

Taxpayers will pay off CAS debts

Halton taxpayers will help the Children's Aid Society retire deficits it has been carrying since 1978. Members of the Region's administration and finance committee voted last week to give the society financial assistance to write off the deficits created by provincial decisions.

Ron Coupland, executive director of the society, told committee members that the deficit to be written off with the special support from the Region was

not covered by the supplementary budgets the society received in past years.

He added that the \$10,228 being sought from the Region would cover 20 per cent of the accumulated \$51,000 deficit.

The balance of that deficit has been covered by the provincial government in the budget it approved for the society in 1980, according to a report given to committee members by Regional treasurer Gerry

Lawson.

In his presentation to committee members, Mr. Coupland said assistance provided by the Region would not involve the actual exchange of money between the society and Region because the funds would be taken from an amount included in the approved budget for this year, but not spent.

"Our problem has been that the Ministry has set our budget so low every year that we have not been

able to retire this deficit," Mr. Coupland said. "We would like to be able to start 1982 on a fresh page and not be dragging these figures behind us."

Mr. Coupland added that while some expression of support has been received from the province, the Child Welfare Act requires that the Region takes a position on assisting the society before any provincial action is taken.

"The facts are that we cannot get our money from

the province until you sign the documents which will help us straighten out the financial arrangements that the province has entered into without consulting you," he said.

Burlington Coun. Peter Arch summed up the debate with his observation that "what we're really doing is increasing the budget after the fact for those three years."

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Budget not favored by Grit Reed

By Steve Arnold

Ontario's provincial Liberal party has rejected the budget brought down earlier this month by their federal counterparts and Halton Burlington MPP Julian Reed joins that rejection.

"Our rejection of the budget is based on the fact that it does nothing to help those areas of our economy that are in the most need," Mr. Reed said in an interview following Tuesday's meeting of the Milton Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Reed, who was not part of the Liberal conference which passed the budget condemnation, said he still agreed with the action taken by the provincial body.

"I think our economy has gone past the point where we can cluck our tongues and say it is only hurting those people who aren't good managers," he said.

Mr. Reed said that, especially in the field of agriculture, economic problems "are reaching to the very core of our ability to produce food."

Many young people are being kept out of farming because of high interest rates "and, if that continues, it will have a serious effect on our whole economy."

Mr. Reed added that the budget should have taken a stronger and more urgent approach to handling economic problems.

"We are in an emergency situation where the government should be able to stop unnecessary losses of farms and businesses on an individual basis."

Earlier, the energy critic for the provincial opposition told about 20 local businessmen that Ontario is missing a great opportunity to diversify its energy economy.

Continuing his attack on the recent decision of the provincial government to spend \$650 million to purchase a 25 per cent share of an American oil company, (Suncor), Mr. Reed said the purchase is simply a waste of money and opportunity.

If, for example, the government had used that money to exploit peat moss resources in Northern Ontario 8,000 jobs could have been created and the energy equivalent of 72 million barrels of oil would be made available.

"If we express our will and created the seeds of a new industry in Ontario, the economy of this province would be in no doubt in the future," he said.

"We have everything that we need to succeed, but we don't have the political will to make it happen," he added. "I don't believe that we have to let ourselves drift into a have-not situation."



Photo by Tom Burley

Downtown Milton is decked for the season with Christmas decorations and lights. The glitter was added recently to brighten the nights for Christmas shoppers.

Milton District Hospital

Report suggests growth

By Jane Muller

An draft report on expansion plans for Milton District Hospital is, in essence, a carbon copy of recommendations by hospital staff who have fought more than three years for increased facilities.

"I'm pleased with all the recommendations," hospital administrator Brian Brady says.

The 100-page review report was compiled by Agnew Packham Associates, a consulting firm retained by the hospital in August.

Basically, the report mirrored a proposed first phase expansion approved by the Ministry of Health in February 1981.

Emergency, laboratory and x-ray facilities will be expanded and the report strongly recommends a six-bed intensive care facility be developed—something which was not considered in phase one plans suggested by hospital staff.

Mr. Brady, however agreed with the addition of an ICU which will be located near the emergency department.

Expansion plans are based on a five-year forecast of population growth and consideration for the town to become more self-contained in the future—with increased local employment to population ratio.

"As this transition occurs, residents will look to Milton for an increasing range of community-based services. One of these services may be health care," the draft report states.

When Milton District Hospital was originally constructed in 1959, it contained 52 beds—a total increased to 83 beds in 1967. The report recommends the addition of 10 beds, six of which will make up the ICU. Four will be added for medical patients while surgical bed allocation will remain the same.

It has been recommended, considering past

occupancy statistics, to decrease obstetrical beds from 14 to 10 and paediatrics from 11 to 10.

As chronic care beds are usually used to 100 per cent capacity, due to use by Halton Centennial Manor residents, five additional beds have been recommended.

By 1986, the draft review indicates a need for two or three additional general practitioners, two internists and one obstetrician/gynaecologist.

The hospital is currently staffed by 12 general practitioners and two general surgeons. A pathologist to attend the hospital on at least a half-time basis has also been recommended.

Currently, a surgical day care facility exists within the emergency department and the report suggests a separate area for these patients to provide pre-operative and recovery care be developed.

The report recommends hospital staff "re-activate discussion regarding the development of an on-site medical office/clinic building in the immediate future."

A program plan and master plan will follow this initial report and are expected to be completed by February, 1982, according to Mr. Brady.

The price for these assorted plans will be about \$26,000—which will move the project to the architectural planning stage. Each step must receive approval from the Ministry of Health and construction timing will rely heavily on that ministry's funding commitments.

"Cost estimates will come in the final stages of planning," Mr. Brady says.

The next phase will outline the best location for certain departments and services—with the final planning stage to include space requirements.

Site F appeal

Citizens group and Region ready for battle

By Steve Arnold

Only weeks after the finish of the latest round in their fight against Site F, the players are taking their positions for another court battle.

Regional council agreed last week to retain the legal firm of Osler, Hoskin and Harcourt to carry the standard again in an appeal.

Members of the Tremaine-Britannia-Citizen's group have launched an appeal against a Supreme Court of Ontario Decision which struck down their objections to the proposed garbage dump in Milton.

For seven years the citizens have been fighting a proposal by Halton Region to establish a regional garbage dump in their area. Aside from the usual complaints of residents resisting such a proposal in their neighborhood, the residents object to the proposal because the land is currently zoned for prime farm uses.

A bylaw to rezone the land was passed by Milton council, but only after councillors were threatened with contempt of court charges if they did not comply.

The action launched by the group in the Ontario Court of Appeal seeks an order quashing two Town of Milton bylaws making the rezoning and is based on eight alleged errors in the decision of Supreme Court Justice E.E. Smith.

Steve Garrod, the lawyer who filed the appeal for the citizen's group, said the grounds for appeal centre around the interpretation Mr. Justice Smith took of his own discretion and the affect of the Environmental Assessment Act.

Mr. Garrod said the citizens group has always based its arguments on an interpretation of the Environmental Assessment Act which requires all other actions to cease when the act has been applied to a particular situation.

"The Environmental Assessment Act was the basis of our application and that Act makes it pretty clear that it is the first step that has to be taken."

Mr. Garrod explained that after the Ontario Municipal Board hearing into the bylaws, provincial law was changed and an assessment under the Environmental Assessment Act was required for the site.

After that requirement was made, Mr. Garrod said, all other actions related to the dump development should have been stopped.

In his initial judgement, Mr. Justice Smith rejected the citizens' request to have the bylaws quashed because they were passed after the requirement for the environmental assessment. The Justice rejected the arguments based on his feeling that it was within his discretion to do so.

"He held that he has a discretion to decide whether or not the bylaw is illegal. We say that it's clear in the law that he has no choice," Mr. Garrod said.

"Our view is that his argument about his discretion is irrelevant. When something is illegal, it's illegal."

Mr. Garrod added that he doesn't expect the appeal will be heard before January, 1982 at the earliest. A more reasonable expectation would be February or March.

Oakville Coun. Terry Mannell told members of the planning and public works committee when they approved hiring the legal firm, that he was "feeling some frustration at the approach of the Tremaine-Britannia Citizens to this."

Mr. Mannell suggested that regional officials should meet with the citizens group "to find out what they want, but I realize that once lawyers lock horns clients shouldn't talk to each other."

Dennis Perlin, the region's chief administrative officer, said he had met with representatives of the group of week ago. He refused to provide details of the meeting however in a public forum.

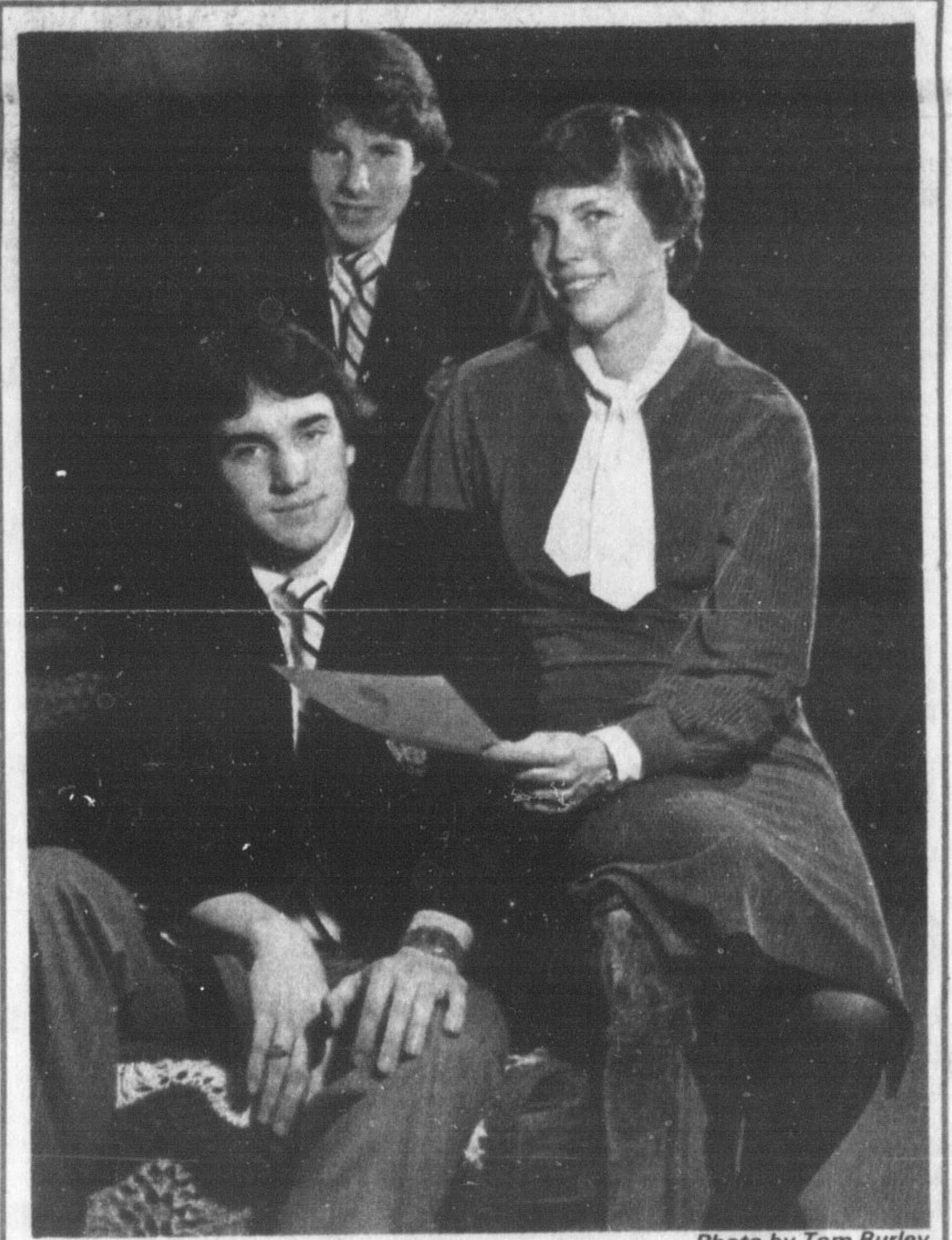


Photo by Tom Burley

Relaxing at home with his mother Marilyn and a school friend, Robert Silk poses with his Duke of Edinburgh's Certificate.

Milton youth receives Edinburgh silver medal

By Linda Kirby

A 17-year-old Milton youth was among an elite group of young people to be presented with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Silver Certificate of Achievement Saturday afternoon.

Robert Silk, of 7120 Appleby Line in Milton, was one of 14 fellow students from Ridley College in St. Catharines to receive the pin from Canada's Lieutenant-Governor, John Black Aird, during a special ceremony at Lakefield College School.

For the tall, sports-minded, Grade 12 student, the award represented the culmination of many long hours of work and community service.

"It does mean quite a bit to me to receive the award," said the quiet spoken youth, who admitted the pin is not the goal of all students.

"A lot of kids feel—what is the use. For me, it was worthwhile."

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award program is a challenge from Prince Philip to all young people between the ages of 14 and 25 to excel at

(Continued on Page Two)

Solvent fumes overcome five

Five people, including an ambulance attendant, were rushed to Milton District Hospital Monday afternoon after being overcome by cleaning fumes at Surbond Lubricant Co. Ltd. at 89 Nipissing Rd. in Milton.

Members of the Milton Fire Department were called to the scene to rescue two of the victims from inside of a large tank at the oil factory and were required to wear masks.

The incident, which has been classified as an industrial accident by Halton Regional Police and is being investigated by the Department of Labor, occurred shortly before 4 p.m.

Police said factory worker Randy Scott was cleaning the interior of a 12 ft. by 8 ft. oil tank with a widely used industrial solvent known as trichloroethane when he succumbed to the fumes.

Co-worker Dave Sales attempted to pull Mr. Scott out of the tank, but was also overcome by the fumes.

Another worker, Lance Albert, attempted to go in but realizing he could not help came out. He also suffered inhalation and collapsed, suffering lacerations to the head.

Company owner Don Hart was assisting him out and tried to break his fall, but broke his wrist in the attempt.

Marcel Zwolman, an attendant with the Halton-Mississauga Ambulance Co., also suffered inhalation and collapsed.

Inside today's Champion

Cookbook '81

The Champion has brought together cooks from local restaurants and recipes from cooks at home in its second annual cookbook. It is inserted in the paper this week.

It's carol time

'Tis the season to sing Christmas carols and The Champion has most of the favorites in a special song-sheet which is also inserted in the paper.

New ski manager

David Fraser sees Glen Eden as the Ontario equivalent to St. Moritz. He's the new manager with some interesting ideas. Page D5.

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