



### Old memories

Longtime residents (l-r) Ella Patterson, Joe Henderson and Alex Cooke plan a history series that will be offered at the Halton Region Museum during September and October. Guest speakers will present first-hand accounts of rural and small town life in Ontario during the early and mid-20th century. Call 875-2200 for more information.

## Provincial grant for rehabilitation program

Former psychiatric patients living in north Halton will have access to a vocational rehabilitation program funded through a \$174,000 grant announced by the provincial Ministry of Health yesterday.

Halton Work Program has been operating in Oakville and Burlington since 1984 and was intended to run in the region's north at that time, says program director Ken Franks. Five years later, the ministry has approved funding to the non-profit organization.

The program, expected to serve up to 40 people who have suffered from mental illness, will be offered in Acton. It will, however, also serve the Georgetown and Milton communities. Mr. Franks said professionals working in the mental health field in the north indicate there are about 70 people who could benefit from vocational rehabilitation.

"We re-install basic work skills," said Mr. Franks. "We make them feel productive and that raises their self esteem."

Halton Work Program grew from a drop-in centre for former psychiatric patients in Oakville. Mental health care workers felt their clients needed something more and the seed for the program was planted.

The grant includes \$153,000 for operating costs and \$21,500 in a capital budget, said Halton North MPP Walt Elliot in the announcement he made on behalf of Health Minister Elinor Caplan.

Mr. Franks believes a greater understanding of mental illness by the

general public would help in the recovery of psychiatric patients. He said many of those who will be served by the program in Acton are living in homes that normally would house the elderly.

The clients who will take part in the vocational rehabilitation program lack basic life skills as well as skills required to function in the work force. Mr. Franks said these limitations make it necessary for them to live in a sheltered environment.

The funding for this north Halton service is part of a \$6.5 million grant announced by Mrs. Caplan for the expansion of mental health programs and for research into schizophrenia.



MPP Walt Elliot

## Flower bulb week slated for Sept 16-23

Halton Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy has declared September 16-23 World Flower Bulb Week in Halton.

The declaration was made at the request of the International Flower Bulb Information Centre, which reminds people to plant their flower bulbs in the fall.

Halton's proclamation cites the ties between Holland and Canada fostered in the dark days of World War II and the annual gift of 20,000 bulbs which the Dutch present to the people of Canada. That gift is in recognition of the liberation of Holland by Canadian troops and the sanctuary Canada provided for the Dutch royal family.

Last year almost 100 cities and towns in Canada issued Flower Bulb Week Proclamations.

## Partisan politics colour VIA row

Halton regional council rubber-stamped decisions of the various committees at Wednesday's full council meeting. Contentious issues were at a minimum during the session.

Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy briefly explained the concept of the new igloo recycling receptacles being introduced (*Champion*, Wed. Sept. 6). He said they are used in Europe to encourage waste reduction by making it easier for people to drop off their glass, cans and paper.

The pilot project will place 60 recycling containers around Halton. Halton is the first region in Ontario to accept the program, which should supplement the blue box program already reaching into more than a million homes.

### Traffic concerns

A residents group in the Briarhill Gate/Trafalgar Road area of Oakville is concerned about the heavy traffic along the latter route. While council declined their request for crash barriers in the area, they did leave open the possibility of traffic signals and noise barriers.

Speed limit reduction and a high grade of asphalt should combine to reduce accident risk and noise levels, according to local Oakville councillor Jim Smith.

### The buck stops here

Burlington councillor Walter Mulke-wich suggested that council do its job with regard to a rural estate subdivision plan from Larry Bunkowsky. Mr. Mulke-wich decried council's determination to "pass the buck" on the proposal by sending it back to Burlington council for a compromise on the number and size of lots.

The area, along Cedar Springs Road, has been approved by Burlington for a 12-lot subdivision.

Regional staff would like to see eight lots on the property to maintain more of the natural vegetation, visual attractiveness and rural character of the area. They are however, willing to compromise at 10 lots in order to avoid the expense of an Ontario Municipal Board hearing.

### Partisan politics

Council resolved to send a letter to federal Transport Minister Benoit Bouchard requesting that the five year cost-cutting plan of VIA Rail be subject to coast-to-coast public hearings before decisions are made.

Because the original resolution came from the New Democratic Party (NDP), substantial partisan politics coloured comments on the issue.

Burlington councillor Rob Forbes suggested the resolution was a "knee jerk reaction" and that council should seek information and assess the costs involved with highways and rail travel before making a judgment. Milton councillor Bill Johnson

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disagreed with the consensus to eliminate "inflammatory remarks" from the resolution. He considers it

an important issue.

Oakville Mayor Anne Mulvale said she could never decide which colour clothes to wear, in a less than veiled reference to political affiliation. Mr. Mulke-wich chimed in that he always wore a blue jacket and Ms Mulvale, eyeing his tie, suggested a blue jacket was an excellent choice with a red necktie.

## Halton gets 100 new daycare spots with grant

Halton will receive more than \$400,000 from the province to help provide 100 new subsidized child care spaces in the region.

The \$414,082 grant, recently announced by Halton North MPP Walt Elliot, comes from the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services.

"By subsidizing child care spaces, families in our communities will be offered a valuable service based on what they can afford," said Mr. Elliot.

The funding will also permit the region to add two staff positions, as well as increase rates currently paid to licensed child care centres and private home daycare operators. The money will be allotted to the various centres and operators throughout the region.

Milton Community and Information Services also recently received a \$52,137 grant from the ministry to expand programs provided through the CHERISH Parent Child Centre.

Funding to increase the number of subsidized child care spaces across Ontario is one of the priorities contained in the ministry's publication *New Directions for Child Care*.

Inquiries regarding the new child care opportunities can be made to Karen Chan, director of the children's services division of Halton region, 827-2151.

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