


VIOLENCE

Women live
in fear
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—4


CITIZENSHIP

Annelise is in
the running
for award
—LS1


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Manor land plan has \$120 million price tag

By NORMAN NELSON

The first glimpse of what might become of the lands surrounding the new Halton Centennial Manor was presented to Halton region's health and social services committee Monday.

The grand 10-year proposal — with a pricetag in the ballpark of \$120 million — includes a \$3.2 million police station, a \$1.3 million expanded facility for young offenders, a \$48 million subsidized housing facility and a \$32.7 million dollar commercial-apartment development.



Bonnie Ewart

Most of the money would not come out of regional coffers. For instance, the private sector would be expected to develop the commercial-apartment complex.

Consultant John Fauquier, of Mekinda, Snyder and Weis, told the committee he envisioned a 12-storey building — with commercial space

on the ground floor, offices on the next three levels and apartments on the remaining eight storeys.

However, he cautioned that population and business conditions would probably not justify this level of development "before the end of the decade."

"The private sector wouldn't even discuss it today," he conceded.

Although it was only a preliminary report meant to spark discussion, committee members greeted the bold plans with caution.

Instead of endorsing the study, as requested by staff and the consultants, committee decided to simply accept it for information.

Councillor Walter Mulkewich of Burlington expressed concern that much of the development — such as the commercial-apartment complex — is contingent on Milton receiving additional water and sewage servicing through the so-called "big pipe" to Lake Ontario.

That matter is being looked into as part of a huge study examining growth in Halton Region.

The issue of what to do with the Manor lands arose when provincial funding came through to replace the current 370-bed seniors facility, located in the middle of the 20-acre property, with a modern but smaller 200-bed complex conveniently tucked away in a small five-acre

• see POLICE on page 3

Champion is now 50 cents

The cost of an issue of The Champion is now 50 cents.

Readers who receive home delivery will be charged 40 cents until the end of the year. There will be no further increase with the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax.



Photo by JOHN WARREN

An annual fox hunt and brunch at Milton's Ennisclare Hunt Club went off with a hitch: There were no hounds used and no foxes hunted following complaints from an animal rights group that claimed the sport is cruel to foxes. Maurice Clermont and his quarter horse Molson joined what amounted to a ride on Saturday.

Bad press kills fox hunt

By ROB KELLY

A cloud of controversy may have ruined what some rural horse enthusiasts thought of as a harmless hobby because critics view it as cruel treatment of animals.

The Ennisclare Hunt Club's weekend fox hunt apparently fizzled out when only 11 riders out of an anticipated 50 showed up to take part, according to *The Burlington Spectator*.

That newspaper ran a prominently displayed story Friday in which an animal rights activist criticized the hunting exercise. A fox is sometimes tracked, should the hunt hounds catch its scent, but never killed.

Nassagaweya councillor Barry Lee was angry at the way the issue was treated in the Burlington-based newspaper. "This adverse publicity has added insult to injury,"

councillor Lee said Monday night.

Those critical of the pastime don't understand it, he contended. "To come along and clobber the activity without knowledge is sad. I think it's ridiculous. If they knew anything about the function, I don't know how they could object."

Ellen Waugh, president of Animal Aid, was quoted as calling the hunt "barbaric and sadistic" because any fox unlucky enough to be detected by hounds faces the pursuing pack in fear of its life.

Fellow Nassagaweya councillor Bruce Attenborough too disagreed with Mr. Lee's interpretation. Councillor Attenborough said he was "dead opposed" to any activity that involved "chasing down animals."

Councillor Bill Johnson, who rounds out the trio of elected officials for the area,

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Demand doubled for fund proceeds

By JANE MULLER

Miltonians have been hit so hard by the effects of a sagging economy that the Salvation Army can't even predict how many will turn to the agency for help this Christmas.

"This has never happened before. I can't even project what's going to happen," says Betty Zelinsky, community service worker for the Salvation Army in Milton.

She does know that since August her work load has doubled. The agency has experienced a 44 per cent increase in clients during the past six months. Mrs. Zelinsky explained the rise began slowly, then in August the demand for support "hit epidemic proportions."

More and more "working poor" are in need of food along with people collecting unemployment insurance benefits.

"The demand used to be temporary. Now it's permanent. When you're making \$1,400 a month and paying \$990 in rent, there's just not enough money to buy food after the bills are paid. There has to be more affordable housing," Mrs. Zelinsky said.

In the past few months she's seen 97 new families come to the Salvation Army for help. Halton Region's social services department reports that it is handling 50 per cent more cases than a year ago.

Although Mrs. Zelinsky can't put her finger on the exact number of local families who will apply for assistance from the Christmas Bureau, she's counting on at least 250.

The role of The Champion Christmas Bureau Fund will be even more crucial this season in the wake of layoffs and business failures. It will take at least \$20,000 to ensure each family has a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings.

All funds raised are turned over to the Salvation Army. Your donations provide food hampers to elderly residents and shut-ins as well as food and gift vouchers to families.

Mrs. Zelinsky says the practice of sponsoring an individual family is being discontinued this year. With so many families in need she believes it's not fair that some can benefit more than others. She suggests the sponsorship money be directed to the Christmas Bureau Fund where it can be distributed more equitably.

"We've got to meet the needs of everybody," she said.

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