

VON head-to-head with agencies

Nursing groups scramble for home care funds

STEVE ARNOLD
News Editor

Efforts by two groups of visiting nurses to wrestle a share of the Halton home-care market away from the local branch of the Victorian Order of Nurses drew a split decision from regional committees recently.

Members of the health and social services committee supported applications by the St. Elizabeth's Visiting Nurses Association, of Hamilton, and Para-Med Health Services Ltd., of Oakville, for purchase of service contracts under the region's newly established home care program.

The administration and finance committee, however, voted to defer action on the contracts

for six months until the full impact on the VON can be determined.

For the St. Elizabeth's group, the deferral was the second time efforts to expand into Halton have been rebuffed. The first application, last September, was rejected by regional council after drawing a similar split decision from the committees.

The first application was to provide services to Burlington only, but the latest effort was to serve the entire region under the home care program.

Sharon Campbell, executive director of the Roman Catholic oriented service, said there have been several requests from Halton doctors and parishes for the help of her organization.

"Expanding into Halton is something that has

been in back of the mind of our board of directors for some time," she said, adding "we don't see this as a duplication of service, it's an alternative service."

The contract requested by the group, and recommended by regional staff, would have allowed them to serve only patients who request their assistance.

"We are quite prepared to come to Halton on that basis," Mrs. Campbell said.

As they did in September, the Halton branch of the VON objected to any suggestion that their workload be shared with another agency.

"The need for another agency in Halton simply has not been established," said Audrey Wells-Delaney, first vice president of the Halton branch.

ch. "If there was ever a demand for services based on religious preference we could handle it," she added.

The VON objected to the proposal to allow another agency into Halton because the demand for visiting nursing services has fallen recently and the workload increase projected because of the new homecare program has not materialized.

At the very least, VON president Tom McCaughan argued, supported by some councillors, approval for another agency should be stalled until the full impact of the home care program is known.

"We're not against competition, but we don't

want our position to be impaired," he said. "1982 has not been a good year for the VON."

"We don't feel our position should be impaired, especially when there is a new program coming in," he added.

Mr. McCaughan said if the VON's caseload was reduced because a second agency was approved, their grant request from the region would have to be increased in 1983.

Dorothy Knight, owner-operator of the local Para-Med franchise, told committee members her service could provide registered nurses, nursing aides or health care aides as required.

"We can fill any gap in care that exists now and we are well prepared to explore new avenues of care," she said.

The Canadian Champion

A Metroland Community Newspaper — Serving Milton in its 125th year

VOLUME 122—NUMBER 33

MILTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1982

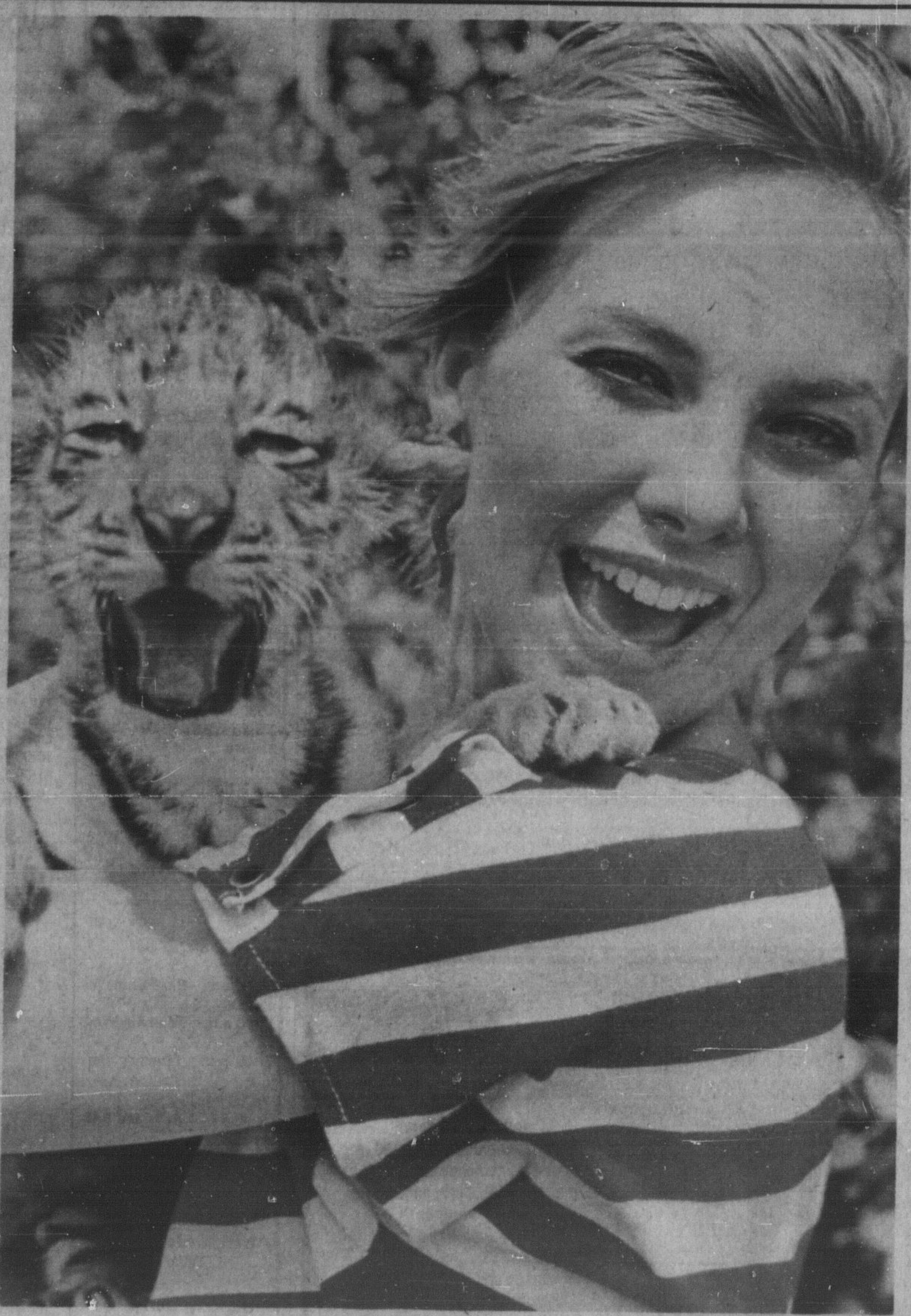
18 PAGES—30 CENTS

The year that was

Some may want to put memories of the past aside while others may record 1982 as a standout.

Opinions aside, we all find ourselves looking back over the past 12 months as we head into a new year. This week The Canadian Champion has published a special section reviewing some of the events, event makers, issues and scenarios of 1982.

The twelve-month-long stroll down memory lane will take readers through the troubled economy, soaring crime rates, advancements and problems of government, as well as a sprinkling of some good news.



Cutbacks foreseen

School 'fat' to be trimmed

By STEVE ARNOLD
News Editor

Industrial arts and family studies programs in Halton elementary schools could be at least part of the "fat" that is trimmed to keep the board of education's budget to an eight per cent increase in 1983.

Trustees recently gave their approval to a motion calling for a complete study of the costs of the programs that are currently offered.

Trustee Cam Jackson (Burlington) sponsored that motion, warning that if programs are to be increased in other areas, some courses may have to be cut.

Later in the same meeting however, trustees were told they will be asked in January to approve a motion integrating all such programs, making them equally available to all students.

Mr. Jackson warned when budgets are tight and there is a demand for improvements in all programs offered by the board, "we may have to look at cutting back in some areas, and this is one where I feel there may be some room for some contraction."

"This is simply a financial inquiry," he added, "and the finance committee may wish to set aside the report when they receive it."

Mr. Jackson said he did not feel the two motions conflicted for that reason, and any information gathered by the study would simply allow for a more intelligent decision during the budget process.

Even if it was later decided to trim the programs, after passing a motion calling for integration, there would be no problems, he said.

"What the board would be facing in that case would be the need to overturn a previous decision and in these economic times that may not be bad," he said.

One trustee, however, expressed concern

See Concern page A2



For some family fun, why not build a New Year's bird feeder the Mountsberg way?

Bring birds home to roost with a feeder

Interested in a project involving the entire family during the closed in winter months?

Mountsberg Wildlife Centre education co-ordinator Jim Aikenhead may have the answer to your problem—a bird feeder.

As well as selling bird feeder kits at the centre, Mr. Aikenhead and his staff are also conducting a number of workshops to give hints on the best kind of feeder, and feed, for this area.

"We'll be doing this project as long as our supply of pine cones holds out," he said in a recent interview.

Mr. Aikenhead explained that one of the simplest bird feeders to make is simply to stuff the

openings in a pine cone with a mixture of peanut butter and bird seed.

In addition to the workshop, Mountsberg staff are selling bird feeder kits "that can be assembled like a model airplane."

An "average" feeder hung in Milton, he said, is likely to attract a wide range of birds, including blue jays, cardinals, woodpeckers, tree sparrows and chickadees and even the occasional nuthatch or morning dove.

For more information of this and other Mountsberg programs, contact Mr. Aikenhead at 845-2276.

Region wants all ridings here

Federal electoral boundaries for Halton should be drawn to include only Halton, according to members of the region's administration and finance committee.

Regional chairman Jack Raftis will deliver that message in Hamilton next month when the Electoral Boundaries Commission holds hearings in this area on proposed changes to the federal ridings covering this area.

Under the current proposal the three federal ridings in Halton would be increased to four, but

each would include a portion of land in either Hamilton-Wentworth or Peel regions.

Milton, currently part of the Halton Riding which includes Acton and Oakville, would become part of a new riding called Halton-Wentworth, to include part of Flamborough Township.

"We should tell the commission that we prefer electoral boundaries that respect the current municipal boundaries and we have the population base to do that," said Councillor Walter Mulke-wich (Burlington).

Federal ridings in Halton, according to the current legislation, are supposed to hold between 65,750 and 106,250 voters. Mr. Mulke-wich said, and on that basis Halton itself could be divided into three ridings.

Compromise creates downtown parking

A major project to improve the appearance of Milton's major downtown parking facility has been agreed to by property owners.

Meet your councillors

Ever wanted a chance to tell the Mayor what you think? Or even to say you think he's doing a good job? Milton residents will have a chance to express those thoughts in an informal gathering planned for New Year's Day at town hall.

Gord Krantz and council members will attend the first Mayor's Levee, giving residents a chance to share coffee with their councillors and express their thoughts.

The levee starts at 1 p.m. and is planned to run for two hours.

At a meeting convened by town staff, property owners along the north side of Main St., west of Martin St., agreed to the \$25,000 plan to beautify the Mill St. parking lot which backs their businesses.

"The town was acting as a catalyst in convening these three meetings to see if improvements could be made and paid for by the property owners," said town treasurer Don Loughheed.

The project will involve the complete regrading of the property, upgrading sewer services, taking down obstructions and laying tar and chip coatings and markings.

The board of management of the Downtown Business Improvement Area for 1982 has also recommended that "a considerable amount of money be spent on cosmetic improvements for the area," Mr. Loughheed added.

Inside today's Champion



Chairman Sought

Halton's first independent Heart Fund campaign is to be held this year and the organization requires a campaign chairman for the Milton area to replace stalwart George Willoughby. Details of the requirements and goals of the campaign are on page A3.

First Section

- Viewpoint A4
- Editorials A4
- Our Readers Write A5
- Sports A6

Second Section

- Perspective B1
- Real Estate B6
- Classified B7
- Who Does It B9
- Entertainment B8