

Our Readers Write

Media and Halton

Dear Sir:
Regarding Halton Regional government and media representatives.
Since the establishment of Halton Government I have had considerable experience with this government's first Chairman, different departments and officials.
The Provincial Government's idea to establish Halton Regional government was a good idea and could have worked satisfactorily if those who are on Regional Council have made a serious effort to make it work.

The idea to establish the Regional Government was accepted by the media.

If a new organization will be established the organizer, in this case the first-appointed Chairman, should have been a fully qualified individual to undertake such a responsibility.

He should have hired the competent and fully qualified people into his administration, thus founding a solid foundation for the new Halton Regional Government.

The foundation of a structure must be solid to bear any sort of a load - otherwise cracks may develop in the foundation and the whole structure is in danger of collapsing.

During the years since the establishment of Regional Government the media have continuously reported Halton citizens of one mismanagement after another.

Politicians have walked out of council meetings because the council meetings were poorly organized, politicians themselves stating that the things are boring in Halton and that Region of Halton to be a poorly disorganized level of government, etc., etc.

A thick book can be written of the mismanagements, mistakes and politicians of Halton.

Further from the media reports one can get the impression that some of the members of council should be less parochial and work for the whole Region.

My personal experiences with the first appointed Chairman, Land Division Committee, Planning Committee and Department, Legal Department, Clerk's Office and Public Works Department, have been less than satisfactory and demonstrates the type of services the Regional Government is providing for the citizens.

It seems that there are different kind of laws - one for poor and the

other for the rich and powerful.
Each specific experience will be made public in detail in due course.
The result of all this is obvious. The image of Regional Government is tarnished and to the lowest scale!

Now Mr. Raftis, Chairman, and Chief Administrative Officer Mr. Dennis Perlin are blaming the press for being sensationalists and that all good things have been ignored. They do not specify any of those good things which have been ignored.

I doubt that there is any. If there are any, these will be like drop of water into ocean.

More surprising they also are accusing the press of being lazy.

To my understanding the media representatives are always present in main events.

Where is the laziness?

But what do you call this, if one of the council members has ignored letter addressed to him and phone calls have been ignored. Is this laziness or something worse.

I have worked in five different countries in several responsible positions, and the last 25 years in Canada.

I must with regret admit that I find the Canadian politicians, administrators and individuals are the only ones who are trying to find a "scape goat" for their mistakes and mismanagement - for their failures. There knowledge to ethics and honesty is questionable.

Undoubtedly there are controversies in our regional system, which are kept secret and confidential from public.

I hope that the reporters from our weekly community newspapers are digging much deeper into the Regional Governments activities - whether those activities are good or bad ones - and report all this to the community. This is the only way to get the impartial information from Regional Government - politicians and the administration.

I would recommend that media representatives will prepare their reports in more "spiced" form and sarcasm is very welcome.

Your services for the community is expected to be of the same quality you have provided up to date.

I am sure the community you are serving appreciate this very much and say - thanks for difficult work you are doing honestly for our community

A. Jurs, P. Eng.
Milton.



Ready for kids. Mountsberg Wildlife Centre is the base for Halton Region Conservation Authority's Summer Resource Program for children from 8 to 12. Donna Jennison, front and Helena Sharp are two of the leaders for this special program which combines education and recreation. The pair are headed for the Mountsberg pond with pond study equipment.

Experiencing Mountsberg means summer positions

By Jane Muller
This summer 35 young people have found work with Halton Region Conservation Authority through the Experience '81 program sponsored by the provincial government.

Everything from updating resource inventories, replanting forests, banding birds and operating educational programs will be handled by those involved in Experience.

At Mountsberg Wildlife Centre Donna Jennison, 23 and Helena Sharp, 20 are two of six resource interpreters working with children from 8 to 12 years involved in the Summer Resource Program.

A bus picks children up at various locations throughout the region. There are two two-week sessions remaining and one one-week session beginning July 27.

Children take part in pond, pioneer, bird and stream studies as well as hiking, canoeing, swimming, sailing and orienteering to combine education with recreation.

Donna has just completed a course at Seneca College in Toronto dealing with historic and natural interpretation and this summer is her first experience with children. As an employee with the Ministry of Natural Resources she conducted tours at the Leslie M. Frost Centre where adults were the main visitors. She said the

program's aim is to gear programs to a ratio of 60 per cent education and 40 per cent recreation. Some of the resource interpreters' time is devoted to developing new programs which requires some research.

"A lot of children are coming back for their second and third year and it gets too repetitive for them," Donna explains.

Although she does the same job as Donna,

Helena Sharp's background is quite different. This fall she will begin the final year of a two year Sheridan College course which will qualify her as a Canadian Nanny.

Child psychology and development are two areas of her expertise which she has found useful in her job at Mountsberg. Another advantage for Helena is she did the same job last summer.

"I always thought I'd like working with children," Helena said. Donna considers her time at Mountsberg "more challenging" than her work last summer. The idea is to keep the children's interest in the various programs whereas the adults touring the Frost Centre already had the interest and she was just helping them with something they already wanted to learn.

Crafts room is passed

Regional councillors have decided to spend \$100,000 to create an adjunct and crafts room at Halton Centennial Manor, as well as \$10,000 to relocate the drug room.

Approval of the expenditure is being taken despite the criticisms of some councillors the money might be better spent building new facilities closer to the centres of population such as in Burlington and Oakville.

And indeed, the work will commence at the same time as a longer term study as to the needs of seniors in Halton is being conducted.

Approval for the work has been asked from the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services as well as the request to place the cost of the work in the current Ministry budget year.

Councillors also approved a recommendation that "the long-term

study be done on the needs of the elderly including the provision, if any, of regional facilities in that regard include within its terms of reference the role that Pettit House should play within the continuum of care for senior citizens in Halton."

At the same time the

Manor Administrator will be told to obtain community input on the possibility of an outreach program for seniors and the use they would make of facilities at Pettit House.

The results of the request for input are to be returned.

Young people working offer much to Milton

For many of Ontario's young people summer vacation does not necessarily mean spending lazy days basking in the sun.

These months to a great number of students mean hard work.

This summer more than 10,000 young people across the province are employed through the government by the Ontario Experience '81 program.

Students have been hired to staff legal aids clinics, operate low risk businesses, conduct environmental research, act as probation counsellors, designing occupational programs for the handicapped and apprenticing in the field of art and drama.

Initiated in 1973, the Experience program has three main objectives; to help offset high youth unemployment during the summer months, to offer young people a meaningful work experience and to assist the different ministries in the delivery of services to Ontario communities.

Co-ordinated by the Ontario Youth Secretariat, Experience '81 encompasses 102 programs which are administered by 24 provincial ministries.

All positions pay the provincial minimum wage. In Milton alone, there are close to a couple hundred such students.

Approximately 35 students are employed at the Halton Conservation Authority as maintenance crews, resource interpreters, upgrading resource materials, birdbanding and other various tasks.

Approximately the same number are employed at the Ontario Agricultural Museum to assist with public tours, restoration of museum artifacts and the upkeep of the grounds.

Students have also been employed with the Milton Business Improvement Area, Maplehurst Correctional Centre, Milton Provincial Court, Milton Probation and Parole Office, the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Sheridan Youth Association.

Herd charges unfair policy

Despite charges of unfair practice by Oakville Trustee Bill Herd, Halton Board of Education approved the appointment of two architects for projects in Oakville and Milton.

The board approved Andrew S. Bruce for the addition and alterations to an Oakville School, and John J. Harkness for a new public school in the Timberlea area of Milton.

Herd charged the board does not give other architects a fair chance at board jobs, as the board repeatedly uses these two architects. He contended no other architects were considered nor given a chance to be considered for the jobs. He pointed out he was not questioning the quality of the work of the men involved, but questioning the fairness.

Herd contended the two men have done all the boards work in the past ten years.

Board chairman Bill Lawson pointed out there were not that many local architects and it has always been a policy of the board to use local firms before leaving the area. Of the five architectural firms in Halton, he said, four have been used.

Herd noted there were more than five firms in the area and said contracts are often awarded to out-of-region firms.

Trustee Elaine Riehm, Burlington, noted that once someone has a successful design of a school, the board is going to duplicate it and improve on it, using the original architect.

Trustee Len Crozier, Oakville, noted over the past ten years, 14 different architects have been used. "It's not a case of a closed shop!"

Players planning reading

The Milton Players, community theatre group, will have another play reading tonight at 8 p.m. at the Halton Centennial Manor auditorium.

The second act of "Egad, The Woman in White" as well as some clean burlesque comedy routines will be read.

This provides anyone interested in theatre a chance to "ham it up" and also to learn about amateur theatre in Milton.



Angela Noble. A grade 12 Milton District High School student, Angela hopes to make art a career. But for the summer she is filing for Maplehurst Correctional Centre.

Sorting files is different

By Linda Kirby
Sixteen-year-old Angela Noble of Milton is perhaps the youngest of any Experience '81 students to work at Maplehurst Correctional Institute.

Working as a clerk in inmate records, she is responsible for general filing of the personal belongings of inmates and keeping track of certain records.

She also sorts "dead" files.

The grade 12 Milton District High School student said she is not bothered with the fact of working in Maplehurst. She has relatively minimal contact with prisoners and meets them only upon their arrival when their personal goods are turned over.

The job is "different" she admitted, but filing is something she has enjoyed doing since files.

elementary school, said

Miss Noble. She plans however a career in the arts and will be attending college in the fall.

She said the

she

Jacuzzi's Largest Gas Grill AFFORDABLE QUALITY

BQ4021
Made in Canada

- Top-of-the-line model
- 40,000 BTU cooking heat
- 485 sq. inch cooking area
- Twin stainless steel "Infinity Burners" with dual controls
- Adjustable warming rack
- Split cooking grids
- Temperature gauge
- 20-lb. PROPANE TANK
- Lava rock
- 3-yr. limited warranty

PLUS
Deluxe Jacuzzi Rotisserie, 23" R.O. Cedar Front Shelf, Naugahyde BBQ Cover.

\$329⁹⁵

FREE ASSEMBLY ON ALL MODELS

Grant Enterprises

257 'A' Queen St. S. (Mississauga Rd.), Streetsville. Park at rear
Mon., Tues., 12-9, Wed., Thurs., Fri., 9-9, Sat., 9-6, 826-2466

CINDY'S CANINE GROOMING
presents

Your Beautiful Dog!

Any breed, bring him in with this ad and receive

\$2⁰⁰ Off

his first clip.

LOW PRICES - QUALITY

Now in Stock - Canine Supplies; House Plants; Siamese Fighting Fish available

160 Main St. 876-2224
Milton, Ont.

IT'S BETTER!

DO YOU WANT THE BEST VALUE FOR YOUR HOME COMFORT DOLLAR?

Call your OAKVILLE

Carrier

man of

844-2949

A.I. AIR CONDITIONING
DIV. MESSENGER MECHANICAL INC.

Quality Sales & Service of Heat Pumps, Air Conditioning and Furnaces since 1967. Gas, Oil or Electric