By Olga Darcovich

sentatives of community agencies which serve children in Halton joined forces to keep tabs on and respond to the reorganization of children's services initiated by the

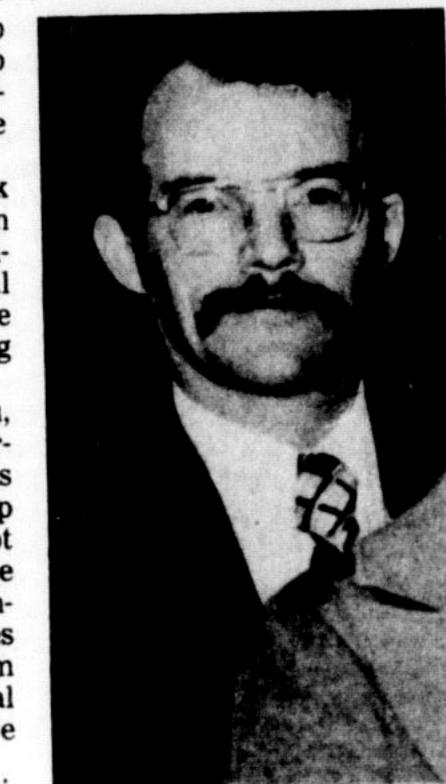
provincial government. This fall, the group can look back on a productive year in which voluntary co-ordination of services at the local level has begun and some important issues concerning care to children tackled.

According to John Rabeau, chairman of Children's Services Steering Committee, as the group is called, the group has been "very effective" not only in getting together the large number of people involved in delivering services in Halton, but in getting them to come together in a regional point of view over prospective programs.

Last summer the responsibility for various services to children, formerly scattered throughout several ministries, was brought under one umbrella, the Ministry of Community and Social Ser-

At the same time, the province announced its intent to

return some administrative responsibility for services to children back to the com-



RABEAU, worker police. Children's Steering

welfare of children.

To gain a better understanding of all these changes and their implications, Halton Youth Services Network sponsored a meeting in July of last year with Judge. George Thomson, Associate Deputy Minister of Community and Social Services. Out of this meeting the steering committee was formed as a response to Judge Thomson's indication that consultation groups were needed in the community, Mr. Rabeau explained in a recent interview.

The committee has a floating membership - about 60 people currently belong. Most of these represent agencies in Halton serving children. The Children's Aid Society and the Children's Assessment and Treatment Centre are two examples of such agencies.

A few interested citizens have joined as well. Walter Mulkewich, chairman of the Regional Community and Social Services Committee, represents the region. But anybody is welcome to

munity and to make changes attend and become involved, in legislation concerning the stressed Mr. Rabeau, a social worker with Halton Police.

"It's an open-ended commit-Because of the province's committee, in consultation intent to decentralize administration of children's have drawn up a model for services, the committee took presentation to Queen's Park, as its main focus the obligation to try to formulate a model for managing child-

Basic to the model is the development of a body local people who would take on the administrative task.

By next year the steering with Regional Council, will Mr. Rabeau anticipates. The committee is in liaison with the region through Chief ren's services in the region. Administrative Officer Ernie

Large part of police work

concerns social problems

Although members of the committee are in agreement with the principle of local coordination, they are concerned about how the changes will be implemented, Mr.

Rabeau said. Two major issues - the division of funding between province and municipality, and the standards of care have not yet been resolved by

information about these two on cost-sharing arrangeareas hampers planning, he ments. pointed out, and was the reason the Halton group did of the test sites for pilot projects on local children's

committees. The province has stated it intends the community to assume at least some of the cost of services to children in

the Ministry. Lack of definite its area, but has not expanded

The provincial tax base is income while the region's is not apply for Halton to be one property. Although both sources of revenue are the taxpayers' pockets, the two methods of collecting money for financing social programs have different implications.

According to Mr. Rabeau, taxation of property doesn' take into account people's ability to pay. He is concerned taxpayers will not look favorably on an increase in the property tax base to pay for children's services. "The need for social services, not only for children but for anyone, is very difficult to sell," he explained.

The general view is that people with problems are responsible for their condition but that isn't always the case, he continued, citing the example of children who suffer from learning dis-

Social services are confidential and therefore invisible to the public who,

consequently, fail to see the need for them.

Agency staff, on the other hand, is dealing with social problems day in and day out and say Halton is underserviced. Facilities for emotionally disturbed children, for instance, are minimal in North Halton and in Oakville and children requiring treatment have to be sent hundreds of miles away from home, Mr.

Rabeau said. Another concern of local agencies is whether their autonomy will be affected. At present, the private boards of these agencies set policies. If this authority is taken over by the local co-ordinating body which will one day be established, local agencies will lose autonomy and control over their own destinies, he pre-

Asked how much clout the steering committee could have with the province, Mr. Rabeau replied it can be an effective lobby in dealing with the province from a regional point of view.

Town favors auto plant

Halton Hills planning board paid little heed to objections from the Town of Milton, Halton regional planners and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, this week, when they approved in principle an reconditioning automobile plant on Steele's Avenue, near the Fourth Line. The land backs on to Highway 401.

objected to the further loss of prime agricultural land while of water required, since the Milton claimed the industrial zoning would be an intrusion into a rural area, and would have a negative impact on lands in both Milton and Halton Hills.

resolution, termed "sour grapes" by Chairman Roy Booth, went on to say the proposal would conflict with the control on industrially designated land across the boundary in Milton, and claimed it could approval Milton's 1390 acre industrial park nearby.

Internati-Arndt-Palmer Inc. is seeking rezoning of the 53 acres for the painting and reconditioning of leased cars for Chrysler Canada Ltd. A 20,000 square foot plant, employing 30 people to start will be built, and a large outside storage area will be maintained.

When the leased nearly new cars are reconditioned they are auctioned to dealers.

In his report, planner Brian Kropf said the proposal has merit and warrants favorable consideration. He said as far as he knew it would be a dry developed to a high standard as a prestige use. He em-Arndt-Palmer would have to endorse these two statements before final approval is given.

buyers Champion classifieds, where

The report also called for extensive landscape buffering from any adjacent

properties and from Steele's Avenue, and Highway 401. More detailed engineering studies will be required, and land for road widening will be required by the Ministry of Transportation and Com-

munications. Halton Regional Health The Ministry of Agriculture Unit is doubtful if wells in the area would supply the volume Arndt-Palmer plant in Scarborough where 10 to 15 cars are processed per day has

used 170,500 gallons in the last used for washing cars.

The Health Unit said the car wash water will present a difficult disposal problem, and would come under the Ministry of Environment.

Sharon Johnston, Regional Planner, questioned the need for further removal of prime agricultural land, in view of plan for the region. A report from W. D. Sar- and sewage

Inspector

travenes the draft Official industry could provide through isn't done,

four months. The water is Administrator, he stated the volume of traffic on Highway 401 would lessen the possibility of residential growth in the area. He said the extension of industrial designation would be logical since the

When he was a front line

worker with the police force,

there was very little distinc-

tion between the work he did

and the work police officers

did, social worker John

Rabeau recalled in a recent

interview. The major part of

the activities carried out by

officers in the youth section of

the force really fall into the

category of social work, he

Milton is proposed industrial industrial assessment, and said it would seem a worthwhile proposal, assuming the mented adding if that followadequately for its own water problem recurs. Building facilities.

worker on the Halton Police dealing with social problems. Force, now splits his time among three roles: recruitand co-ordination of youth non-criminal offences, But the first four and a half

years on the force, Mr. Rabeau dealt with all juveand was also involved in domestic situations (family fights, neighbor disputes), attempted suicides, missing persons -- "anything with social implications.'

He went with police to answer calls and rotated through different shifts along with the officers.

His role was to identify the underlying social problems that led to the situation south side of Highway 401 in requiring police intervention.

"Police are front line social He pointed out the need for workers. They're in a position identify problems and

Some police forces, like the

Compensation.

Starting six years ago with one in New York City, have a understaffed, priority given to crime prevention and the Youth and Family Ser- specially-trained squad control, and the so-called vices Division of what was which handles domestic disthen the Burlington force Mr. putes. But generally, police Rabeau, the only social receive minimal training in he said.

In contrast to the large police work that deals with and family services divisions. small portion - roughly five per cent — of the education a police officer receives at police college is devoted to niles in contact with police social problems. Officers are left to develop skills handling these by experience. Some pick up the requisite skills better than others. The consequence is that a lot of people who could use help,

> On the other hand, Mr. Rabeau pointed out, having a deal with social problems can past year. be considered a frill. "It's a great service, but there's the question of cost."

"Police have no mandate to do that sort of thing. The argument can be made that those types of problems can be dealt with more appropriately by other social agencies in the community.

When a police force is

"frills" fall by the wayside, In one of his current roles, that of co-ordinator of youth

portion - 80 per cent - of and family service divisions in the Halton police network. Mr. Rabeau hopes to develop a training program for officers working with youth.

In his personnel capacity, he is primarily involved in helping to assess prospective civilian employees of the

Not least, Mr. Rabeau represents the force on a number of community boards and committees. In this context he joined Halton Children's Services Steering Committee where he has social worker on the force to served as chairman for the

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Farm accidents cost lost time

Farmers in Halton Region suffered 110 accidents last year severe enough to cause them to lose time from work.

Workmen's Compensation Board Chairman Michael Starr said the WCB had processed a total of over 2,100 claims from farm workers for lost-time injuries in 1977. Mr. Starr was speaking at the International Plowing Match at Wingham.

Representatives of the WCB were present at the Match to discuss farm injury problems and to promote the farm safety program. The Board finances safety organizations throughout the province, including the Farm Safety Association.

Mr. Starr revealed the WCB had paid out over \$5.5 million in benefits to injured farm workers last year. "I suggest to you that the farming industry is far too important to this province to permit such an accident rate and such a bill in terms of human suffering," Mr. Starr stated. He added that farmers must preach safety to their families and their employees and "they must practice what they preach." Over 20,000 Ontario farms are covered under Workmen's

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Ave. From left, Eddie Bravo, Sabino Conceicao, and Gabriel Coroa dig up the real estate on Woodward Ave. preparatory to the laying of the cable. The workers were scheduled to have finished the project yesterday. the bargains are. Junior champion from Dixon farm

exhibitors on Friday, Oct. 6 at the West-Central Ontario Championship Holstein Show in Erin. Top animals from the counties East of Oxford and West of York competed for district honors.

Visitors from China were among the large interested Woodrow, Earl Beeton judged this Show.

Claude F. Picket, Georgetown had two first placers. One was his three-year-old. Norsdale Nelle Roxanne and the other his Senior Yearling Pickland Ivanhoe Crystal Georgetown Stylemaster Mardix Jamie daughter, dairy, Stylemaster. clean Junior Yearling was declared Junior Champion over the first prize 'Unique' Calf. Allangrove Unique Carol shown by M.D. Campbellville. Wingrove also topped the Junior Heifer Calf class with Allangrove Ventura

daughter. The Champion Male was Spring Hedge Phoenix. This Puget Sound Highmark son

placed first in the Bull Calf class for owners Bertram Stewart, Hornby and Harry

Joel owned by Indian Garden Farm, Acton.

Moore, Terra Cotta. First in the Yearling Bull class (2) was Indian Garden

Corbett's in Milton

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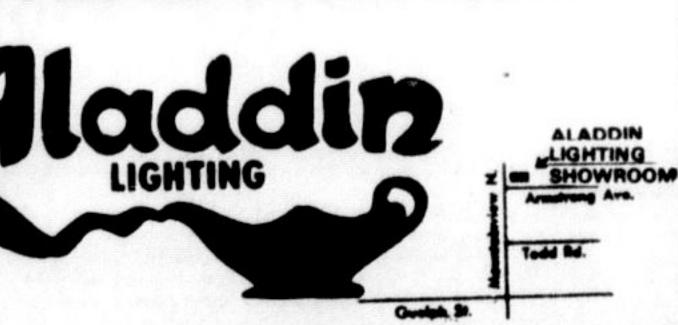
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