

Region

Gas at 28.6 cents

Halton Region will be buying its unleaded gasoline at 28.65 cents per litre and 26.39 cents per litre for regular.

The price was contained in a low bid by Texaco Canada Ltd. in response to a request by Halton Region for oil companies to submit prices on 763,568 litres of unleaded gasoline and 2,975,453 litres of regular gasoline needed during 1981.

Eight firms responded and two of the tenders were returned.

Halton will be buying 2,238,691 litres of number one diesel fuel at 27.48 cents per litre and 418,610 litres of number two diesel fuel at 27.05 cents per litre.

The Halton Regional Police will use \$306,000 worth of the fuels and the Regional Public Works Department will use \$160,000 worth.

Ambulance group should continue

The Halton District Health Council has asked the region to reconvene a special joint committee which was set up to study cutbacks in service by the Halton and Mississauga Ambulance Service.

When it was announced the privately-owned ambulance service would cut jobs, the committee was formed under then Councillor Bonnie Brown. The committee held meetings with Halton and Peel Regional Councils, the regional health unit, the ambulance company, and the union.

As a result two studies were begun. One was a user survey and the other was an analysis of response time.

"It would now seem to be appropriate to reconvene this committee in order to receive progress reports and examine the direction the committee's future efforts might take," said Mrs. Estrid Manore, Chairman of the Halton District Health Council.

Handicapped funds announced

There may be more support services in Halton for physically handicapped adults.

During 1981, the International Year of the Disabled Person, the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services is offering 100 per cent funding to municipalities where special support services are instituted for the disabled and handicapped.

On Feb. 16, Regional Chairman Jack Raftis wrote to Minister Keith Norton asking if Halton would be eligible for the 100 per cent funding.

Ministry Assistant Deputy Minister Peter Barnes has now replied in the affirmative, noting "every consideration will be given to your request for sufficient lead time for the municipal budget preparation purposes."

Sludge comment sent to Region

Ag. Rep. Henry Stanley will be sending the final draft of comments and suggestions to Halton Region on a study which may change the entire method of sludge handling and use.

Mr. Stanley said the Halton Federation of Agriculture has finished its review of the Environment Canada study and will be sending the final draft to the Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee.

The HAAC, which reports directly to the region, is expected to review the report shortly and send its own comments along to the region for study.

Manor report on May 28

A report on "deficiencies" at Halton Centennial Manor is to be made to the Region Health and Social Services Committee April 28.

The report will cover a survey by the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services which toured the Manor and found 142 deficiencies, most of which were of a minor nature.

Making the report will be Manor Administrator Jack Charlton.

Speyside meeting on road changes

Public meetings will be held this afternoon and tonight in the Speyside Public School to inform residents about the revised plans for rebuilding Highway 25 from Highway 401 to Acton.

Most of the interest is centre on the intersection of Highway 25 and Number 15 sideroad.

Residents in this area have called for strong illumination in the evenings because of the traffic and the number of children in the area.

Some of the problems identified in the Ministry of Transportation and Communication revision are increasing traffic volumes, the large number of heavy trucks, high accident rates, the 20-foot width of the pavement, and what the ministry calls "poor intersection geometrics."

Region heads' raises stalled



Garfield Brown

By Mike Patton
Three senior Halton officials won't be getting 10.5 per cent salary increases approved this week by the Region's administration committee, because their jobs are being re-classified.

Halton's Clerk Garfield Brown, Administrator of Social and Family Services Rennie Vivian, and Jack Charlton, Administrator of Halton Centennial Manor home, will have to wait until the Region's management structure is re-organized this summer before any adjustments will be made to their pay cheques, chief administrative officer Den-

nis Perlin said Wednesday. "They will not be department heads any more," Mr. Perlin said in an interview after the salary increases for 257 other non-unionized regional employees were approved.

A major reorganization of Halton's administration, approved by regional council on March 18, calls for the hiring of a director of social services (a newly-created position) who will be responsible for duties formerly handled

by Mr. Vivian and Mr. Charlton. Until the restructuring is completed, both men will continue to receive their 1980 salaries.

Last week, council decided that former Regional Treasurer Donald Farmer will be kept on staff as a special advisory until the end of this year.

Mr. Farmer, the Regional Treasurer since 1973, asked to be relieved of his duties last August after a \$700,000 deficit was discovered during an audit of Halton's books.

Longtime chief administrative officer Ernie Reid resigned shortly afterwards last year and was replaced by Dennis Perlin, the Region's solicitor. In the last month, council has hired a new treasurer and a new director business development.

Wednesday's Administration and Finance Committee decision gives 7.5 per cent salary increases to regional office employees, retroactive to Jan. 1 plus a further three per cent on

July 1. But Bob Moore, Director of Public Works, Rash Mohammed, Director of Planning; and Dennis Camm, personnel Director, don't get the July pay raises because of salary review.

Mr. Perlin, Gerry Lawson (the new treasurer), Dr. Peter Cole (the new medical officer of health) and Matthew Fisher (the new director of business development) don't get any raises this year because their salaries were negotiated when they were hired.

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Region deficits top \$1.1 million . . .

(Continued from Page One)

fund deficit of \$57,000.

This was carried on to 1978 and another \$301,000 shortfall cropped up by the end of that year. So the region deficit in the operating fund had grown to \$358,000.

Again the deficit was carried over to the next year and in 1979 the deficit was actually brought down slightly, by \$15,000, to \$343,000, through increased revenues.

Carried over to 1980 the accumulated deficit grew again, this time by \$108,000 for a final operating budget shortfall of a little over \$451,000 after four years of errors.

But the deficits don't end there. Deficits in the sewer account stretch back as far as 1975, when this portion of the budget was still covered by tax dollars. At the end of 1975 the region had a \$326,000 sewer deficit which was chopped down to just \$11,000 by the end of 1976.

In 1977 and 1978 the sewer account showed surpluses of \$160,000 and \$273,000 respectively.

However, at the end of 1979, the region found itself in a hole for sewers again, a \$438,000 hole. This deficit was carried over and another \$285,000 was added to it last year for a final 1980 deficit of a

little over \$723,000.

The accumulated \$451,283 operating budget deficit will be covered for certain, all sources say, in this year's taxes. That's one of the reasons taxes will rise so steeply.

The sewer deficit will be covered by sewer surcharges on water bills. Already this year sewer charges have gone up 25 per cent and sewer users can expect further increases.

The region keeps its operating budget sewer account and water account all separate, a common municipal practise, Lawson says.

If they could be combined then the deficit picture wouldn't be as bleak because there have been surpluses in the water account each of the last six years.

Combining the figures would allow the region to show just a \$376,000 deficit for all three accounts at the end of 1979 and \$588,000 at the end of 1980.

The deficits have been caused because the region set its budget and tax levy before the audit had been done three years running. That hasn't been done this year so both deficits are being properly carried over for the 1981 budget.

Tribune sold?

A Mississauga lawyer and an accountant are part of a group which apparently has purchased The Milton Weekly Tribune.

Publisher Lee Fairbanks told The Champion Tuesday that the closing date on the deal is expected to be next Wednesday and that "a few loose ends" have still to be cleared up.

Mr. Fairbanks said he would know by Monday if the weekly would be sold to Mississauga interests and the sale closed as expected.

According to Editor Pat Ford, the purchasing group consists of a Mississauga lawyer and accountant, area building contractor Jens Nielsen and part-time Tribune ad salesman Larry Wright.

It is not known if Mr. Fairbanks would continue on as the figurehead of the two-year-old newspaper.

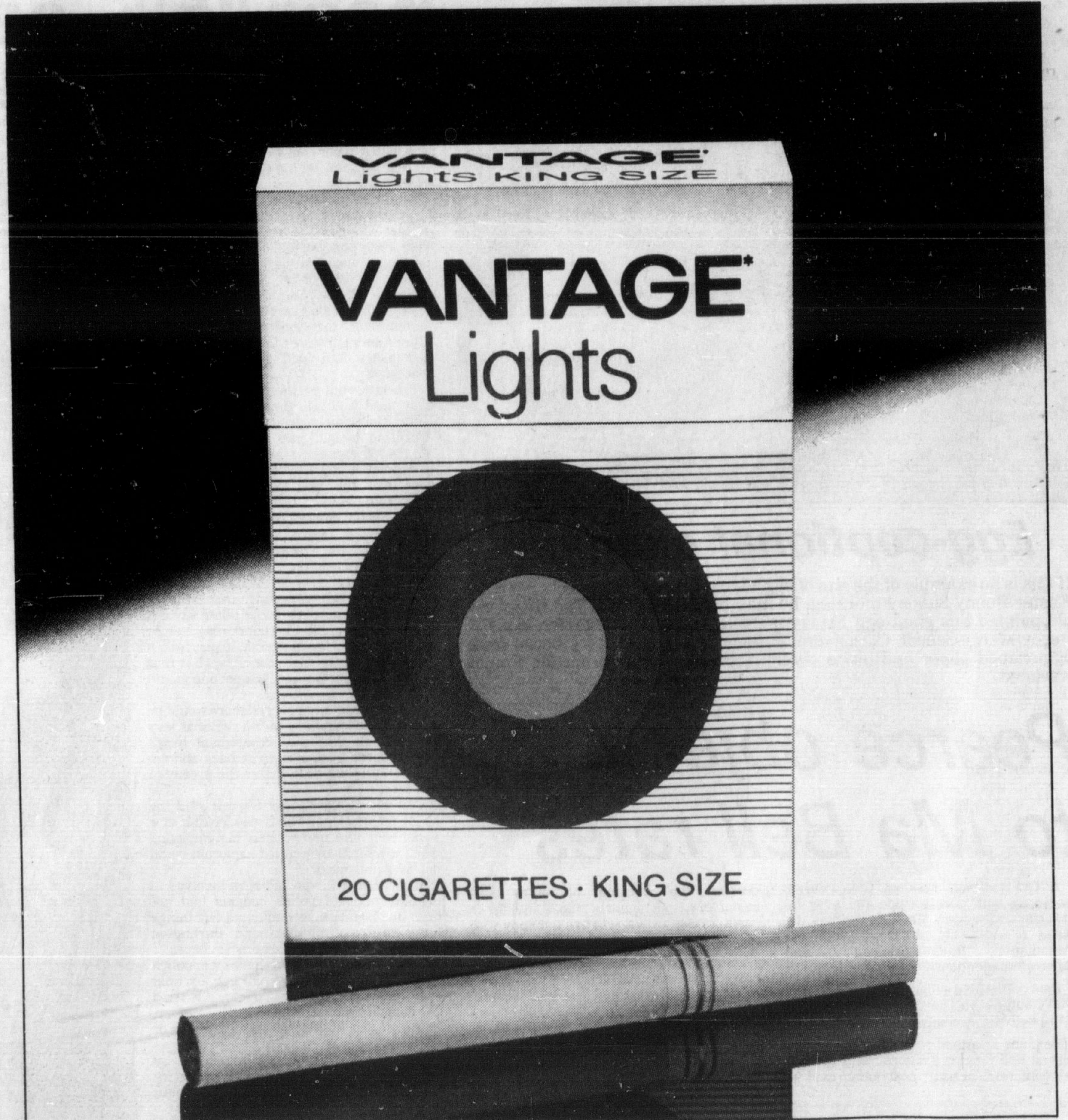
"I don't know what he will be doing. I don't know if there will be a change in the editorial policy or not," Miss Ford said.

ANNOUNCING

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