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United Way



The United Way is kicking off its campaign with a door-to-door blitz Monday.

— 3


Fall Fair



More than 30,000 people attended Milton Fall Fair on the weekend. Fun time everywhere.

— 15-16

Lifestyle



Don't try to make these poker faces smile. They're a creation of Louise Morfitt.

— LS1

Real Estate.....REI-REIZ
Car Care.....CC1-CC12
TODAY'S QUOTE: Power does not corrupt men; fools, however, if they get into a position of power, corrupt power.
— GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

Canadian

The Champion

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MILTON

BONDA

We're Fun To Deal With
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Shrinking Manor will be problem



Doing us proud

It took 34 RCMP officers, performing a musical ride and sunny skies to attract record crowds to the 130th annual Milton Fall Fair. Other special events were credited with drawing more than 30,000 people. The RCMP riders were an outstanding highlight Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. See Fall Fair coverage pages 15 and 16.

Councillor Penman warns seniors' numbers growing

By ROB KELLY

Whittling down the size of Halton Centennial Manor in the face of an ever-growing senior population will force Halton region to adopt urgent measures when the error becomes apparent, Milton councillor Brian Penman said Monday night.

Speaking to the region's social services commissioner, Bonnie Ewart, who was there to sell council's general committee on the idea, Mr. Penman said the current path means "what we're on the prelude of is crisis management."

The provincial government is moving away from facilities the size of the manor (approximately 325 beds) and to smaller senior care centres dotted around individual communities. In this manner, the province hopes, seniors will be able to continue living in a familiar community if they must move to an institution, and their loved ones will be able to visit more often.

Mr. Penman praised those goals but said such an initiative will eventually cost Halton region more money.

"There's a tremendous cash burden with decentralization," he said. He was suspicious of provincial motives. "If what we're talking about is privatization and the province is washing its hands, then let's put the cards on the table."

Following initial studies in 1984, Halton's plans called for a manor expansion to 345 beds and a refurbished centralized facility in Milton. But when that plan was circulated, it ran into opposition from elderly services groups.

After consultations, it was agreed the Milton facility should be reduced to 200 beds with the remainder elsewhere in the region.

The trend was the same across the province, Ms Ewart said. "Seniors tended to talk about something smaller, more home-like, something not as institutional."

Plans call for 370 total beds region-wide, and if Halton doesn't build facilities for such an allotment provincial funding for the extra beds will go elsewhere.

Mr. Penman does not believe that will be a sufficient number in any case.

"Historically we have waiting lists for the existing facility (approximately 30 at present)," he said. "I see lots of problems in this."

"The 200-bed vision (in Milton) may be woefully inadequate. I see ultimately a large extended-care facility needed in the region, beyond 200 beds. Ultimately 300 will be inadequate for the region. Ultimately... to scale this facility down is an error."

The councillor asked Ms Ewart if her department had any funding guarantees for the projects from the province, or any commitment to

Ambulance officers stage 'scab' protest

By LISA TALLYN

Approximately 35 striking ambulance officers with the Halton/Mississauga Ambulance Service picketed the Leamington Ambulance Service headquarters on Monday to show their disapproval of eight employees of that company working for the Halton/Mississauga service during the strike.

The 85 unionized officers with the Halton/Mississauga company have been on strike since Aug. 10.

Gord Armes, president of the local representing the striking officers, says at least eight officers from the Leamington service have been working as "scabs."

"It was a very quiet, information picket," said Mr. Armes.

The striking officers have been staging pickets at the company's offices in Peel and Halton. Last Wednesday they held a huge rally at the Oakville headquarters and co-owner of the service, Ron Liersch, was burned in effigy.

After the rally, Mr. Armes announced a Halton Justice of the Peace has agreed to process charges under the ambulance act against Mr. Liersch and Dennis Munch, an owner of the service.

Mr. Munch and Mr. Liersch are to appear in provincial court in Oakville on Tuesday Nov. 1. Mr. Munch has been charged with employing two ambulance attendants who do not hold the proper provincial qualifications. Mr. Liersch is charged with operating as part of an ambulance crew without the proper driver's qualifications.

Mr. Munch would not comment on either of the charges.

No talks have been scheduled between the two parties in the dispute. Mr. Armes says the union has distributed 5,000 information flyers on the union's position in Mississauga, and will be distributing others in Halton and Peel.

See MANOR page 28