

Rotary gives \$40,000 to new shelter

Halton Women's Place was presented with a \$40,000 cheque Monday from Jack Costigan, a member of Burlington Central Rotary Club.

This cheque represents the first installment of Burlington Central's three-year commitment to raise funds for a shelter for abused women and children in Burlington.

The original Halton Women's Place in Milton has been serving Halton for 11 years and will continue to operate here.

"We are pleased to be a part of this worthwhile project," said Jack Costigan. "The monies are from the proceeds of our ongoing Bingos."

Mickie Daniel, New Shelter Project Coordinator was on hand to accept the cheque. "We anticipate breaking ground at the site in early spring and hope to be opening the doors for residents late this year."

Burlington Central Rotary is the second club to present a cheque to Halton Women's Place. Oakville West Rotary Club presented their first cheque of the three-year commitment in December.

The new 20-bed shelter for abused women and children will be built on Brant Street in Central Burlington. The zoning amendment was approved at the Burlington City Council Meeting on January 11.

Planned Peel dump too close for Halton's comfort

There was some tough talk at Halton's planning and public works committee meeting last week as various councillors took swipes at the provincial government over its landfill policies.

Councillors voted to support a Brampton city council resolution calling on Environment Minister Ruth Grier to resign. While no one on the committee actually expects Ms Grier to step down, jumping on the Brampton bandwagon is seen as a way of expressing anger about provincial garbage disposal priorities.

Halton endured roughly 15 years of bitter controversy to create the 4-million tonne landfill that opened in Milton last November. Now, however, regional politicians, particularly in north Halton, are incensed that another landfill for neighbouring Peel may be located on Halton's doorstep.

Two potential Peel sites are near Norval, a rural Halton Hills community, prompting concerns about water contamination and underhanded tactics in attempting to place the landfill away from the populated areas of Peel at Halton's expense.

In Brampton, meanwhile, city councillors are worried that candidate sites on the short list prepared by the province are unsuitable for landfill.

As well, Brampton wants Queen's Park to reconsider burning garbage as a fuel in modern incinerators, something the provincial government has flatly rejected.

"The whole thing stinks," said a bitter-sounding Marilyn Serjeantson, the Halton Hills councillor who chairs the regional planning and public works committee. "It does not do us any good to play the game in proper fashion. The ministry (of the environment) isn't playing the game in proper fashion, and the province isn't."

"The minister (Ms Grier) won't resign but at least this gives a message from the grassroots," said Halton Hills councillor Rick Bonnette. "We're damned mad and we don't want to take anymore."

"The (provincial) government is heading in a ridiculous direction," added Burlington councillor Bob Brechin.

"I'm fed up with with this organization (Halton Region) being pushed around by the provincial government," fumed Oakville councillor Fred Oliver.

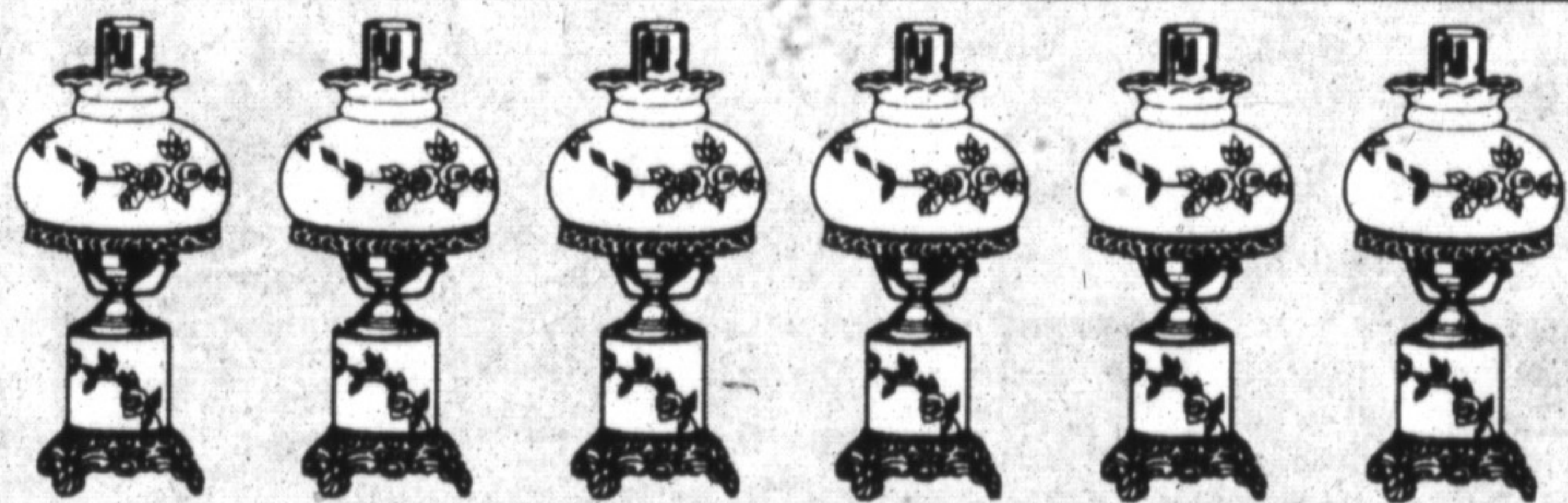
Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy said he intends to "take an active role" in protecting Halton's interests.

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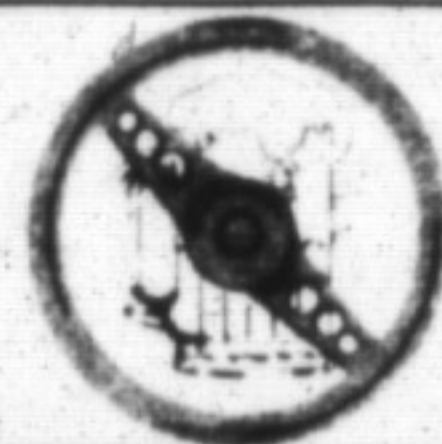
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