

One Halton agency is best for social services--report suggests

By Lorne Drury
Halton Region would be better served by having one single agency providing family counselling services for area residents.

That's the major conclusion drawn in a study on the delivery of family counselling services in Halton presented to the region's health and social services committee.

The study noted that

the region is now served by six key agencies providing good family counselling services. However, 70 per cent of the counselling is carried out by three main agencies—Oakville Family Service Bureau, Burlington Counselling and Human Relations Institute (COHR) and the Region of Halton Family Counselling Division. Only about 30 per cent of family counselling is provided by three psychiatric facilities—

Oakville-Trafalgar Hospital Outpatient Psychiatry Department, Joseph Brant Hospital Outpatient Psychiatry Department and the North Halton Mental Health Clinic.

While the quality of counselling is good in all agencies, the small size of the family-service type agencies (especially the COHR) limits the efficiency and effectiveness, the study con-

cludes. The study also noted that the existence of a relatively large number of family counselling agencies produces confusion for the public and for referral sources.

As a result of a survey undertaken during the study, it was noted that the needs for family counselling services are expected to increase significantly during the next five years. "This conclusion

comes mainly from the assessment of the human service professionals, physicians and clergy surveyed, who argue that increased demand is a function of social change and economic stress (continued acceleration in family breakups etc.) and also population change. Some increase in demand for family counselling services is also projected by the study team on the basis of population growth alone," the study states.

The study also concludes that Halton is currently underserved in the area of family counselling. This conclusion is drawn from an analysis of data on province-wide service levels (funding and cases treated) which suggests that, as a whole, Halton family counselling services provide about 60 per cent of the level of service which might be expected by residents of Ontario.

The extent to which needs are met today varies from area to area within the region, the study suggests. However, of the municipalities involved, Oakville is the best served.

The study recommends that a purchase of service agreement be negotiated with a single agency to provide service in Oakville, Burlington, Halton Hills and Milton with the provision that counselling be provided through regularly open offices.

It is also recommended in the study that Halton begin to phase out its own family counselling service and the region should take steps to aid the establishment of a region-wide United Way.

The study was conducted by Social Policy Research Associates of Toronto under the supervision of the Family Counselling Advisory Group appointed by regional council.



Recovery House draw

The July 5 draw to help Halton Recovery House, the only half-way house between Toronto and Hamilton for recovering male alcoholics, raised about \$4,500 at Hopedale Mall. The project was organized by Ron Franklin, right, chief of security for Hopedale Developments. Shown from left are Franklin's nephew, Ernie Ashford; Leo Casey, a young assistant; Oakville Councillor Peter Arch; Helen Fineran, director of Halton Recovery House; Oakville Councillor Norm Connolly. More than 40 prizes totalling \$2,000 in value were awarded. All but two of them were donated by Hopedale merchants. The top four prize winners were Jeff Van Dyke, Georgetown, color TV; John Miles, Hamilton, black and white TV; "Zeke Senior", Georgetown, AM-FM car radio, installed; and J. Draper, Milton, a night at the Royal York in Toronto plus \$50. The distant winner was somebody from Rochester who won a camera.



A Warmer Welcome

A warmer welcome. The "Welcome to Milton" sign on Martin Street has become weathered over the years so Councillor Gus Goutouski thought it was time to do something about it. With the help of Milton Jaycees, Canadian Tire and Maplehurst Correctional Institute, the sign is being repainted and rebuilt. Canadian Tire donated \$344 to its reconstruction which will go towards repairing the other signs on Steeles Ave. and Hwy. 25. With Jaycee Colin Best (right) is Canadian Tire store manager Vic Elliott.

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Sludge testing is planned

The Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee (HAAC) is planning to do a series of tests on the effectiveness of sludge disposal and fertilization. HAAC Secretary Henry Stanley told the Regional Public Works Committee he would like to use regional sludge on a number of test fields.

Varying depths of sludge growing various grain crops will be attempted in order to determine what amount of sludge works best in this area in these climate conditions.

Committee found the idea favorable and told the HAAC they can have all the sludge they want.

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Between the Willows

Once upon a time

By Don Byers

Take one princess and one prince charming. Put them together in an ancient country church. Surround them with loving relatives and friends—and you have the makings of a dream. Thus it was on July 12, 1980. Of all the topics I have chosen to write about, this is probably the most challenging. The princess in my story is our daughter, Donna-Jane. The occasion was her wedding. It all began months ago. When we got the word, Rhea decided that we had to rebuild the house, inside and out. Which we did. For weeks I bashed nails and sawed lumber. At one point I felt as if a paint roller or brush was an extension of my arm. But it was all worthwhile—Cragview has never looked better. The day of the wedding was sunny and warm. The bride was beautiful. The groom was handsome. The service was touching. And the reception was exactly what Donna-Jane and Alex had requested—good fun with congenial relatives and friends.

After all the excitement, the old homestead seems strangely quiet. Sitting here alone it's hard to imagine that there were folks in the living room, kitchen, dining room, front and back decks, and in a big circle on the terrace.

The air was filled with chatter and laughter... all in all, a most happy occasion.

Bon voyage, Mr. and Mrs. Horvath. How soon the years fly by. It seems like only yesterday I was cheering myself hoarse watching the fiercest girls' basketball team I have ever seen winning the Halton County Championship, bringing honor to Fairview Public School. Donna, five-foot-three on her tippy-toes, was one of the most energetic competitors. It was then I nicknamed her "Pepperpot."

Before I knew it, she was in high school—and into everything you could name: theatre, sports, student admin.—selected for a Quebec exchange program, the Ontario Leadership camp, earning the M.M. Robinson Gold Medal, and the Ontario Scholar Certificate. Swimming Pool supervisor in one of the roughest areas of Etobicoke, and later, in the Toronto Public School System. Perpetual motion, a disarming charm, also, under the right circumstances, a tongue that can strip the bark off a tree. Yes, Alex, you have a lot of lady going for you. I know.

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Jewel theft

Halton Regional Police are investigating the theft of a valuable collection of jewellery stolen from the home of Ann McClure. Police refused to disclose the estimated value of the jewellery but said the sum was "substantial."

side her house when the theft took place. Rings, necklaces and watches were among the items stolen, said police. Police refused to disclose the estimated value of the jewellery but said the sum was "substantial."

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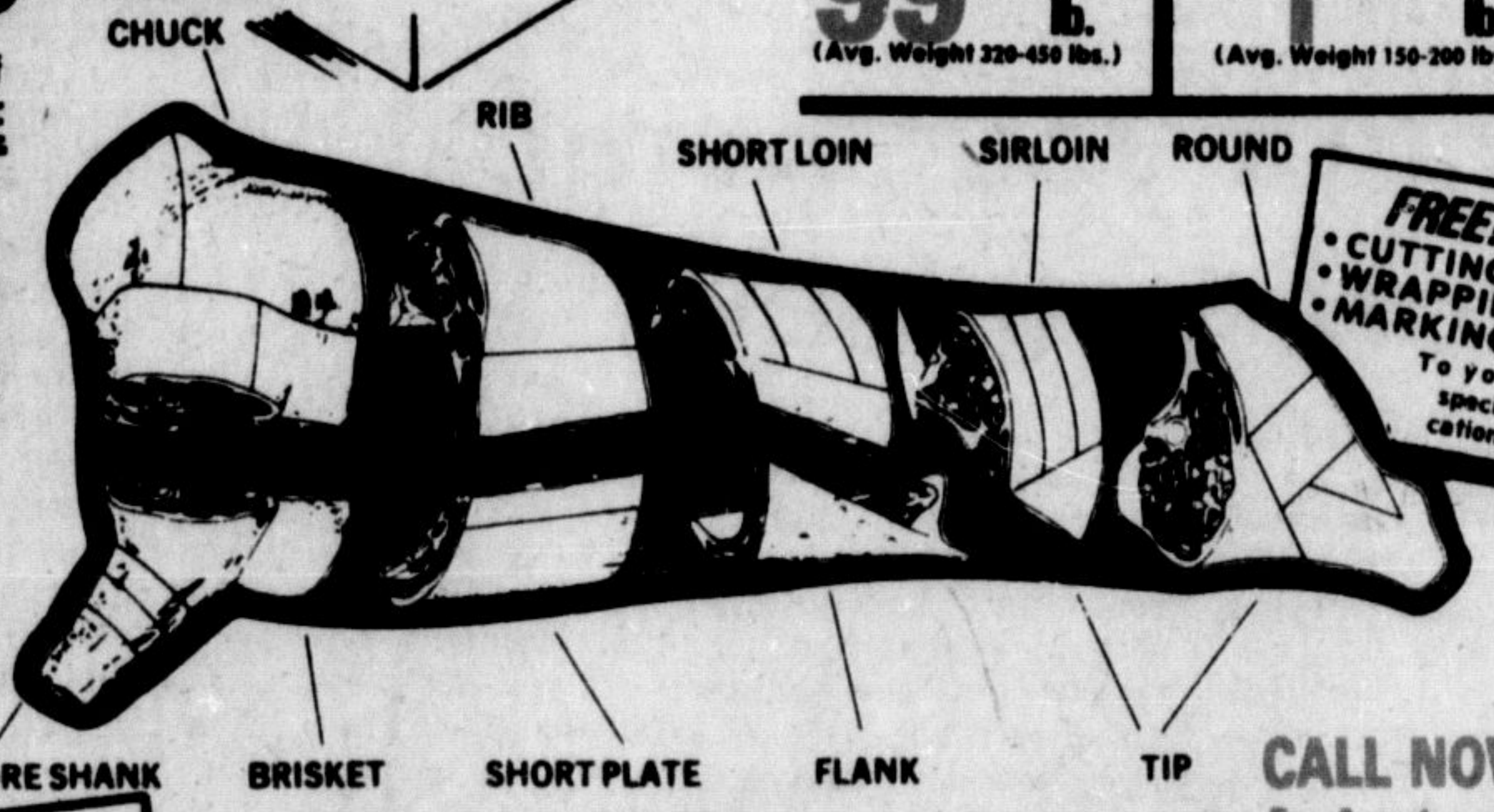
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