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PUBLIC NOTICE

UPDATE ON WATER CHLORINATION VARIANCE APPLICATION BY THE REGION OF HALTON

A public meeting was held Thursday, February 15, 1996, 7:30 p.m. at the Optimist Centre, 311 Commercial Street, Milton, Ontario. Its purpose was to hear from members of the public with respect to the application by Halton Region to the Ministry of Environment and Energy for a variance from the order for continuous chlorination of the Kelso well water supply and a request that an order for stand-by chlorination be imposed instead.

Since that time, the Region of Halton has received 506 responses from the citizens of Milton. The comments overwhelmingly support stand-by chlorination and a substantial number favour the option of no chlorination.

The responses were included with other documentation in the formal request for variance which Halton Region forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and Energy on April 1, 1996.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Milton for your interest in this issue. Your active concern demonstrates effective citizen participation in decision-making. As soon as we have a response from the Province, we will share the information with you.

Joyce Savoline

JOYCE SAVOLINE
REGIONAL CHAIRMAN



One hundred more hospital beds available to Halton's ill

More than 100 beds will be opened for long term care in Halton under two recently announced projects.

The Ontario Ministry of Health approved \$2 million for the first phase of a renovation of Georgetown Memorial Hospital. The funding will clear the way for 65 long-term-care beds. The province is providing

two-thirds of the money and Halton Region the remaining third.

"We are optimistic that the second phase will be approved shortly," said Ron Noble, chief executive officer of the Georgetown hospital.

In addition, a plan at Oakville-Trafalgar Hospital, if completed, would see 38 long-term-care beds.

The hospital has called for proposals from nursing homes interested in transferring long-term-care bed licences from areas of the province where they are not needed to Halton.

Halton currently has 70 beds per 1,000 people over age 75. The Ontario ratio is nearly 113 beds per 1,000. Halton has about 450 people waiting for placement in a long-term-care facility. Of these, 150 are being cared for in acute beds in Halton's four hospitals.

"We are pleased to be able to assist Halton in this way while longer term solutions to the bed shortage are developed," said John Oliver, chief executive officer of the Oakville hospital.

Cheryl Craig, chair of the Halton District Health Council, said the beds were welcome, but added that more are needed.

With funding cutbacks at Ontario hospitals, it will be increasingly difficult to find money for long term care beds.

However, Halton hospitals are expecting announcements shortly offering additional funding transfers to hospitals in high-growth areas.

Regional council is struggling with the allocation of dollars for more long term care beds. Recently regional council called for a private sector partner to operate a new facility in the south of Halton, while regional staff continue to try to find bed licenses from other municipalities.

Peace and unity

• from COMMUNITY on page 12

A number of local politicians were present, including Halton-Peel MP Julian Reed and Milton Mayor Gord Krantz.

"We're all immigrants, whether it's the first or fourth generation," said Mr. Reed. "Many of our ancestors came here from other lands because of strife, poverty or fear and the majority of them made a conscience decision to put the past behind them. We all need to re-commit ourselves to this and move ahead together."

Mr. Krantz added that no community is immune to racism and that it is everyone's responsibility to help end it. "The challenge is for all of us to get the message out. Communication is really the key to resolving our differences," he said.

"When I first starting thinking about guest speakers for this day, I immediately thought of Rosemary but my husband said I was a dreamer. Well, I'm here to tell you dreams can come true," said North Halton Council chairperson Elizabeth Carmichael, who was particularly pleased with the number of young students in attendance. "This was an excellent turnout today, it really surpassed our hopes. You can really feel the commitment people here have made to help

CNIB needs volunteers

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), Halton-Peel office, is looking for volunteers to fill positions on the district board and its various committees.

The nominating committee is scheduled to complete the selections by June 30. Appointments are for two years, with a time commitment of about eight hours per month.

Candidates will be chosen from the client population, affiliated associations and neighbourhoods which reflect the characteristics of the community. To apply, submit a letter with your name, address and telephone number, and a brief description of your interest by April 15 to CNIB Halton-Peel at 151 City Centre Drive, Suite 201, Mississauga, Ont. L5B 1M7. Mark it: Attention nominating committee.

Hertz



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