

# Hiring from within angers Burl. mayor

By Mike Patton  
Burlington Mayor Roly said he may ask the Provincial Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs to look into managerial problems within Halton Region, since Regional Council decided this week to hire a new chief administrative officer without trying to find candidates for the job.

Council voted 12-10 last Wednesday to hire

regional solicitor Dennis Perlin as Halton's top administrative official, despite vocal opposition from nearly half of the region's councillors.

The decision to hire Mr. Perlin, 33, came after a heated two hour session from which reporters were barred.

"He's a damn good lawyer but he doesn't have the management experience... to pull the region back together," Mayor

Bird said last Thursday. "We've got to get to the province and let them know what kind of management decisions are being made at the region," he said.

Mr. Perlin was hired as Halton's solicitor in 1978. Before that, he was the solicitor for the City of Sudbury.

He was appointed Acting Chief Administrative Officer for Halton in August last year

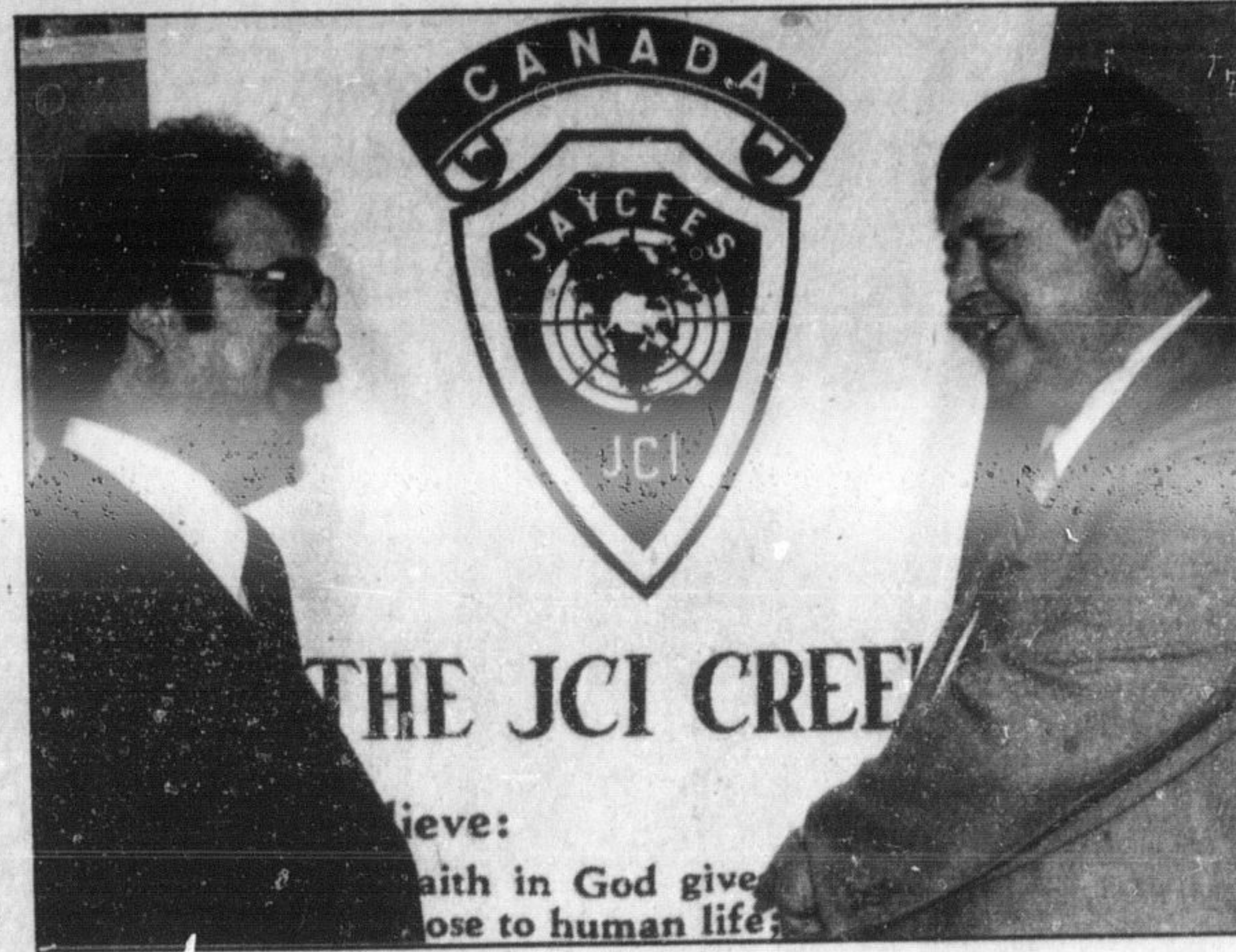
after council requested the resignation of Ernie Reid following discovery of a surprise \$700,000 financial deficit which has since been traced to mismanagement of the region's treasury department.

Regional Chairman Jack Raftis admitted last Thursday that Mr. Perlin has had no administrative training. "I think the skills he lacks he can develop," Mr.

Raftis said, adding Mr. Perlin will likely be enrolling in a summer course at the University of Western Ontario.

Mr. Raftis said Halton's new top official will get an annual salary between \$52,000 and \$55,000 a year.

In an interview with The Champion last year, Mr. Raftis was asked if Mr. Perlin would get the job. Mr. Raftis winked in reply.



## Presidents meet

Dan Dunn, Milton Jaycees president (left), greets the president of Canadian Jaycees Cyril Mills of St. John's Newfoundland. Mr. Mills made Milton one of the stops in his current tour of the country to promote Jaycees Week, Feb. 25 to 31. He was in town for the club's Thursday night meeting held in the Chamber of Commerce Information Centre.

## Former Treasurer not in shuffle

by Mike Patton  
Halton's demoted treasurer Donald Farmer has not been offered a job in the region's revamped treasury department and some councillors claimed he was made a "scapegoat" for financial crises which came to light at the Region last summer.

"I don't think justice has been done.

recommended that Mr. Farmer should not be offered the manager of accounting and systems position which has yet to be filled.

The consultants admitted Mr. Farmer had "more than adequate competence" to handle the job but cited a lack of confidence in him by some regional councillors.

the department. Since that time, he has been acting deputy treasurer—a position which will likely be dropped when region councillors hire a new treasurer sometime next month.

"He's in his position until a new treasurer is hired," Halton chairman Jack Raftis said Thursday.

since 1973. Before that, he was treasurer for Burlington.

At present, he is unsure of his future.

Interviewed this week, Mr. Farmer said "I really don't know what my course of action should be."

He said he would wait to see if he is given the opportunity to apply for any remaining available positions in the region's treasury department.

But all councillors from Burlington who attended Wednesday's meeting plus two from Oakville thought the region should have advertised the position and interviewed more than just one candidate.

"Dennis (Perlin) is a hardworking, intelligent and honest person... but the taxpayers deserve the best possible guy we could hire," said Ward 7 Burlington councillor Jim Grieve.

According to regional council policy, all middle and upper-level management positions must be advertised.

"I believe sacrificial endeavors have been made to save face of council," Gordon Reade (Ward 2 Oakville) said during a special meeting of council last Wednesday where sweeping administrative changes were made to the Region.

During the meeting, three other employees in the Treasury department were offered new jobs. James Stewart (now acting treasurer) was offered a position as Manager of Budgets and Systems; Des Page was asked to be Senior Accountant; Peter Taylor was offered a job as Capital Budgets and Debt Management Analyst.

Councillor Walter Mulkevic (Ward 1 Burlington) said the Hickling-Johnston report "basically vindicates" Mr. Farmer from responsibility for a \$700,000 operating deficit which was discovered last summer in the region's books.

The consultants' draft report obtained by this newspaper said Halton's treasury department was understaffed and given an increased workload last year when the new sewer surcharge system went into force.

At that time, Mr. Farmer requested the addition of a financial analyst to his staff but the request was denied by regional council.

Mr. Farmer, 51, had been Halton's treasurer

the department. Since that time, he has been acting deputy treasurer—a position which will likely be dropped when region councillors hire a new treasurer sometime next month.

"He's in his position until a new treasurer is hired," Halton chairman Jack Raftis said Thursday.



In tune. St. Paul's United Church Orchestra opened the ecumenical week of prayer service Sunday evening. The service featured a massed choir representing four Milton churches. These four orchestra members, in tune and waiting to play are from left, Darcy Richardson, Shari Birken, Monique Hadley and Kelly Sundwall.

## Ecumenical service features massed choir

A massed choir was featured at St. Paul's United Church Sunday evening during an ecumenical service in recognition of 1981 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Choirs from St. Paul's United, Holy Rosary Roman Catholic, Knox Presbyterian and Grace Anglican Churches joined together to highlight the evening of worship. The choir was directed by organist Barbara Birch.

Judy Hunter led the St. Paul's United Church Orchestra in playing Celebration of the Work which opened the service.

Rev. E.T. Birch of St. Paul's presided over the service which was attended by approximately 250.

The Epistle lesson taken from 1 Corinthians was read by Rev. Sister Helena of Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church followed by the responsorial psalm led by Rev. George Lewis of St. Paul's.

Canon H. Beckford of Maplehurst read the gospel lesson from John, Chapter 16 followed by a prayer for penitence given by Rev. Cherry Symonds also from Maplehurst.

Intern Minister Edward Custer of St. Paul's led the litany of thanksgiving followed by a litany for unity by Father Mike Isabelle of Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church.

and is the church open to the Spirit.

"The theme of the service is many gifts, one spirit. You will notice that it is based on the scripture readings shared by Christians the world over this year, celebrating the Week of Prayer," stated Rev. Birch as an introduction to the service.

Following the service the congregation divided into groups to discuss questions including, do we use God's gifts wisely,

and is the church open to the Spirit.

"The theme of the service is many gifts, one spirit. You will notice that it is based on the scripture readings shared by Christians the world over this year, celebrating the Week of Prayer," stated Rev. Birch as an introduction to the service.

## Sexual assault charges are laid

A 23-year-old man of no fixed address has been arrested and charged with four counts of indecent assault, after four young public school girls were accosted while walking home at noon hour last Wednesday.

Halton Regional Police said the girls aged 12 to 15 years were "grabbed" in

four separate incidents during the space of one hour.

Three of the girls are students at W.I. Dick School and the fourth a student at Ernest C. Drury School.

Police have charged Edgar Larocque with four counts of indecent assault.

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4. Preparation for Nomination Convention and Upcoming Provincial Election

## SWAT-style police squad planned

By Linda Kirby  
A brand new police tactical team could be ready for action by this fall, according to Halton Region Police Chief James Harding.

The unit consisting of 16 top officers, will be trained to deal with hostage-taking situations, sniper incidents and major catastrophes.

Members of the Halton Region Police Commis-

sion were treated Thursday afternoon to a parade of special outfits modelled by officers from the Peel, Hamilton-Wentworth and OPP police forces.

In past situations, Halton police have called upon Peel and Metro Toronto police for help.

Asked by reporters why Halton was forming its own tactical team instead of continuing with

the present arrangement, Chief Harding said "why not?"

No costs of the planned team have been revealed, but the expense will be included in the 1981 budget, said the Chief.

Officers will receive training in gas guns, grenades, shotgun weapons, and the use of armor-plated vests.

The unit will replace

the now-defunct special weapons division which was disbanded in 1978 as a result of an insufficient number of officers.

Last October the police force acquired a 1966 Ford vehicle to house

equipment and weaponry devices.

In order to qualify for the team, officers were required to volunteer and pass a physical fitness test and certain psychological tests.

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