

Twin silos symbol change at bustling Micro plant

Actonians, mystified by the installation of two tall silos at the Micro Plastics plant of Building Products Ltd. on Main St. N., might have expected grain or flour to start moving back and forth.



A TANKER with 40,000 lbs. of polyvinyl chloride resin aboard pulls up to the twin silos to unload his cargo at Micro Plastics. Top, the flour-like resin is sucked up into the silo for storage until processing is done and it will wind up in its twin. The silos, part of an automated compound system are equipped with automatic shut-offs. (Staff Photos)

could be a symbol of change in production methods at the bustling Acton plant which is self confessed largest extruder of plastic pipe in the country.

Instead of flour the twin silos will store polyvinyl chloride, a sugar-like substance used to make plastic.

First shipment of polyvinyl chloride resin was received from a new plant in Sarnia last week and pumped into silo number one. The cylindrical towers have a capacity of 100,000 lbs. Huge tank trucks with a capacity of 40,000 lbs. will require two and a half trips to fill one.

From the first silo the resin is drawn over into a compounding area and blended with additives. The blended powder is processed by a compounding extruder, made into small pellets and the pellets are blown into silo number two for storage.

The entire process is automatic and does away with inefficient bag handling methods which caused grief when impurities sometimes managed to work into the bags.

Cleanliness is of the utmost importance. The entire process is geared to prevent impurities and give a cleaner product. Efficiency which was impaired by bag handling has been reduced to a minimum.

Once the pellets have been blown back into the second silo they are ready for the production line.

They are blown automatically from the silo to the extruders where the actual manufacturing process takes place.

(First on a series on expansion and changes in local industry.)

Requisition less for h.s. budget

An increased total budget totalling \$400,310 which will actually cost Acton ratepayers less was presented Monday evening to the high school board by finance chairman Chester Anderson. Two factors, increased provincial grants and a surplus from 1966, offset the \$48,432 increase.

"It's much better than I thought it was going to be," summed up chairman Tom Watson as members reviewed the figures.

Total levy requisitioned for 1967 is \$176,153, minus \$50,697 for debentures. The remainder of \$125,456 Acton pays 65.53 per cent — \$82,211.32; Esquewing township 23.81 per cent — \$29,871.07; and Nassagaweya township 10.66 per cent — \$13,373.61.

Acton's share is down \$15,000 from last year. Teachers' salaries, increased from \$184,555.96 in 1966 to \$220,000 this year, account for over half of the \$400,310 budget.

The board finished the year with a \$11,856.92 surplus. It expects to receive \$210,000 in provincial grants—an increase over the 1966 figure of \$191,698.26.

Present with chairman Tom Watson and retiring secretary Bill Middleton were Kerwin McPhail, Chester Anderson and Ray Arbic, principal Hansen and vice-principal Joe Bray. Trustee Duncan Moffat is back in hospital with a back injury.

"What is our present four year business and commercial course offering students?" wondered Mr. Arbic. His question was echoed by Mr. McPhail. "What can the graduate actually do?"

Answered vice-principal Joe Bray, "there is a wide variation in ability. However, we have made a point of trying to attract the 'idealists' type into business and commerce. We've fought against it being at the bottom of the heap. It's catching on and we're getting a good quality of students showing interest."

As well as typing, bookkeeping and shorthand they take academic subjects. Next year will see the extension of the new course into all four years up to grade 12.

Since it was not economically feasible the special commercial course which could be taken after grade 11 is being dropped.

Problem of the heating in a washroom — "which stays a cosy 55" — was again discussed as well as chalkboards in the new section. Efforts continue to have the problems rectified.

The position of secretary-treasurer for the board will be advertised again. Just one application has been received.

The tender of Lawrence Slingerland was accepted for painting a hall, classroom, shower room and certain doors.

The property committee was authorized to investigate tender prices and purchase a tractor and mower and snowblower for cutting grass and snow removal.

In his report, principal Ted Hansen said the students of grades 12C and 12D toured the American Motors plant and five inspectors observed the work in the school in March in girls' and boys' physical education, guidance, geography and agriculture.

He also reported Mrs. Hazel Orr began teaching March 20, replacing Mrs. Barbara Davis who resigned.

Changes are being initiated in the scholarship field, he stated.

It was reported replacements were lined up for vacancies on the teaching staff, but contracts are not signed yet. Applicants were interviewed on two weekends at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, and other applicants answered advertisements.

"Hold-the-line" levy County spending \$113,000 higher

Despite a "hold-the-line" mill rate levy, Halton County Council will ask local municipalities for a total of \$113,000 more than last year.

At a special session on Thursday afternoon, approval was given to the county's 1967 budget which estimates expenditures of \$1,837,998.58. The mill rate levy of 5.95 to local municipalities is the same as in 1966, but because of the increased assessment in the county, the levy produces an additional \$113,356.08.

Of the increase, \$64,225.26 will be spent on county roads and \$49,100.82 will be absorbed by general rate expenditures.

In order to "hold-the-line" on the mill rate, the county's finance committee was forced to slash several proposed items on the budget. However, at Thursday's meeting, no one objected to the cuts.

The Health Unit budget was cut from \$204,490 to \$175,000. The finance committee indicated this would be possible because of a substantial Health Unit surplus.

The committee found it impossible to include \$30,000 in the budget towards the purchase of a new site for a further Home for the Aged. The amount was reduced to \$15,000 with the hope that a further amount might be available in 1968.

The industrial committee budget was trimmed to \$7,150 and it was noted the committee should arrange to pay \$3,000 of the cost of producing the county film in 1968, together with the cost of the film prints at \$1,400.

On the equalized assessment basis, the total levy to local municipalities will be shared as follows: Acton, 2.37 per cent or \$43,560.56; Burlington, 40.35 per cent or \$741,632.43; Georgetown, 5.27 per cent or \$96,862.52; Milton, 3.21 per cent or \$58,999.76; Oakville, 43.76 per cent or \$804,308.17;

Esquewing, 3.57 per cent or \$65,616.56; and Nassagaweya, 1.47 per cent or \$27,018.58. In addition, Acton, Georgetown, Milton, Esquewing and Nassagaweya must pay their annual share of the debt incurred.

(Continued on Page Nine)



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George Kerr expected to win Halton West P.C. nomination

County Council Briefs

At their regular meeting in the County Administration Building last week, Halton County councillors:

Debated at length whether committee reports should note the late arrival and early leaving of committee members at meetings. Deputy-Reeve George Currie of Esquewing closed the discussion by suggesting enough time had already been wasted on the subject, and there was no valid reason for recording the information.

Accepted a plan for a County open house celebration between 10 a.m. and noon on July 1 in Victoria Park. The Campbellville W.I. will cater to the visitors and will prepare for a minimum of 200 guests.

Detailed representation to four meetings and conventions.

Approved the re-appointment of Dr. L. M. Stuart as acting director of the Health Unit and Medical Officer of Health for a further period of three months.

Learned that a further increase of close to \$29,000,000 in assessment will be reflected in this year's assessment report, and that for the first time the Town of Burlington's assessment will exceed that of the Town of Oakville.

Learned from the finance committee that the total levy for 1967 is expected to be 5.95 mills, the same as in 1966.

George Kerr, present M.P.P. for Halton, is expected to receive the nomination of the Progressive Conservative Association in the new riding of Halton West on Friday evening.

Halton West Tories will hold their first nomination convention in the Central High School, Burlington. Guest speaker for the 8 p.m. convention will be Stanley Rändall, Minister of Economic Affairs for the province.

Mr. Kerr was elected to the provincial legislature in the last election, September, 1963. He succeeded the late Stanley Hall of Hornby as Halton's representative in the legislature, defeating Owen Mullin, Liberal, of Burlington and William Gillies, New Democrat, of Oakville, to win the seat.

The new riding of Halton West consists of Acton, Burlington, Nassagaweya and North Esquewing. The old riding consisted of all of Halton.

Port revenue all-time high

Murray Harrison, collector of customs at the Port of Acton, disclosed revenue for the fiscal year of 1966-67 at the port was at an all-time high of \$332,634.46, almost double the amount received the previous year.

Entries were also up — 2,756 over 2,224 in the previous year.

Mr. Harrison attributed the large rise in revenue and entries to the presence of new industry in Acton, expansion of existing industry and the fact more people were taking advantage of the facilities of inland ports rather than at the border.

Revenue in the first six months of the year was \$113,612.87 compared to \$81,876.62 in the same period in 1965-66.

In the second half revenue shot-up to \$219,021.59 compared to \$36,127.60 the previous year. Total for 1966-67 is \$332,634.46 as against \$168,004.22 in the same period last year.

Entries in 1965-66 totalled 2,224 while 2,756 were entered in the fiscal year just ended.

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Parking lot

A parking lot bounded by Newton's 5c to \$1 Store, Syd Lamb's real estate office and Custom Cleaners was laid out on the previously vacant lot last week.

During the laying of the stone base a dump truck dropped one wheel into an old well or cesspool and was extricated with much difficulty.

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