.

Skerret asked if the whole picture was being changed and only four instead of seven were to be hired.

Magnuson said there is no doubt the commission is committed to hiring the special constables, but said the numbers seem to be in doubt, so suggested the report be tabled until October 19 meeting.

Munro said the interviews had been held and some of the applicants might be lost if there is more delay.

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NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS AND TENANTS CORRECTIONS TO THE SCHOOL SUPPORT LIST

The Assessment Office for the Province of Ontario has submitted the Annual School Support List and it has been posted on October 20th, 1978, in the Office of the Clerk Administrator, Municipal Administration Building, Seventh Line (Halton Road No. 3) for inspection.

Property owners and tenants are requested to examine this List to ensure that their names and relevant information are correctly shown therein.

Attention is drawn to the necessity to complete the required FORM ONE, available at the Office of the Clerk Administrator respecting an Application for Alteration of School Support Entry.

All requests for additions, corrections or deletions from the List will be received by the Clerk Administrator at the Municipal Administration Building, commencing on Friday, October 20th, 1978, through to Friday, October 27th, 1978, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding Saturdays and Sundays.

The last day for filing forms requesting additions, or corrections to, or deletions from the List, will be Friday, October 27, 1978, at 4:30 p.m.

K. R. Richardson, Clerk Administrator, Town of Halton Hills.

DATED THIS 17th DAY OF OCTOBER, 1978.

The Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills

NOTICE TO ELECTORS POSTING OF PRELIMINARY LIST OF ELECTORS

The Assessment Office for the Province of Ontario has submitted the Preliminary List of Electors and it has been posted on October 20th, 1978, in the Office of the Clerk Administrator, Municipal Administration Building, Seventh Line, (Halton Road No. 3) for inspection.

A copy of the Preliminary List of Electors has also been posted at the following locations:

WARD 1 (former Town of Acton)	—Municipal Office 40 Mill Street East Acton, Ontario	—Post Office 53 Bower Avenue Acton, Ontario
WARD 2 (former Township of Esquesing)	—Hornby Post Office —Limehouse Post Office —Norval Post Office	
WARDS 3 and 4 (former Town of Georgetown)	—Municipal Office (Treasury) 36 Main Street South Georgetown, Ontario	—Post Office 112 Guelph Street Georgetown, Ontario

Public Library
17 River Street
Acton, Ontario

Public Library
9 Church Street
Georgetown, Ontario

Electors are requested to examine the List to ensure that their names and the relevant information are correctly shown therein.

Attention is drawn to the necessity to complete the required form, available at the Office of the Clerk Administrator and Revising Officer, respecting an Application for correction or alteration to the List.

All requests for additions, corrections or deletions from the List will be received by the Clerk Administrator and Revising Officer at the Municipal Administration Building, Seventh Line, (Halton Road No. 3) commencing on Friday, October 20th, 1978, through to Friday, October 27th, 1978, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. excluding Saturdays and Sundays.

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K. R. Richardson, Clerk Administrator and Revising Officer.

DATED THIS 17th DAY OF OCTOBER, 1978.

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