



Next year will be the last time masses of vehicle owners will line up to renew their vehicle registrations. The province has changed to a new computer system where licence plate stickers will be purchased on birth dates and plates will stay with the person rather than the vehicle when sold.

Colleen Clement of Clement's Paint and Wallpaper (right) where the local vehicle registration office is located passes a new plate to Susan Smith from behind one of two wickets revamped to facilitate the computers installed last week.

Clement's Paint and Wallpaper

Computerized licensing

Be prepared for several changes when it comes time to renew vehicle registrations next year. Physical changes made by a new provincial computer system will be obvious at Clement's Paint and Wallpaper, which houses the local vehicle registration office, but the new system goes much further. The office has been made smaller and has two wickets in place of a counter where four or five customers could be served at a time. In the future, less space will be needed as the annual rush to purchase licence plates renewal stickers will be a thing of the past after next year. There are five main aspects to the new registration system in Ontario, one of them being staggered renewals based on birth dates of car owners. Vehicle owners born before June will buy registrat on stickers which will include each month from January 1 to the birthdate—plus another 12 months. The rate which applies to each month before the owner's birthdate will be determined by dividing the annual renewal cost by 12.

Vehicle owners born after June 1 will buy a sticker at the regular time in February, valid until the owner's birthdate, and return at that time to buy a sticker for the following 12 months. Licence plates will no longer be associated with the vehicle they are attached to but, instead, will be registered to the vehicle owner. When a vehicle is sold, the plates are removed and placed on the plate owner's replacement vehicle. Plates currently in use will be retained as re-issuing is not planned. Drivers of passenger cars and commercial vehicles under 2,400 kg will pay a standardized fee of \$48 regardless of engine size. Commercial vehicles 3,000 kg and under are subject to a fee of \$72 and motorcycles and mopeds can be registered for \$24 and \$6 respectively. With the new computer system comes another hitch aimed at helping municipalities collect on unpaid parking fines. Vehicle owners will be denied registration renewal if fines registered to his or her plate number are unpaid at renewal time. Included with an annual "Invitation for Renewal" will be a record of outstanding fines which can be paid along with the renewal fee at the local vehicle registration office. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications will gain a more effective information network from the new system and customers will benefit as transactions will be faster. The computers have been installed at Clement's and Betty Clement and her daughter, Colleen, along with another staff member, will be trained to use the new equipment in September.

Facing harsh...

(Continued from page 1)

Just as the photographs of family and friends Cristina brought with her to Milton serve as reminders, the many rolls of film she has used during her stay will fuel memories of her visit. In fact, most of her expenses have been related to photography. At her mother's insistence she has been sending photographs home, providing sufficient material to fill three photo albums so far. Her photo diary will no doubt include shots of her visit to an American exchange student in Illinois whom Cristina met in Brazil. Two weeks in cottage country near Midland with Lyndon Smith and his family and a trip to British Columbia with her aunt and uncle in the fall will be subjects for further photo collections. While in Canada, Cristina has had to give up an activity which has been part of her life since she was six-years-old. If her slim stature and supple muscle tone are not a result of daily instruction in classical ballet then she was born to be a dancer. She fosters dreams of becoming a professional ballerina, but low pay and few opportunities have made her practical side opt for a more conventional career. She plans to become an interpreter if she can't dance for her bread and butter. She will audition for a dance company in Brazil when she returns in January. Although her high school education was completed before she came here, she enrolled in Grade 9 Canadian geography, theatre arts, physical education and remedial English at Milton District High School. Coming from a country where soccer and basketball are the main sports, Cristina has enjoyed learning to play field hockey, baseball and how to use a bow and arrow. "It's such good experience, I like it here so much," the dark featured young woman admits.

Province grants CAS increase

By ROBERT ASHE
Special to The Champion

Recent monetary woes of Halton's Children's Aid Society vanished with one sweep of a Provincial deputy-minister's pen Monday when the local CAS was granted a \$400,000 increase in base pay. The additional money is part of the base figure on which the annual percentage increase is calculated. The CAS budget now stands at \$3.2 million, up from \$2.8 million.

"This will end our perennial problem of reviews and arbitrations in order to get our fair share. We haven't gotten all we need, but the additional money certainly takes the edge off the problem," Halton CAS executive director Ron Coupland said in a press release.

Halton CAS asked the ministry of Community and Social Services for \$412,000. Monday's meeting was between CAS representatives and new social services deputy minister Art Daniels and Al Strang, the new area manager of the children's services division of Hamilton.

"We haven't gotten all the money we need, but

\$400,000 added on our base pay is very good," said John Graham, president of the Halton CAS board of directors. "We've been travelling through a tunnel of financial difficulties for four years, and with this additional money we can finally see our way clear to operate responsibly and yet live with whatever fiscal restraints are placed on the ministry and consequently on the society in the future."

"Now at least we are funded fairly... The additional money will help us make our foster parent rate more competitive with surrounding societies, and will also help make our staff salaries more equitable."

It is thought, however, the salaries of social workers will not be greatly affected by the recent increase. Most workers are members of the public service alliance which settled for a 12 per cent increase in the spring.

It is hoped Halton's new daily rates will come within 10 to 15 per cent of those paid to foster parents in Metro Toronto. Formerly Halton CAS rates ranged from \$6.75 for newborns, and \$8.09 for children 13 years and older.

Toronto CAS rates range from \$8.25 for newborns to \$11.50 for children 13 and over. Hamilton CAS rates stand between \$7.75 and \$10.40.

It was this gap—35 per cent less than Toronto's daily rate—that spurred a foster home crisis two weeks ago. At that time at least one member of the board of directors and one member of the Halton CAS staff harboured children on a temporary basis until homes were found.

This situation along with the looming cutback in services by Halton CAS has been overcome for the time being, according to Halton CAS public relations director Theresa Palomo. But the foster parent shortage did not end with the additional funding, said Mrs. Palomo.

"We are going to be able to help our foster parents monetarily, but that doesn't mean that we are going to have more homes to put the kids in," she explained, noting that the ailing economy often requires that both parents work.

Mrs. Palomo said "a great sense of relief" passed through the Halton CAS offices Monday after word of funding reached staff.

"Everyone was just scared," explained Mrs. Palomo of the previous mood. "Not afraid only of being fired or being overworked, but of not being able to provide the services... It's like a big load lifted off our shoulders."

"It was like a big, black cloud over our heads. And now it is not there anymore."

Prefer waste

The fact that Halton Regional government puts greater stock in water, solid waste and job creation than social services doesn't come as a shock to CAS worker Joan Lee, who stresses that only time and education can change governmental priorities.

Ms. Lee, who will be interim acting CAS executive director during the summer months, was one of several members of the CAS professional and social services committee to recently learn the Region's priorities from Regional planner Ed Bab during a committee meeting June 9.

"The whole area (social services) is not yet understood," Ms. Lee said. "It's a process of learning and education."

You can golf at Kelso

Kelso Conservation Area has a 10-hole Miniature Golf Course and it costs \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children 12 and under.

The facility is now open 7 days a week from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. until Labour Day, and is located just inside the park entrance.

All children 12 and under are reminded to watch for the upcoming "Mini Golf Tournament for Kids," to be held in August. For further information, call 878-5011.

Kelso Conservation Area is owned and operated by the Halton Region Conservation Authority, 310 Main Street, Milton, Ontario.

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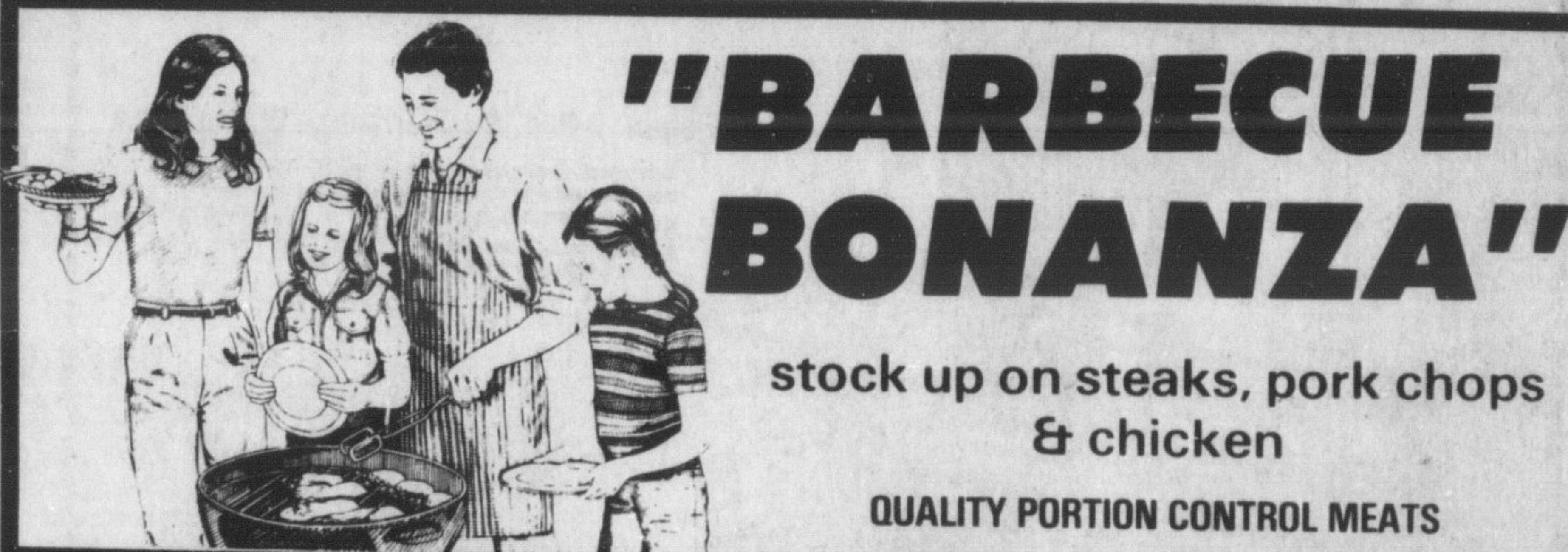
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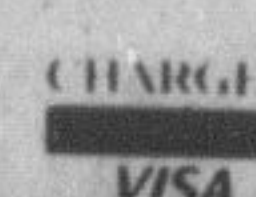
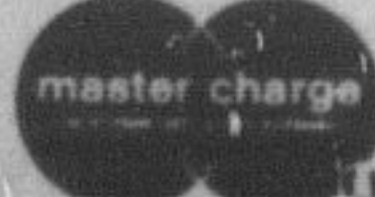
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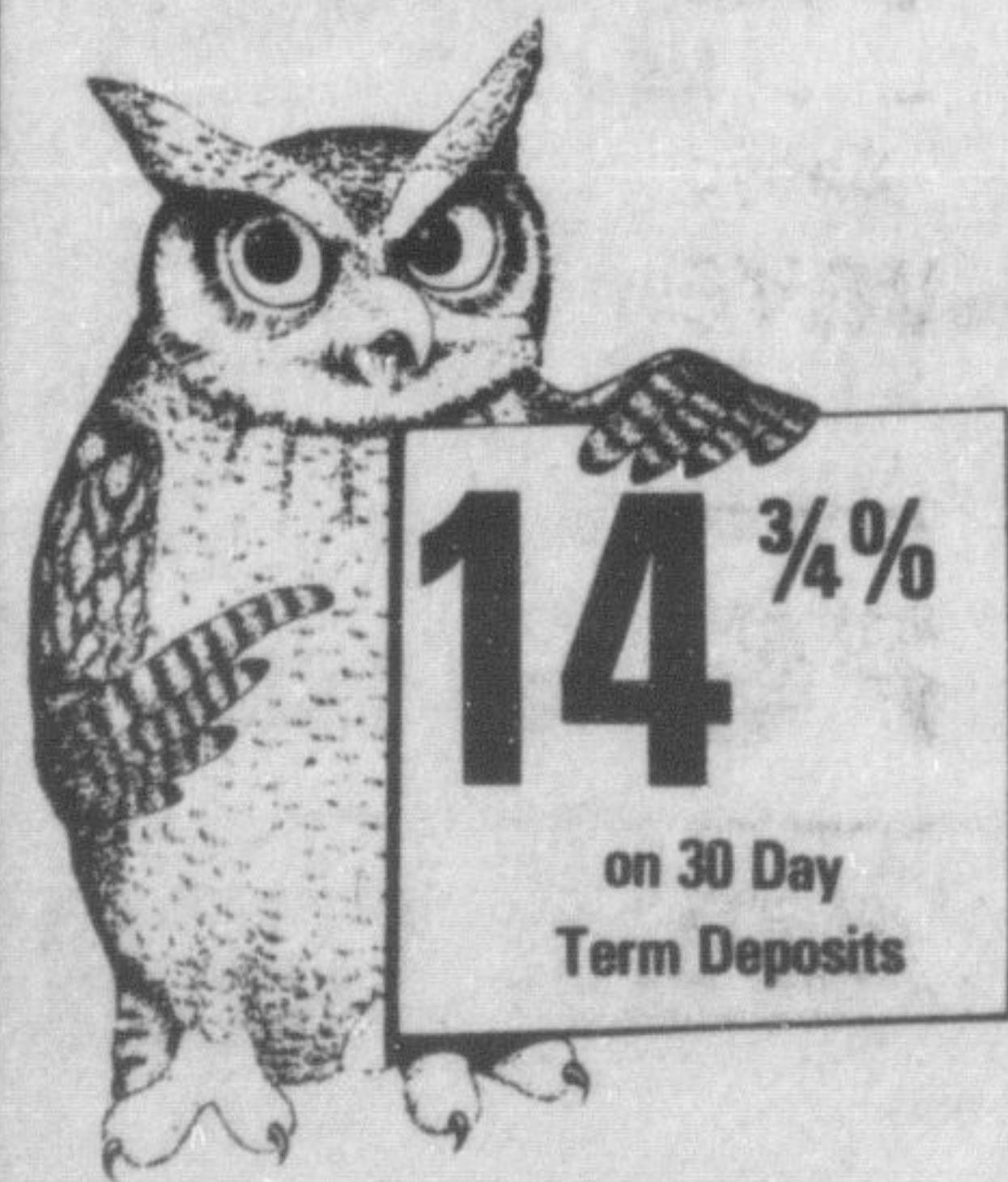
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