



Chris Cutler

NDP Cutler

Need public inquiry into region

A full open inquiry into the financial woes of Halton region is needed along with a complete review of regional government according to Halton-Burlington New Democratic Party candidate Chris Cutler.

It's time individuals and ratepayer groups from throughout Halton had some say about regional government 20-year-old Cutler, the youngest member of the provincial executive of the NDP, says.

The ruling Conservatives are too embarrassed about what has happened in Halton to suggest there be an inquiry or revamping of the region while the Liberals are too simplistic in their approach that the region should be abolished if necessary following an in-

ternal inquiry by Queen's Park officials, the rookie politician states.

Only an inquiry in the "full light of day" will determine what has gone so wrong at the region. Cutler says he has found many Halton residents, including hundreds in Halton Hills, "who want to be heard about the region."

The inquiry shouldn't look just at the deficit, which under the Municipal Act Cutler says the region shouldn't be allowed to have, but also the "rationalization" behind the Halton region structure.

With Halton growing so fast the New Democrats feel there should be some form of regional government here, but also believe some powers should be returned to the

Election '81

local level where they are better handled.

Who knows what the region's finances will be like at the end of this year without an inquiry, considering the mess that resulted from 1979 and 1980 financial blunders, he says.

Taxpayers look at the huge deficits for both years in a number of accounts and wonder where is the accountability of the region. People want the regional councillors to be made responsible for the mess and an inquiry is the best route, Cutler says.

Even the old county structure was a form of regional government, there has long been two tiers of municipal government, however what is needed and has never been done is a study to determine at "what point the region can provide benefits." But before it can be determined what the region can best handle, like some Planning services, everything should be rolled back to the local level because

the area municipalities can do many things better than the region, Cutler declared.

The "democratic process is being short-circuited" in Halton without a full inquiry, the NDP candidate warns. "Only the People of Halton can determine what they need and want. They feel drastic changes are needed and only by allowing them input will their concerns be alleviated. Maybe only an inquiry could ever determine just how large the deficits are."

Cutler said the regional headquarters at Bronte "is the big green machine and that building says it all. It sticks out like a sore thumb on Halton and

dicates their responsibility and let the province impose the new form of assessment, Cutler warned.

He has heard many residents say their taxes are so high now, combined with the "incredible" mortgage payments people must make these days, that they are having to consider moving away from Halton.

New Democrats want to "warm up Ontario" by promoting energy conservation in the home and also boost the economy by setting up crown corporations to get into the growing alternate energy industry.

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Halton-Burlington

Enumeration list has grown

Approximately 10,000 more Halton-Burlington voters will be going to the polls on election day, March 19.

Mrs. Audrey Boron, Halton-Burlington Returning Officer, said 52,227 people had been enumerated for next Thursday's election compared to the 42,726 enumerated in 1977, when the last provincial election was held.

At this point the revision to the enumeration list is still going on but should be completed by today. Last election, the number of people on the polling list was 43,337.

Mrs. Boron said there will be 170 polls in this election with four advance polls. In the 1977 election there were 56 rural polls, 115 urban polls and four advance polls.

This year a third advance polling day has been added instead of the normal two.

The first advance poll is tomorrow and will be held in Milton, Acton, Georgetown and the former Burlington area which lies within the Halton-Burlington riding boundaries. There will be an advance poll this Saturday with the last being held on Monday.

Most people closely involved in the election are wondering if this riding will produce the same, high 69.1 per cent voter turnout as was the case in 1977. In that election, 29,960 people cast ballots. Of those cast, 29,870 were considered "valid."

In the 1977 provincial election, incumbent Liberal Julian Reed got 13,085 votes or 46.8 per cent of the vote; Progressive Conservative George Gray got 10,287 votes or 34.4 per cent; and New Democrat Bill Johnson got 5,598 votes or 18.8 per cent.

In the last provincial election there were no independents or fringe party candidates on the ballot.

Milton Limestone lauded

Milton Limestone was the recipient of a Property Improvement Award presented by the Aggregate Producers' Association of Ontario (APOA) at the association's annual meeting in London, Feb. 25-27.

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A song and a dance

Several members of the song and dance groups give us a song from the Second Generation musical. The show had three performances at Milton District High School and was a joint affair between the high school and the Milton Choristers.

Out in the cold

Being left out in the cold is not funny, but without your clothing, the situation becomes even worse.

But that is what happened to a 21-year-old man in the early morning hours of Friday.

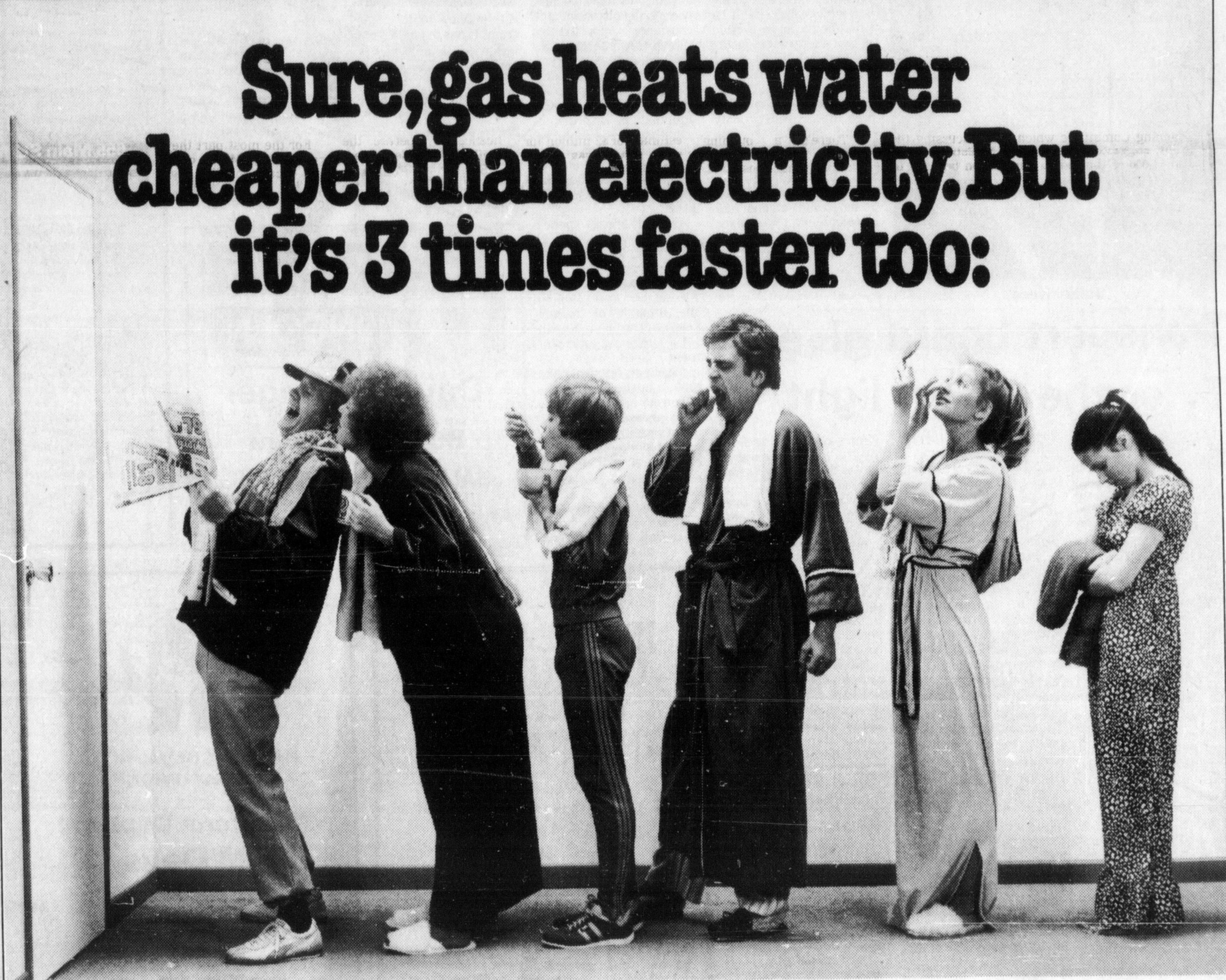
Milton OPP officers received a surprise when the nude visitor walked into the Steeles Ave. detachment seeking help.

He had apparently been stripped of his clothes near Fifth Wheel Truck Stop by "friends" for failing to pay a \$30 debt.

Police officers came to his immediate rescue with a blanket, but it was not the end of the man's troubles.

A quick check of police files indicated two outstanding warrants for him were held by Halton Regional Police for non-payment of fines on an old theft charge.

The man was later released from police custody after clearing all his debts.



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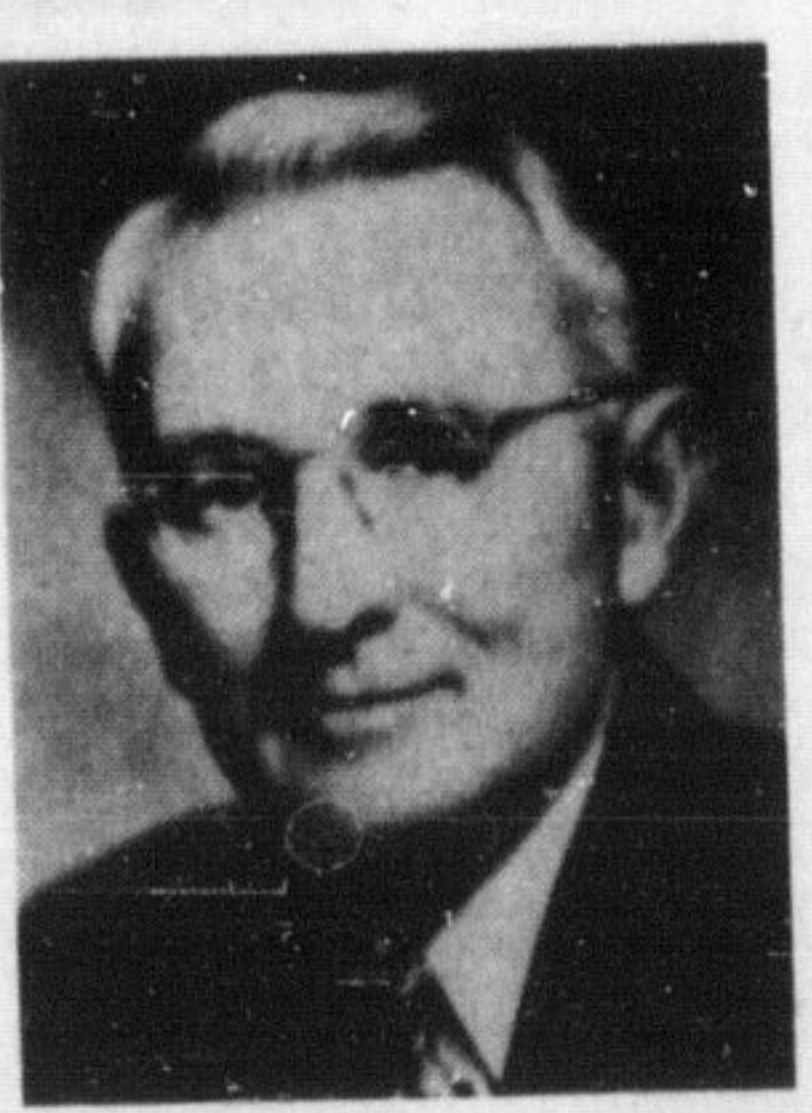
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