

Region

New van for Manor

Requests to Halton Centennial Manor and support from service clubs will finance the purchase of a new wheelchair van for the Regionally operated home for the aged.

Councillors recently approved using money from the bequest fund to finance the initial purchase of the \$23,000 vehicle and to replace those funds when appeals to service clubs for assistance are answered. A new policy was also supported to have all Regional vehicles checked regularly to ensure they remain in top mechanical shape, especially those used for transporting people.

New positions

Even before the 1982 budget for the Halton health department is approved, councillors are committing themselves to some spending. Regional council recently approved committing themselves to providing enough money for three new positions in the department. In a report to members of the health and social services committee, Dr. Peter Cole, the Region's medical officer of health, said the total cost of the three new positions would be \$33,000, but provincial subsidies would reduce that to a net cost to the Region of \$8,250.

New Appointment

Congratulations are being sent out by Halton Region to the chairman of the board of directors of the Oakville Senior Citizens Residence on her recent appointment as chairman of the resolutions committee of the board of the Ontario Association of Homes for the Aged. Mrs. Janet Turnbull was elected to the OAHA board in September 1981 and is the first Halton resident to be so honored.

Sewage rain water?

Is Halton building expensive sewage treatment plants to treat massive amounts of rain water? That's a question Regional staff will be turning their attention to following a decision by councillors recently. Acting on concerns raised by Oakville Coun. Terry Mannell, councillors decided to have staff investigate the balance between water production capacity and sewage treatment capacity in the region. Mr. Mannell noted that while many regions have a capacity to produce more water than sewage treatment, Halton's situation is the opposite.

—Steve Arnold

Between \$10 and \$35

Christmas tree prices jump 20 per cent

It should come as no surprise that the price of Christmas trees, like everything else, is up this year—again.

The increase puts prices about 20 per cent higher than last year when there was a similar rise. There are a couple of locations where trees can be found for under \$10, but prices can climb as high as \$35 for large trees of excellent quality.

Stan Price is selling fresh cut trees from his own wood lot at an average price of \$8 to \$10—with some going for as low as \$6 and others as high as \$15.

He has cut about 300 fewer trees than the 1,000 he had available last year and hopes to cater mainly to his regular customers.

Chudleigh's Apple Farm offers the widest price range—which goes from \$9 to \$35 for pruned trees. Balsam and spruce are available at Chudleigh's on Highway 25 (just north of Highway 401). Natural wreaths and garlands are also being offered again this year at the same location.

Prices at Manes Country Market on Guelph Line (south of Brookville)

have stayed about the same as last year. Pine and spruce are priced at \$10, \$12 and \$15 for a 12-foot tree.

Trees averaging five feet in height are available at Sider Produce on Bronte St. for \$10, whereas last year they were priced at \$8.

A decrease in replanting programs about 10 years ago is finally taking effect on the market, according to Mr. Price, a tree grower. Fewer trees mean higher prices, but he said the situation should be remedied over the next 10 years as planting is once again up to par with demand.

Len Tuitman of Tuitman's Garden Centre, located eight miles north of Highway 401 on Highway 25, said the grower's price jumped 50 per cent this year, but he only raised the retail price by "a couple of dollars." This

slight increase to his customers comes to \$11 for scotch pine and \$15 for spruces. Most of the trees stand six feet high or more.

For the freshest tree around, tree hunters can cut their own at Joanne Merritt's lot on Guelph Line, one mile north of Derry Rd. If you don't mind doing some hunting, a tree you cut yourself can be taken home for \$10. The \$15 variety are easy to get at. Last year she charged the same price for the hard-to-find trees, but didn't have the \$15 section open then.

The Co-op (UCO) on Bronte St. boosted its Christmas tree prices from \$10 and \$12 last year to \$14 for pine and \$20 for balsam this year.

Tree prices in this area, although they are up, are not likely to deter those who enjoy a natural tree as opposed to the re-useable variety.

Jelinek proposes to eliminate strikes

Halton MP Otto Jelinek, has proposed a Private Members Bill that proposes to eliminate strikes and lockouts in essential transportation and communication services controlled by monopoly corporations engaged in business under federal jurisdiction.

The primary reason in introducing this bill is to prevent regular and lengthy postal disruptions, resulting from strikes, such as the one that "held the public at ransom" for more than one month last summer.

"Although personally opposed to the right to strike in all essential services, a view which is shared by the majority of Canadians", (Halton—94 per cent Nation wide gallop 73 per cent),

Mr. Jelinek stated that, "by narrowing the legislation to focus on the most damaging service sector, namely the Post Office, it will eliminate disruptions resulting from strikes and walk-outs in that service where the effect, in both cost and inconvenience, has become most acute".

He sighted, as an example, the \$3 billion loss that was incurred by the small business community as a result of the last mail strike alone.

"Any government that demands monopoly control over a service sector must at the same time be prepared to accept the obligation to deliver that service without disruption", stated Mr. Jelinek.

Tipping fees up at dumps

The tipping fees at Halton's regional landfill sites have been recommended for an immediate increase to \$13.50 per ton (15.43 per tonne) effective Jan. 1, 1982.

The increase in tipping fees is expected to provide for all projected 1982 expenditures for the region's landfill sites. It will also allow for a projected \$268,000 reserve.

In Peel Region, fees are currently \$9.98 per ton and will rise to \$10.88.

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