

Regional councillors say

# Foam hampered homes deserve help

By STEVE ARNOLD  
Champion News Editor

Financial subsidies should be provided by the federal government for homeowners suffering from the effect of urea formaldehyde foam insulation (UFFI) in their homes, says a committee of Regional councillors.

Members of Halton's health and social services committee took that stand last week in approving a recommendation calling on the Regional chairman and chairman of the committee to write to the federal minister of health with that request.

Dr. Peter Cole, medical officer of health for the

Region, said a testing program being carried out by the province to determine if the once-popular insulation is posing health problems for some people is being strained by the public demand for tests.

Urea formaldehyde foam insulation has been banned by the federal government because, when the foam dries and cracks, it can release irritating amounts of formaldehyde gas into the home.

This, according to Dr. Cole, can result in allergic symptoms such as itchy, runny eyes, increased asthma symptoms and dryness or bleeding of the nasal passages.

"The province is having difficulty keeping up with

the demand for testing in homes," Dr. Cole told committee members. "I'm just not satisfied with the response time they have."

Dr. Cole added that even before the provincial testing program was started, a less sophisticated test carried out by Halton Health Unit also pointed to some of the problems homeowners were experiencing.

"Our results seem to be correlating very well with those of the Ministry, but we don't need these tests to know there's a problem," he said.

Local and Regional councillors have expressed

concern for the plight of residents trying to sell their homes but, who are trapped because they installed the insulation—many with the help of federal grants.

At a recent meeting of Milton council, for example, Coun. Jim Watson raised the concern.

"I think many people are in bad shape because of the reduction in the value of their homes that has been caused by this," he said.

He also wondered if something could be done to lower the assessment on these homes to assist the owners.

The testing program, being carried out jointly by the provincial ministries of health and labor, can determine if the levels of formaldehyde gas in the home are high enough to cause the adverse symptoms Dr. Cole described.

He warned however, that foam insulation isn't the only source of gas in the home. It is also released, in smaller amounts, by laminated table tops, fiberglass curtains and from some types of carpet.

A program of assistance has been promised by the federal government, but nothing has yet been done.

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Awaits Halton's OK

## Council rezones 401 industrial park

By JANE MULLER  
Champion Reporter

Nearly half of the 1,400 acre "401" industrial park has been rezoned with nothing left in the way once the revisions receive approval from Halton Region.



GORD KRANTZ

With three adjoining properties at the south-east portion of the industrial park rezoned at Monday's council meeting and a second portion to the west rezoned earlier, the site is closer to development.

Lawyer Harry Funk attempted to sway councillors to allow for highway commercial zoning in a higher concentration than plans suggest, but to no avail. He told members he had received assurances from director of planning Bob Zsadyani that portions of land he sold to certain agents would be classed as highway commercial.

"I don't think Bob Zsadyani should have let me take this information to the agents," said Mr. Funk.

"These people have been let down by council," he added.

Mayor Gord Krantz told the lawyer there were never any promises made in regard to the zoning.

During a telephone interview Tuesday, the mayor said, "That's an industrial park and that's what about 90 per cent of it is."

He and his council share the opinion that Milton has plenty of highway commercial establishments as it is, and, only a small portion of the new industrial development is allocated for commercial uses.

"At some later date down the road, if someone wanted to come to council with a specific case which bordered commercial and industrial uses, it would be considered by council at that time. The implementation study is a fairly rigid planning tool, but it is not etched in stone," the mayor said.

Mr. Funk's request to amend the zoning of the portion of land owned by Kimmy Ltd. was turned down, as was a similar appeal made by lawyer Mike Welch, who also represented Kimmy Ltd.—along with two other property holders.

Now that land buy-outs, which have delayed the rezoning, have been completed the final stage to change the large chunk of land zoned for agricultural uses to industrial zoning is within the grasp of Milton council.

Halton Regional council must approve this most recent set something which is "pretty well a formality now," according to Mr. Krantz.

Several hundred acres of the industrial park must still go through the political process of rezoning before the long sought after industrial park is realized.

With provisions made for 10 people per acre of the site, the park promises employment for thousands in Halton Region.



Photo by Tom Burley

At Halton Women's Place, where abused women and their children can find temporary sanctuary, Christmas is no less an occasion. Here Adele Service (left) director of the house, and child care worker Karen Free help a young resident trim the tree.

## This home an oasis in a desert of abuse

By JANE MULLER  
Champion Reporter

Halton Women's Place is an oasis in a desert of abuse—serving as a peaceful sanctuary for 133 abused women and their children for the past year.

There is no typical case, with residents ranging from teenagers to those married for as long as 30 years, but the women at the hostel located in Milton have one thing in common. They have come to the breaking point and, as a result of physical and mental abuse are "personally shattered," explains Adele Service, director of Halton Women's Place.

The average stay at the 18-bed hostel is four to six weeks—during which time women are given supportive counselling, which amounts

to a lot of listening on the part of staff. After women have settled into the house atmosphere, usually a period of two or three days, they are referred to various agencies or professional counsellors and are provided with information pertaining to their legal rights.

The oasis effect of the house comes from the security it offers. This, along with the objectivity of the staff, makes Halton Women's place more desirable than staying with a family member. All phone calls are screened, giving the women an opportunity to refuse calls if they desire. The door is always locked and, if, on a rare occasion, an irate husband appears there, the police station is in close proximity next door.

(Continued on Pg. 3)

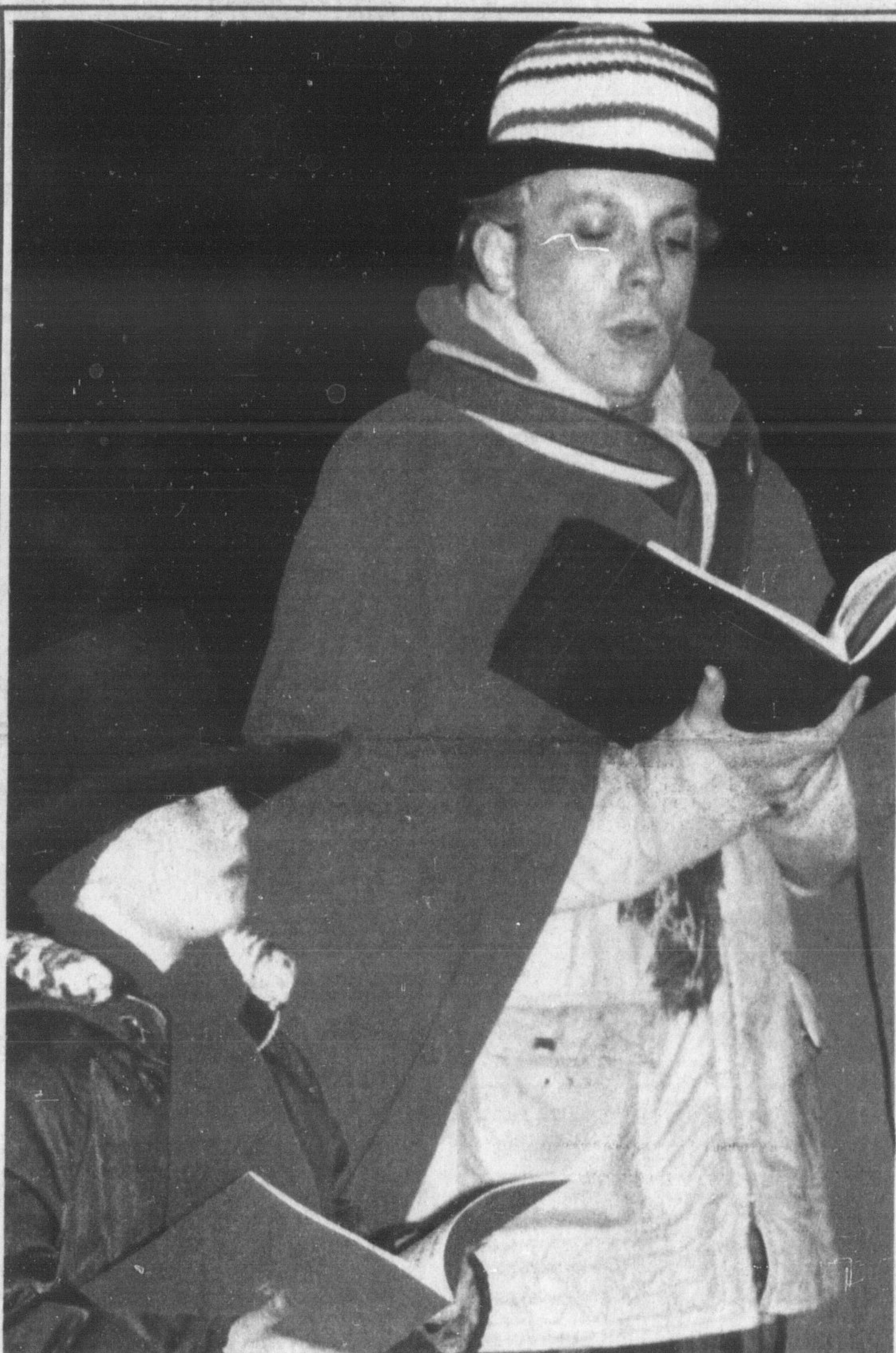


Photo by Tom Burley

## Songs of the season

Members of Milton Chorists evening, singing the songs which serinated Main St. shoppers Friday make this time of year special.

## Christmas edition early

In an effort to better serve the needs of its readers during Christmas week, next week's edition of The Canadian Champion will be published one day earlier.

To meet deadlines necessary for the Tuesday, Dec. 22, 1981 publishing date, numerous deadlines have been moved ahead.

Mike Hall, Advertising Manager for The Canadian Champion, has set Monday, Dec. 21, 1981 at noon as the deadline for classified advertising to get into the Christmas edition.

Mr. Hall has set a deadline of Friday, Dec. 18, 1981 at 3 p.m. for display advertising.

John Challinor, Editor of The Canadian Champion, asks that all columnists and regular contributors have their copy into the office by Sunday, Dec. 20, 1981 at 4 p.m.

Mike Boyle, Sports Editor of The Canadian Cham-

pion, has also set the Sunday deadline for sports columnists and contributors.

Deadlines will resume their regular time frame for the New Year's edition of The Canadian Champion. That edition will be published on Wednesday, Dec. 30, 1981.

Les Feero, Circulation Manager for The Canadian Champion, advises our readers that, as of Jan. 1, 1982, pre-paid subscriptions to the newspaper will increase.

A one-year subscription delivered in Milton by carrier will remain at \$12.; a one-year subscription delivered by Canada Post Office Corp. in Canada will increase to \$15 and a one-year subscription delivered by mail outside of Canada will increase to \$75.

Mr. Feero cites dramatic increases in the cost of postal rates as the prime reason for the increase in subscription prices.

Farm rep says:

## Agricultural crisis created by 'progress'

By JOHN CHALLINOR  
Champion Editor

The construction of subdivisions, industrial parks and dump sites on prime agricultural land is not progress, but represents a loss of farmland reaching crisis proportions, says an agriculture ministry official.

Henry Stanley, area representative for the provincial Ministry of Agriculture and Food, told 50 farmers and urban residents gathered at Halton Rural Forum 1981 last weekend the situation is becoming "a real mess."

"Recently, the low farm prices of pork, beef and our grains are forcing some of our farmers into bankruptcy or greatly reducing their equity in their businesses," Mr. Stanley said. "This loss of farmers will accelerate rapidly in the coming year unless there are changes in farm prices and interest rates are lowered."



HENRY STANLEY

The situation is a frustration for those who are serious about trying to make a living from farming or who are attempting to keep a strong farm community in Halton, he added.

Mr. Stanley said the farming community is still a prominent part of Halton's industrial sector—some 800 farms which employ 4,000 people, did \$60 million worth of business last year.

He calculated that roughly 165,000 acres of Halton's 220,000 total acreage is taken up by farming. However, a third of that is rented by absentee owners to farmers and is used for cash crops.

Mr. Stanley does generally not approve of short-term rental agreements as both the general appearance of these properties tend to deteriorate because of the lack of a commitment.

"Large numbers of rural non-farm people have caused problems with snowmobiles and dogs and lodged complaints against farm operations because of the odor, etc.," said Mr. Stanley. "This attitude by some has not been conducive to retaining land for farming and now there are rural areas of high non-farm populations."

Mr. Stanley was critical of over-sized residential lots in rural areas, hydro lines, Milton's 1,400-acre industrial park, the proposed Regional garbage dump and the mushrooming of subdivisions.

"I'm concerned about the garbage dump—not just because of the loss of farmland, but because of the threat to the purity of our water," Mr. Stanley said. "That water is needed by dairy producers in that area and their livelihood depends on milk production."

Mr. Stanley stressed that farmers are difficult, if not impossible to replace.

"You don't train to be a farmer in four years at college—you need a lifetime to gain this knowledge," he said. "If we lose our farmers or a segment of them, we are looking ourselves into a food policy which will be dependent upon imports and subject to great variations in price, disruptions and uncertainties."

A need for greater communication between farmers and non-farmers, tolerance of the odors and noise associated with a farming operation and greater respect and appreciation for the point of view held by the agricultural community is necessary, Mr. Stanley warned.

For a complete report on Halton Rural Forum 1981, see page 10.

## Inside today's Champion

### In the spirit

Bob Stanley has taken to the spirit of Christmas by canvassing with coloring calendars to help support Ronald McDonald House. Turn to page 9.



### The Edge upset

The Racer's Edge goal of an undefeated sea-

son was stopped after seven straight by John Burns Stable in Milton Industrial Hockey League action. Turn to page C1.

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