

Region

Police told to watch money

Regional Chairman Jack Raftis says he expects the Halton Police Commission to "continue to do a thorough review of each expenditure prior to the undertaking."

Mr. Raftis in a letter to Police Commission Chairman Harry Barrett said the Regional Administration and Finance Committee, at a meeting April 9, had asked the commissioners "to monitor their budget on a month to month basis and provide this information to members of regional council."

He said this was being done because police budget "is such a high percentage of the total expenditure" of the Halton Regional budget.

Works manager sought within

Halton is looking for a new Manager of Engineering, Planning and Development and will look for the candidate internally.

The person selected for the job will be considered "Acting Manager" until the future of the post is "finally determined by council, after consideration of the Municipal Task Force Sewer and Water Study" and recommended changes proposed by the Hickling-Johnson report on streamlining the efficiency at regional headquarters.

The current manager, H. H. Cripps, will become a "Special Advisor" to the department.

Lounge-library gets approval

Regional councillors will get a new lounge and library, but it won't be as fancy as first envisaged.

Halton Chief Administrator Dennis Perlin had suggested that the director's room on the second floor be changed into a library and lounge where councillors could go for privacy.

The room was to have been equipped with a telephone and cabinets to house all regional reports and studies so they would be more accessible. Each councillor would be given a key and only he or she and invited guests would be allowed to enter.

The current lounge on the main floor adjacent to the council chamber will be made into a stand-by committee room.

But instead of the approximate \$3,000 Mr. Perlin planned to spend on the change, council has approved the idea with an upset limit of \$1,800.

It is felt such things as cabinets for filing are already available in storage at the regional headquarters and can be pressed into use.

Delegation sent on chronic care

Halton will send a delegation to Ontario Health Minister Dennis Timbrell to ask for the region to receive a top priority when the Chronic Home Care Program of the province is instituted.

Halton District Health Council first became alarmed when it heard Halton no longer was in a top priority situation with regard to the chronic care program, even though the region is considered far behind in the number of beds needed.

As a result Regional Chairman Jack Raftis, Health and Social Services Committee Chairman Carol Gooding and Chief Administrative Officer, Dennis Perlin have been delegated to go and see Mr. Timbrell regarding "the issue of home care in Halton and clarification as to the priority of that program for Halton."

Council has also decided the delegation should "seek to make implementation of the chronic home care a high priority item."

Heavy metals secrecy held

A list of Halton industries putting heavy metals in the sewer system above accepted standards will be kept confidential for now, according to Planning and public Works Committee Chairman Bill Johnson.

A closed-door session of the committee was held recently at which time the type of contaminants and where they were coming from were laid out.

Mr. Johnson said the reason for the secrecy was that many of the polluting firms had built plants long before environmental regulations came into effect and many of these firms are trying to be "good corporate citizens" and cut back contaminants with new systems.

He warned, however, that some firms were not being as good.

Mr. Johnson said that if improvements were not seen with some firms, he would have the next session open to the press so that names could be reported to the public.

Child Abuse Council hopes to curb increase in problem

By Terry Grimwood
The Halton Community Child Abuse Council hopes to make Halton Region residents aware there is a child abuse problem in Halton and there are places help can be found.

Last year in Halton alone there were 117 reported cases of child abuse, noted Margaret Morrison, council member and special services supervisor for the Halton Children's Aid Society.

The council, along with the help of two Sheridan College Students, has completed a poster with the slogan "for some children the ride's a little rougher" to bring the problem to the attention of those unaware it is happening in their own community and to give parents who are abusing their children the opportunity to come forward for help.

Sheridan Graphic Design students Liz Bradley and Susan Nagy completed the poster free of charge and the only cost the council had to worry about was the printing fee.

The council member noted posters will be distributed to doctors' offices, hospitals, schools, public health offices and various other places catering to the public.

The council has been in operation for about two years and consists of 12 members representing various agencies and institutions across Halton.

Three child abuse teams of psychiatrists, pediatricians, nurses, hospital staff, educators, daycare workers, police and representatives from other groups working with children have been set up—one each in Burlington and Oakville and one for Georgetown, Acton and Milton.

When CAS or another

agency has a case of child abuse, Ms. Morrison added, the primary worker meets with the closest team and discusses the case with the members who in turn recommend a program for the family.

Advantages, she pointed out, are a more comprehensive treatment for the family and quicker protection for the child as all those involved are working together.

As well as focusing on public awareness, the council also provides education and training to help professionals identify and treat child abuse.

"The community is getting closer to responding to child abuse as a community problem," she said.

She noted recent change in the law will also help professionals identify and treat cases of abuse. Ms. Morrison said any person who suspects child abuse may be occurring must report it to the nearest CAS and professionals who do not report their suspicions are liable to a jail term or a fine.

But, she said, despite efforts by the courts, police and medical groups, parenting education is still not a big topic and most parents who do want help are unaware of or unable to find courses available to them.

The largest number of

reports of child abuse come from family members, relatives and friends, followed by self-referrals, school officials and public health workers.

"Abuse by and large is caused by frustration, poor impulse control or a history of being poorly parented themselves," Ms. Morrison said of parents who abuse their children.

"Anything that diminishes the child in his

opinion of himself can be construed as abuse."

She added the consistency and force of the treatment must also be taken into consideration.

The majority of cases can be worked out on a long-term basis and, in the main, children remain in the home.

"We work very hard to protect children within their own environment," she said.

There are still discrepancies in views

toward children, Ms. Morrison said, which the council and other groups hope to overcome with education projects such as the poster.

"For some reason it is okay to be disrespectful to another human being under 16 years of age," she mused.


"I guess we're not over that period in history where children were thought of as chattels and objects to be controlled," she said.

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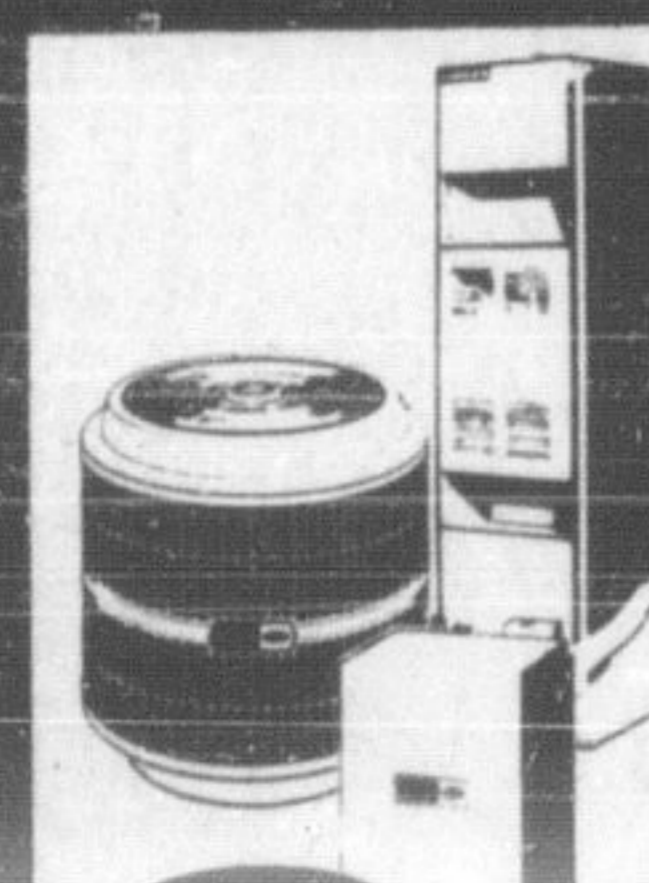
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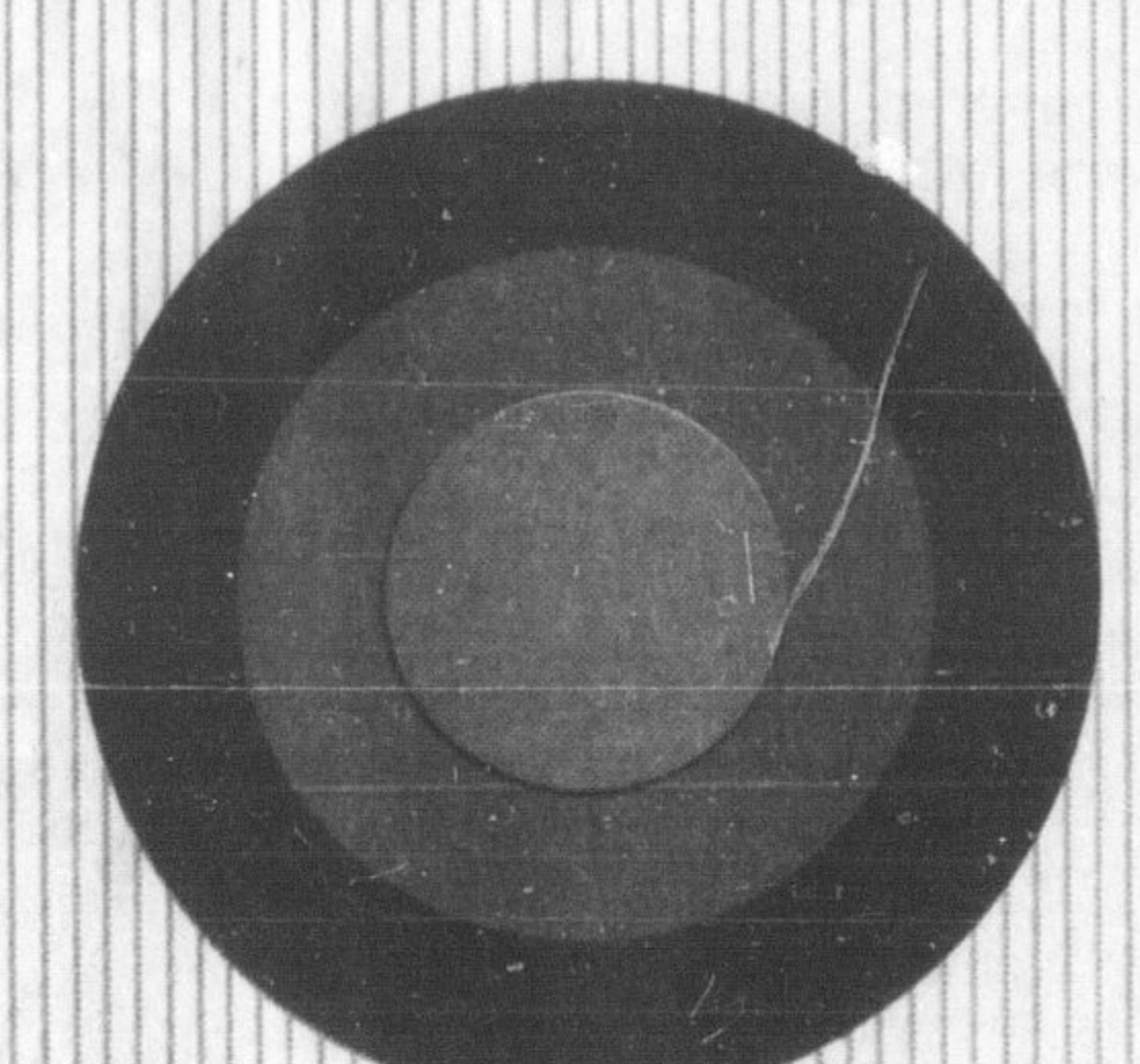
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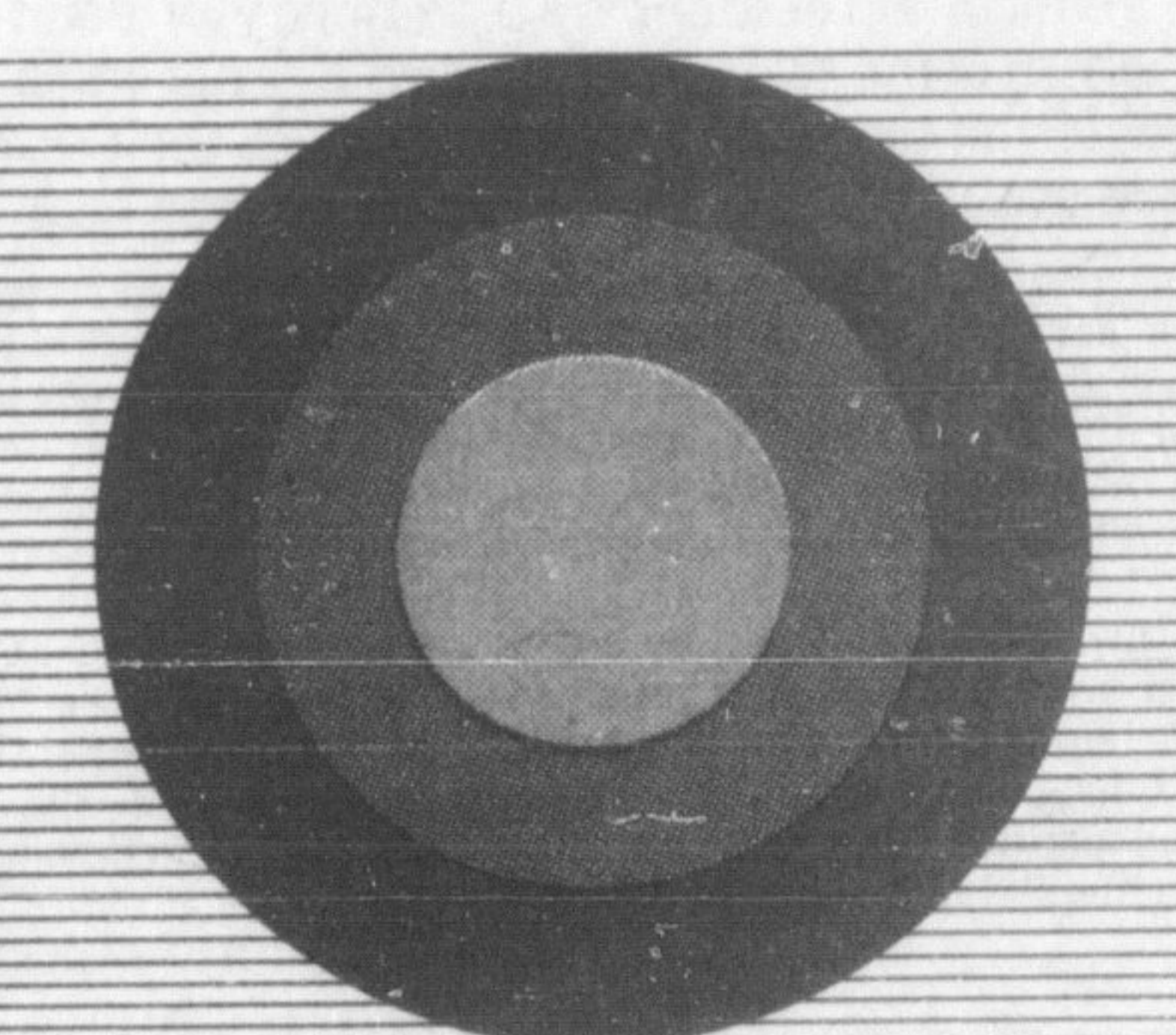
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