

Region, Children's Aid change their procedures after girl nearly starves

By LISA TALLYN

Special to The Champion

Both Halton Region and the Halton Children's Aid Society (CAS) have made changes in the way their staff deal with child neglect following a case in which a five-year-old Acton girl nearly starved to death.

Halton Region has strengthened its staff procedures for dealing with cases of child neglect, and staff training regarding neglect situations has also been increased at Halton Children's Aid Society.

"I think it's sad that this happened. We have a responsibility to look at it as a single organization and a system," said Halton Region's acting commissioner of social and community services Karen Chan. She said the Region was involved with the child for about a year and provided some parent-infant services to the family. Ms Chan said since the court case dealing with the incident in July the Region has put in place all the checks and balances they could.

The Region has implemented procedures to ensure there is complete sharing of information regarding cases where other agencies and professionals are also involved, and that regional staff insist on verification that medical and health-related direction given by workers is actually carried out by the family.

She said there were some assumptions made by regional staff at the time that directions were being carried out, and staff didn't follow up directly with medical personnel.

"In situations where you're dealing with at-risk families sometimes you have to take that extra step," said Ms Chan.

In July the girl's father, James Wayne Clayton, was sentenced to 21 months in prison for failing to provide the necessities of life and the girl's mother, Maryanne McCutcheon, was placed on three years probation for child neglect. The girl and her two siblings are in foster care.

Ms Chan said during the time the Region worked with the Acton child "we didn't identify issues related to starvation."

Gail Vandermeulen, acting executive director of Halton CAS said, "the important thing to remember is this case is now several years old."

"We learned by the case of that child. We learn by every case," said Ms Vandermeulen. "I think we weren't able to recognize the indicators of neglect well enough."

But she stressed staff at CAS didn't do anything wrong. She said the area of neglect has been very difficult to deal with because it isn't entrenched in law and is difficult to prove in court. She said had the case been dealt with today it may have been handled differently.

She said Halton CAS staff have undergone more training in recognizing neglect.

John Day, board chair and president of Halton Children's Aid Society, said what happened to the Acton child "serves to illustrate the symptoms of the

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"I think it's sad that this happened. We have a responsibility to look at it as a single organization and a system."

KAREN CHAN

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NOTICE OF STATUTORY PUBLIC MEETING

Under planning Act R.S.O. 1990, as amended

You are invited to attend a meeting held by Council of the Town of Milton to consider the Central Business District Secondary Plan and related amendments to the Official Plan. The public meeting will be held:

Place: Council Chamber Milton Town Hall, 43 Bronte Street, Milton

Date: Monday, November 30, 1998

Time: 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

The Secondary Plan Area is bounded generally by the following:

To the west: CN Rail Line,

To the south: Rear lot lines of properties on the south side Robert, Sarah and Oak Streets, Childs Drive south of the Mall and rear lot lines of properties on Nipissing Road,

To the east: Thompson Road,

To the north: CP Rail Line and the rear lot lines of the properties on the north side of Main Street between Ontario Street and Thompson Road.

PROPOSAL - Purpose and Effect:

The Town of Milton Official Plan requires the preparation of a secondary plan and its adoption as an amendment to the Official Plan, prior to major development of any lands in the Central Business District.

The Secondary Plan outlines policies with respect to height and massing of buildings, provision of parking, transportation (vehicle/bicycle/pedestrian) strategy, open space network, heritage preservation and overall urban design criteria for development within the Central Business District.

PUBLIC MEETING:

PURPOSE: The purpose of the public meeting is to allow members of the public to comment and make representations on the proposed Official Plan amendment, including the proposed Secondary Plan.

ANY PERSON may attend the meeting, and make written or oral submissions on the proposed amendment. Written submissions should be addressed to the Town Clerk at the address noted below and submitted to the Town by November 24, 1998, to be included in the staff report to Council on the public response to the amendment. The staff report will make recommendations to Town Council with respect to any submissions with respect to the Official Plan amendment, including the Secondary Plan. Town Council will consider the staff report and any other material placed before it, at a meeting on Monday,

December 14, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber and may:

- Approve the amendment as submitted; or,
- Approve the amendment with such modifications as Council deems appropriate; or,
- Refuse the amendment; or,
- Adjourn consideration to a later date.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The draft Official Plan amendment, including the Secondary Plan, will be available on Tuesday, November 10, 1998 at the Planning and Development Department.

NOTES:

- OFFICIAL PLAN APPEAL:** If a person or public body that files an appeal of a decision of the Town of Milton in respect of the proposed Official Plan amendment does not make oral submissions at the public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Milton before the proposed Official Plan amendment is adopted, the Ontario Municipal Board may dismiss all or part of the appeal.
- ANY PERSON WISHING TO BE NOTIFIED OF THE ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT** must make a written request to the Town Clerk at the address shown below.
- WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS** regarding this proposed Amendment should be made to the Town Clerk at the address shown below.
- ALL SUBMISSIONS** received by the Corporation of the Town of Milton are collected under the authority of the Planning Act R.S.O. 1990 as amended and will be used to process the amendment, and will become part of the public record. Questions about the collection and distribution of this information should be directed to Anne Bouck, Planning Department at (905) 878-7211, ext. 150.
- THE SUBJECT LANDS** are not the subject of any related application by the Town under the Planning Act, R.S.O. as amended.

H. Lisi,
Acting Town Clerk
43 Brown Street,
Milton, Ontario L9T 5H2



The Board of Directors of the Community Care Access Centre of Halton are pleased to invite you to attend an

OPEN BOARD MEETING

November 18, 1998
4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE

Milton District Hospital
Classroom
30 Derry Road East
Milton, ON L9T 2X5

HIGHLIGHTS OF AGENDA
Service Provider Forum

For further information, call:
Linda Ferras at (905) 639-5228 ext. 8921 or if long distance 1-800-810-0000
Future meeting dates and locations to be announced.

AUCTION SALE NEW FURNITURE

Saturday, November 14th, 1998
Royal Canadian Legion, 15 Wright St., Acton
Preview Fri. Nov. 13th 6:00pm-8:00pm and Sat. Nov 14th 9:00am
Sale Time: 10:30am

This large sale consists of brand new quality furniture from major manufacturers. Everything from 9pc. Cherry finish dining room suite to Mexican wardrobes, Hand carved Indonesian china cabinets, 12-3pc. sofa sets, Double pedestal oak finish dining room suite with press back chairs, Hutch and buffet, Bookshelves, lamps, Area rugs, Washstands, Swivel rocker, 3-6pc. Bedroom suites, TV, Microwave and Entertainment units, Quilt racks, CD racks, Curio cabinets, Mattresses, Beveled glass kitchen sets, Various coffee and end tables, 6 solid pine tables, Wine racks, Picture frames, Reproduction items, and also a quantity of used furniture, etc., etc.

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