

# Day care budget passed

Are parents making use of subsidized day care getting a free ride from taxpayers?

Sentiments like that were underlying several of the comments directed towards Halton's budget for day care services recently, although no cuts were made to the \$886,600 budget.

Under the current system in Halton, parents who need day care for their children but can't afford the full rate can apply for a subsidy.

It means undergoing a means test, but can also mean the difference between being able to work or having to stay at home with children.

At some of the region's day care centres, according to co-ordinator Norma Lepa, as many as 65 per cent of the children are receiving subsidies of some sort.

"I'm getting a little tired of all the subsidies we are handing out," commented Milton Councillor Brad Clements. "We should get these people to pay the full fee because we can't afford to carry them any longer."

Later Regional Chairman Jack Raftis made similar comments, arguing that the emphasis on subsidies could be endangering the entire day care program.

"Because of our reluctance to optimize our receivables we may be jeopardizing the program for all of the people that make use of it," he said.

"If we don't make these programs more self supporting we could be jeopardizing the entire program."

Mr. Raftis argued that the region's day care program should be operated on a 50-50 split between subsidized and full fee paying parents.

"We should make it clear that there's nothing wrong with paying your own way," he said.

Social Services Director Rennie Vivian and Day Care co-ordinator Norma Lepa tried to explain the benefits of having people work while their children are in day care.

Mrs. Lepa explained that a single mother being supported by the provincial family benefits allowance receives \$402 a month while the same person receiving welfare is given \$386 monthly.

"The money just isn't in that woman's budget to recoup anything more from her," she said, adding that the structure of the fee scale allows for subsidies to be recouped "globally."

While some councillors were fretting over their lack of ability to cut anything from the budget Councillor Walter Mulkeich (Burlington) was wondering if more should not be added to the program.

"No one is wondering how much we would have to add to this program to meet the human needs that exist in the region," he said.

Day care in Halton is provided through centres operated by the region, through purchase of service agreements with private home operators and through private centres.

Provincial subsidies range as high as 80 per cent for approved programs.



## Sap is flowing

Maple syrup makers are out in force throughout Milton now gathering the sweet sap of the Maple trees. Photographer Richard Forster found this line of trees on Guelph Line near Brookville.

## Problem roads studied

A study into a number of problem traffic areas in Milton will be looked at so trouble spots such as one recently reported by a Second Line man can be corrected.

Don Suthers, who lives on Second Line just north of Steeles Ave. said he has had several "close calls" in trying to turn

onto Second Line from Steeles and vice-versa. He said anyone driving west on Steeles comes to a sharp slope immediately before coming into the intersection so that if such a driver arrives at the moment a car is making a turn, that driver "cannot see oncoming cars until they

are almost at the intersection." He added the intersection is "particularly dangerous in the winter. 'Often as I turn left to go up the hill on Steeles, I cannot get proper traction and for several seconds am in an exposed position to cars coming over the hill.'

A recent "close call" involved a school bus which had to make a turn during which the side of the bus was exposed to traffic and the Second Line homeowner had to "hold my breath, fearing a car might appear over the brown of the hill."

## Talk about Teens

# Susan Blair is one of a kind

By Jane Muller  
Susan Blair is one of a kind in Milton and it took nine years to get there.

The 16-year-old Milton District High School Student has moved through every segment of guiding from Brownies to Guides, Pathfinders and Rangers. Now she is a Cadet and the only one in town.

The next step and the end of the ladder is to become a leader if her busy schedule allows the time.

As a cadet she hopes to enrich leadership training skills developed through her years in guiding and a summer Leaders in Training course offered by Milton Parks and Recreation which she successfully completed last year.

Her interest in guiding which is documented by many proficiency badges, an all round cord and the rarely attained Canada cord began after her first meeting with the First Milton Brownie Pack.

"I went to the meeting and I really liked it," Susan recalls.

Needless to say, she spent most of her time working on badges but along with the other girls managed to find time for camping trips to Camp Wyoka near Clifford and Woodland Trails Camp in rural Milton.

"There are special badges for camp leadership. You have to plan

with others in mind and this gets you thinking and considering other people."

Last year Susan discovered her nine years in guiding could be applied to a career.

"When I was in Grade 10 my mom said I was good with kids," Susan said.

This, along with her leadership experience, made her decide to study Early Childhood Education after high school.

She claims the best way to get co-operation from those you are leading is to treat them like they are older and equal, then she says they will do as they are asked.

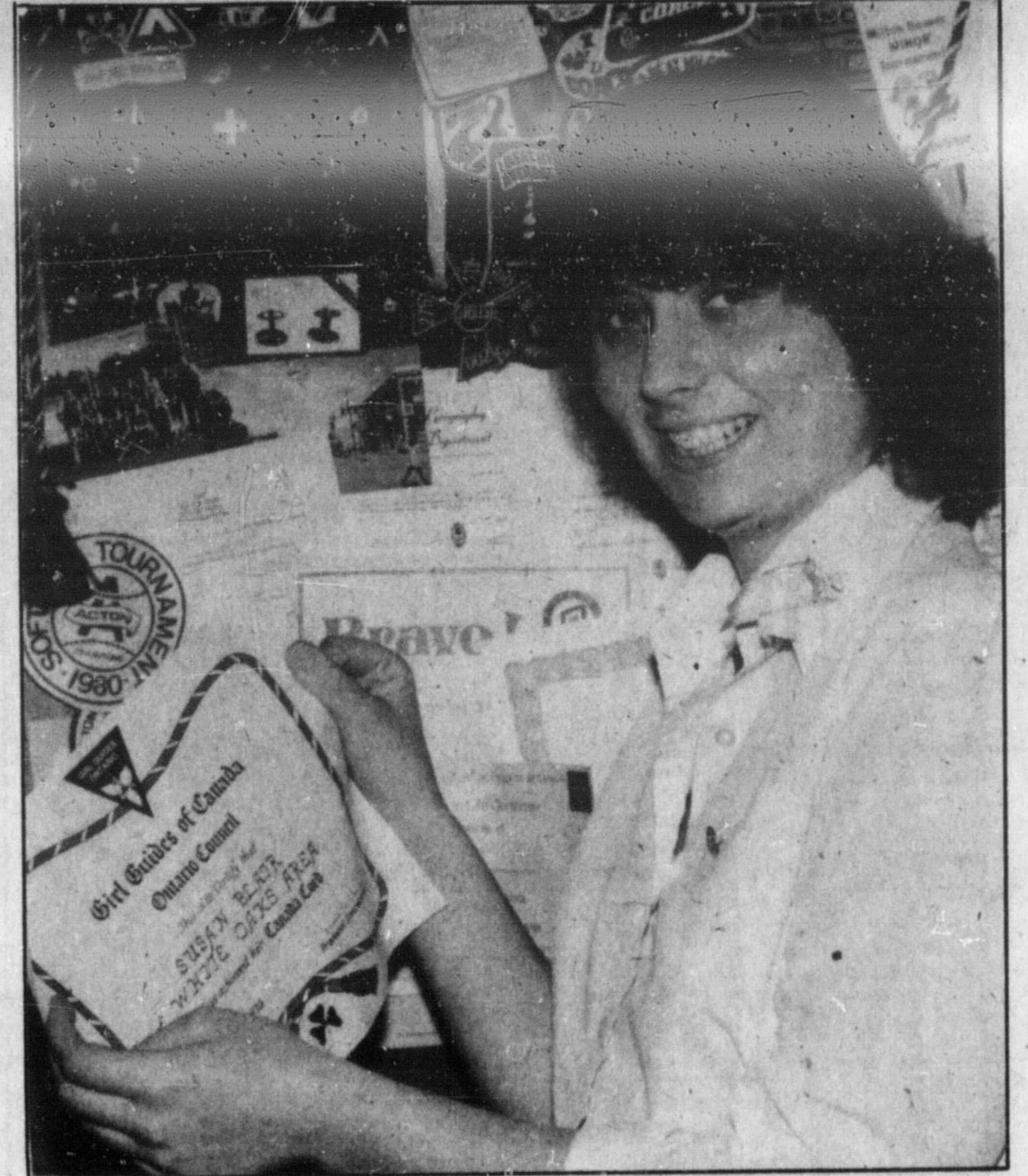
Her Guide Captain Mary Jane Stephens was an inspiration during her four years in the Second Milton Guide Company. Susan is now assisting her former Captain as the company's cadet.

There are 26 girls in that company which Susan says is probably the maximum number which would be considered due to a lack of leaders.

"There are quite a few girls on a waiting list but we need leaders," said the Grade 11 student.

Besides planning for and attending weekly Guide meetings, Susan fits in a part time job after school at Milton Public Library.

When warmer weather



Accomplishments displayed. The bulletin board on the wall of 16-year-old Susan Blair's bedroom is crammed with badges and certificates documenting her accomplishments in sports and guiding. Her nine years of involvement with guiding in Milton has led her to be the town's first cadet, the top of the guiding ladder before becoming a leader.

rolls around she will get out her baseball glove for another season. She is a tall girl with an athletic build but says there isn't room for sports in Guiding as they do not have the facilities.

Last year, as part of the Milton Girls' Midget Softball team, she took home the championship. Baseball touches each member of the Blair family. Susan's father Ed

coaches the girls' bantam team which his 15-year-old daughter Debbie belongs to. His wife Mary in addition to being a Pathfinder leader is treasurer of girls' softball in Milton.

Susan's 19-year-old sister Kathy coaches a Milton team.

As the father of three girls, Ed feels he needs some time with the boys as well, so during the

winter he coaches boys' hockey.

When he is not coaching or working he may be seen in the passenger seat of the family car, teaching Susan to drive.

Susan hopes to attend Sheridan College for a two-year Early Childhood Education course, then obtain a degree in the field at Ryerson where a four year course is offered.

## Raise for Perlin is approved

After six months of working at two jobs for one salary regional council has given a raise to Dennis Perlin.

Councillors approved hiking the acting chief administrative officer's salary from the solicitor's \$42,750 stipend to \$47,700.

In a telephone interview prior to the council meeting, Mr. Perlin said the region currently has a policy covering extra pay for temporary assignments "but I've been doing both jobs for six months."

According to the region's policy, employees asked to fill in for a superior of up to three weeks are paid nothing extra "because it's considered to be good experience."

After that, however, people filling in for department heads are paid an extra \$35 a week. Department heads filling in for the CAO are paid an extra \$40 a week.

Mr. Perlin said that after working 70 hours a week for six months "this just isn't a filling in situation any more."

Councillor Gord Reade (Oakville) had noted recently that under the existing policy, a person substituting for the CAO for a full year would be paid an extra \$2,080 while the raise being granted

Perlin amounted to an extra \$4,950.

"If we have policies and they are consistent, why the hell are we throwing the taxpayers' money around like this," he asked.

Mr. Reade said he would not support the recommended raise "as a matter of principle."

"The private sector doesn't operate like this," he said. "When you take on a temporary job, the carrot is that you aspire to get the very job that you're filling."

The issue of extra pay for Perlin was given more attention by regional council at its last meeting when several Burlington councillors attacked Chairman Jack Raftis for authorizing a raise without committee of council approval.

In that instance Mr. Raftis had authorized a \$100 a week raise for Perlin to compensate for the extra work. Perlin repaid the money following the objection of some councillors.

## Ambulance statistics

The District of Halton and Mississauga Ambulance Service responded to 100 calls during January.



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New Minimum Wage rates will go into effect March 31st, 1981. A further increase will go into effect October 1, 1981.

	Effective March 31st	Effective October 1st
General hourly rate	\$3.30	\$3.50
Learner hourly rate	\$3.20	\$3.40
Student hourly rate	\$2.45	\$2.65
Liquor Licensed premises hourly rate	\$2.80	\$3.00
Construction hourly rate	\$3.55	\$3.75

Additional information may be obtained from the Employment Standards Branch, Ontario Ministry of Labour, in the following cities:

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