



Biking for the Manor

Fernando Cipriano, 13, left, and Keith Murray, 10, right got a little help from their friends Cameron Murray, 12, Camillo Cipriano, 10, and Steve Kolbeck, 12, and raised about \$50 for Halton Centennial Manor through a Spring Bike-a-thon they organized. The boys, all

students at Sam Sherratt Public School, rode about 30 miles for the cause on Monday morning. That good deed left them the rest of the week to play ball hockey and catch up on some of the morning and afternoon television they've missed since the summer.

Region denies cash

Agencies get moral support

By STEVE ARNOLD
Champion News Editor

Moral support was all that was gained by most of the social service agencies which appealed grant decisions to Regional council last week.

The agencies had been given the chance to ask the full council to overturn or change decisions made on their requests by the health and social services committee.

The North Halton Hospice Care Group and The Centre failed completely in their efforts to have council overturn a committee decision to reject their applications.

NHHCG spokesman Eva Sansom told councillors she appreciated the moral support that had been extended by members of the health and social services committee, but would have preferred a concrete expression of that support.

"I get the feedback that you think hospice care is a great idea. We get that feedback from a lot of people, but not very many are willing to give us money," she said.

The group, which is working to improve the quality of care provided for terminally ill patients in north Halton, had asked the Region for \$6,400 to hire a co-ordinator.

"We are even willing to settle for a token show of your support," she said, adding that even \$300 would be appreciated.

"We are the only organization providing a service that will apply to every single person in the entire region at some point or another," she added.

Mrs. Sansom said she had even applied to the Halton District Health Council for \$100 to assist in printing a brochure, "but we didn't get that, although we did get moral support."

The Centre, a youth drop-in program started by the Halton Children's Aid Society and administered by the Milton Committee for Youth, had applied for \$2,500.

Health and social services committee members had debated the request for nearly an hour and finally sent it on to council without a recommendation.

Burt Hoffland, spokesman for the Centre, said services were being provided to children from all parts of the region and to others rather than simply clients of the Children's Aid Society.

If the grant was rejected by the Region, he added, "it wouldn't be any great financial problem for us because it is only 5 per cent of our budget."

The Burlington Association for the Mentally Retarded was the only organization to gain anything

from the process, winning an amendment to the committee decision holding back its \$25,400 grant until a Provincial audit of the organization is completed.

Members of the health and social services committee had cut the agency's request by 35 per cent and ordered the grant held back until an audit of the organization was done. The action followed a bitter court battle over the result of elections to the agency board of directors.

Gary Kirkwood, president of the board, said the grant cut was a difficult hurdle for the agency, but the holdback was even worse.

"There is nothing frivolous about the services we offer. They are all extremely necessary to the development and survival of retarded people and their families in our community," he told councillors.

He noted the only alternative available to the services provided by the BAMR would be to place retardates in large institutions at a much greater cost.

"No other government body could provide the services we do without a much greater demand on taxpayers dollars," he said.

Mr. Kirkwood also said committee members did not have all of the information they needed to make a decision about the stability of the agency.

Recluse wants privacy

(Continued from Page 1)

One of these Kitchener residents, Ginette Golden, who pays regular visits to Doug, wrote to The Champion when she discovered he is from this town. It was her hope Doug's family might help him, but according to the 32-year-old, he doesn't want to hear from them and he has no plans of returning to his hometown.

Doug had been receiving welfare benefits until he was cut off by Waterloo Region welfare department. Officials there felt he was not making serious effort to look for a job because he refused to wear an artificial eye in the empty socket where his right

eye used to be.

The city has a facility called the House of Friendship, where homeless men can find shelter. Although Doug has utilized the house in the past, he prefers making it on his own.

He is apparently waiting for spring to move out of his winter shelter to a field somewhere in the Kitchener area.

In the meantime, he spends his days searching for firewood for warmth and returnable bottles for some cash—all the while living a life he contends he is content with for the time being.

Thompson appointed

Charles Thomson, a commissioner of Milton Hydro Electric Commission, has been appointed to the employee relations committee of the Ontario Municipal Electric Association (OMEA).

Mr. Thomson will work with fellow commissioners from across the Province of Ontario for the next year. The committee is responsible for the examination and evaluation of employee relations programs for utilities, making appropriate recommendations from a policy viewpoint and representing the Association in employee related matters.

The Ontario Municipal Electric Association is the spokesman for more than 320 municipal utilities throughout Ontario. The commissioners and councillors of the member utilities are elected or appointed.

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Blind reading service gets Region's financial support

By STEVE ARNOLD
Champion News Editor

Canada's first radio reading service for the blind will get financial support from Halton Region.

Councillors voted last week to overturn a recommendation by the administration and finance committee rejecting the \$10,000 request from the Oakville-based service. Other cultural groups were not as successful however.

The Radio Reading Service offers its blind or print handicapped subscribers their only access to current newspapers and magazines read by volunteers and broadcast as a sub-frequency by a Burlington radio station.

Allan McKenzie, chairman of the group's fundraising committee, said support from Halton Region was especially important this year as arrangements are being made to have the service broadcast over television cable services in several areas, including parts of Toronto.

"Halton Region, in my opinion, should be very proud of this service," Mr. McKenzie told councillors.

Established in 1978, the RRS has been trying to get financial help from surrounding municipalities, but has been rejected because of the relatively small number of subscribers that live outside Halton.

Mr. McKenzie said efforts are being made to have the RRS carried over cable services in Milton, North York and Toronto. When these arrangements are made, 40,000 people will have access to the service.

"It is critical for you to support us now," he said, arguing that other regions will not provide financial support if Halton does not "and then I would see no alternative but that Radio Reading Service will have to close down."

"The blind are a sector of our community that

certainly deserve this support," he added.

One aspect of the service that councillors found difficult to support was the high proportion of the budget spent on salaries.

Of the \$140,000 budget, \$90,000 is spent for five staff who operate and service the broadcasting equipment.

Oakville Coun. Carol Gooding urged members to give the service \$10,000 but to make any future support from Halton contingent on money being obtained from other regions.

"This is a service that means a great deal to the blind because it has opened a tremendous amount of knowledge to them," she said.

Oakville Coun. Terry Mannell argued that some support should be provided this year, on the understanding that it would be the last time the service came to Halton looking for a large grant.

"I think it would be wrong and foolish for us to drop the situation now," he said. "It makes sense for us to help them through this period."

Other councillors argued that the Radio Service isn't offering anything that isn't available from other sources in the area.

"This service seems unnecessary in an area of the country where the voice media has a greater concentration than anywhere else," said Burlington Coun. Steve Toth.

Burlington Coun. Joan Little suggested that the amount of the grant be reduced to \$1,000 "because I can agree with a token bit of support."

Mrs. Little's sub-amendment was defeated and the grant was approved following a tie vote broken by Regional chairman Jack Raftis.

The Sheridan Symphony Orchestra was not as successful in their appeal however.

Snow gets warning

By ROD JERRED
Special to The Champion

Sometimes even the lawmakers have trouble living within the laws.

On February 27, Oakville MPP Jim Snow, Ontario's Minister of transportation and communications, while on a Saturday drive to town, found himself staring down the wrong end of a Halton Regional Police radar gun.

Mr. Snow had neglected to slow down when he left the 80 km/h zone on Highway 25 and entered the 50 km/h zone on Bronte Road.

The police officer did not issue him a speeding ticket, but let the transportation minister off with a warning.

In an interview Friday, Snow said he was driving his propane-powered Mercury Cougar south on Bronte Road when an oncoming police cruiser signalled him to pull over.

"He said I was going too fast and asked me if I wanted to see the radar reading," said Mr. Snow.

He didn't. "I don't doubt that I was over the speed limit," he said.

Without revealing his identity, Mr. Snow handed over his driver's licence and car ownership to the police officer. According to Mr. Snow, when the policeman realized who he had stopped he said, "You make these laws. You should live with them."

He then told Mr. Snow to slow down and have a good day.

"He gave me a warning like police officers do many times," Mr. Snow said.

Halton Regional Police chief James Harding said he was not concerned that Mr. Snow wasn't issued a speeding ticket. In the policeman's judgement a warning was sufficient, he said.

"Warning a motorist for a vehicle infraction is a common practice," he said.

Chief Harding said the fact that Mr. Snow was coming from an 80 km/h zone to a 50 km/h zone on the same road may have influenced the policeman's decision.

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