

Taxes up: Commercial 7.8, Residential 6.2 mills

With only Reeve Bert Hinton opposed, council set the 1967 mill rate for the town of Acton at 76 mills for residential and farm and 84.8 mills for commercial assessment at their regular meeting last night (Tuesday).

These figures represent an increase of 6.2 mills for residential and farm and a jump of 7.8 mills over last year for the commercial rate. Residential rate in 1966 was 69.8 mills. Commercial was 77 mills.

These conclusions were reached after months of perusing and studying budgets and reports with and without other boards and committees under budget chairman Dr. F. Oakes.

Major increase occurred in the general purpose rate which went up 6.5 mills for commercial and 5.1 for residential. The high school budget also showed a raise — 2.3 for commercial and two mills for residential and farm.

Council included \$20,000 in the general purpose estimates for an incinerator on which no decision has been made. It was also pointed out library grants were based on the previous year's operation. No advantage in grants for the new library will be realized until next year.

An increase in the high school levy from \$97,115 in 1966 to \$115,433 this year was due in large part to \$35,000 additional for instruction. Mayor Duby pointed out the town's entire budget exceeded the high school's by only \$36,000.

A taxpayer with a \$5,000 assessment on his residence can expect a \$31 increase in taxes this year. The average assessment in town — estimated to be in the \$3,000 range — will be hiked \$18.60.

Following is the submission to council prepared by the mayor on behalf of budget chairman Dr. Frank Oakes, who is ill:

(The complete budget appears on page two).

Gentlemen: On behalf of the budget committee, and more specifically on behalf of our Deputy Reeve, Dr. Frank Oakes, who has been our budget chairman, and who was taken ill during the close of our budget discussions, and who is absent for the presentation of the budget, due to being hospitalized still, for a few more days. It is my pleasure to substitute for him, with regard to presenting the 1967 budget, and the mandatory by-law for the approval of Council.

I'm sure we all regret the illness and absence of Dr. Oakes, and we must express our appreciation, of the earnest effort he has put into this year's budget deliberations and his program, which was planned to have our mill rate struck in time for the issuing of tax bills by the end of April.

With reference to the Public School Budget I might make mention, that while there is a slight decrease in the overall tax levy for Public School purposes which was due to a surplus of \$17,705 in 1966, there is a marked increase in the areas of construction at \$41,000 over last year's and for instructional supplies which shows a \$9,000 increase. These of course are areas in which neither the School Board nor Council, have much control.

Our High School tax levy for 1967 shows a division of levy to be —

| | 1967 | 1966 |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Acton @ 65.53% | 115,433 | 97,115 |
| Esquesing @ 23.81% | 41,942 | 34,386 |
| Nassagaweya @ 10.66% | 18,778 | 15,327 |
| Total | 176,153 | 146,828 |

Showing a \$29,000 increase in the moneys to be raised by Municipal taxes.

Points of note are the \$35,000 increase for instruction — \$4,500.00 for instructional supplies and the fees to other Boards amounting to \$30,000 to educate 43 children attending other schools on courses we cannot accommodate in our own school, 26 To Guelph — 17 to Georgetown.

Tax levy — grants and other receipts show an operational cost of \$400,310 for 1967. (1966 - \$363,734.66).

Next we have the County Levy for 1967 from an equalized assessment of \$7,318,191, showing a general rate of 4.19 and a road rate of 1.76 for a total County rate of 5.9 which is .1 mill below last year's 6 mill levy, leaving the Town of Acton to raise \$43,977.26 for County purposes, which is 2.36% of the total County levy.

- To detail our Town General Purpose Budget FOR GENERAL ADMINISTRATION — \$80,001.00. Salaries, pension, insurance, legal costs, office administration, compensation, dog control etc.
- PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY — \$49,535.00. Fire, police, division court, street lighting, etc.
- PUBLIC WORKS — \$44,922.38. Roads, equipment, sidewalks etc.
- SANITATION AND WASTE — \$32,700.00. Garbage pick up, dump, burner, etc.
- CONSERVATION OF HEALTH — \$3,015.00. Ambulance, medication etc.
- WELFARE — \$11,500.00.
- RECREATION AND COMMUNITY — \$35,442.78. Library, community centre, parks, band etc.
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Tories pick George Kerr

George Kerr was the unanimous choice of delegates to carry the Progressive Conservative standard in the new riding of Halton West at Friday's nomination meeting in Burlington Central high school.

Nominated by Rev. Andrew McKenzie of Acton, Mr. Kerr, present incumbent for the County of Halton, was unopposed in a quiet meeting which attracted delegates from Acton, Burlington, Nassagaweya and the northern parts of Esquesing which comprise the new riding.

Described as "cabinet material" by Leo Bernier, Kenora M.P.P., a remark picked up and amplified by the Hon. Stanley Randall, minister of economics and development in his keynote speech, George Kerr was first elected to the provincial house in September 1963.

A Burlington lawyer, he succeeded the late Stanley Hall, of Hornby, as Halton's member in the legislature.

In his acceptance speech which preceded a victory parade up the aisles of the auditorium with an abbreviated brass band at the head and a forest of supporting signs, Mr. Kerr put the record of the present Conservative government on the line. He spoke of O.M.S.I.P., pollution, regional government and education costs, defending the Robarts' government program.

Because there were more subscribers than anticipated, Mr. Kerr said there was some trouble getting the kinks out of O.M.S.I.P. but he advised his listeners to be patient.

He was proud of his government's record on pollution and especially the Minister of Health's intention to take over the air pollution problems.

Mr. Kerr referred to the Plunkett report, anticipating there would be some decisions on recommendations in the next four years. He said it was going to take tolerance and hard work to evolve the best form of administration.

"But we're aware of the problems and feelings on this. We have no intention to ram anything down people's throats. There has to be reform but changes must be acceptable and beneficial to people."

Mr. Kerr reserved most of his talk to answer charges by

opposition parties on the government's education policies. Statements from opposition parties that they would take over a greater percentage of education costs if elected are being bandied about, he said.

"It's a false assumption to expect additional tax money would come out of anybody's pocket but your own," he charged. "You can't reverse charges. Look at the whole (Continued on Page Two)

Police prefer 20 charges

During the period April 2 to 8, 1967, officers of Acton Detachment of the O.P.P. patrolled 940 miles and worked 222 hours.

In this period 20 traffic charges were preferred and 35 warnings issued. Other charges included one of a minor consuming liquor under legal age.

There were no accidents reported or investigated.

Two thefts were reported and three other occurrences were processed.

In Magistrate's Court at Milton there were 11 convictions, 10 under the Highway Traffic Act and one of disturbing the peace.

Total fines and costs were \$188.80.

Dinner winners

Mr. and Mrs. Alf Duby are the lucky winners of a dinner for two at the Captain's Table, Lord Simcoe Hotel in Toronto. The prize was a door prize at the annual Halton Mutual Aid banquet in Milton. Several couples from Acton attended.

What Council did

Council last night also:

• Advised Mr. and Mrs. Tom Brankiewicz that their land was zoned R3 by resolution on Sept. 27, 1966. Previously zoned RM, Mr. Brankiewicz recorded his objection and told council he wanted it R1. He said his place was zoned R1 in the plan at Milton.

• Read the No Parking by-law for the new traffic lights for the third time and passed it with only Reeve Hinton opposed.

• Introduced, read three times and passed a by-law which would put Daylight Saving Time in effect in Acton from Sunday, April 30 at 12:01 a.m. until October 29 at 2 a.m.

• Passed a resolution that the proposed building program at the M. Z. Bennett school be deferred for this year and the public school board be advised.

• Rejected a request from the Committee of Adjustment for a \$150 honorarium for each committee member and recommended the secretary be paid \$200 yearly rather than an hourly rate and hearing fee.

• Agreed to take out membership in the Ontario Cemeteries' Association at an annual fee of \$5.

• Appointed Councillor Charles Perry to the Planning Board for the balance of 1967 in place of the mayor, who found meeting dates conflicted.

• Appointed town employee Al Kirkness to supervise the Acton garbage area with full authority over the premises.

• Set garbage hours at the dump on Monday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., closed all day Wednesday.

(Continued on Page Nine)

Hon. Stanley Randall

Tells Tories Ontario entices buyers from around globe

The Hon. Stanley Randall, minister of economics and development, departed from his prepared text and delivered a speech on prospects for the province of Ontario at Friday's Progressive Conservative nomination for the new riding of Halton West at Burlington.

George Kerr, incumbent Halton member, was unopposed in his bid to capture the Tory nomination for Halton West.

Mr. Randall opened with emphasis on the recognition of affluent Canada is receiving abroad. He called Ontario Canada's most affluent province, "the most valuable piece of real estate in the world."

From certain countries are showing greater interest than any others in doing business. They're returning to capitalism for goods their system hasn't provided, Mr. Randall claimed. My responsibility, he said,

was to expand the economy so people paying today won't pay more taxation tomorrow. His department brings foreign buyers to industrial shows in Canada as well as taking sales missions abroad. Seventy-nine missions in the last four years brought in \$125 million in sample orders alone.

Exports are up 63 per cent, away ahead of the target set by the economic council. "That is the way we keep Canada working."

"We're training men to go all around the globe to spread word of Ontario," Mr. Randall said.

"Canada is the largest importer of manufactured goods in the world," he claimed, stressing the country must have trade balance.

Mr. Randall said Expo '67 would show Canada off to the world. "It's the greatest thing that's happened to Canada in our history." The fourth largest pavilion has been erected by Ontario — 60,000 square feet completely Ontario.

Benefits to Ontario from Expo would be \$12 million in gasoline taxes, \$125 million in contracts and up to \$150 million in revenue from extra tourists passing through.

Earlier in his speech Mr. Randall spoke on the housing shortage. He said his government's HOME program would help the most people. "It is not a give away," he said, "nor a handout for people who can afford to pay."

Low income and senior citizens will be the only people subsidized by the program, he claimed.

Mr. Randall was introduced by Mrs. Len Andrews, Campbellville, second vice-president of the Halton West Conservatives.

High school levy up by two mills

Figures which have come to the attention of the Free Press indicate there will be a two mill hike in the high school board levy.

Figures received last week did not include debenture charges and this newspaper concluded there would be no additional cost to taxpayers this year.

However debenture charges added to the levy increased the amount needed by an additional amount equivalent to approximately two mills.



FLANKED BY 97-YEAR-OLD C. K. Brown, staunch Acton conservative, and the Hon. Stanley Randall, minister of economics and development, Tory standard bearer George Kerr and his wife lead a victory parade up the aisle of a Burlington school auditorium following Mr. Kerr's unopposed nomination as Conservative candidate in Halton West. Mr. Kerr praised the Robarts government in his acceptance speech and called Mr. Robarts the "greatest statesman in Canada today". (Staff Photo)

Budget debate

Reeve feels no increase necessary

Councillor Bill Williams praised the budget committee for doing a "wonderful job" in keeping the mill rate increase down to 6.2 residential and 7.8 commercial when rates in municipalities around Acton were going much higher, at last night's council meeting.

Reeve Bert Hinton was unimpressed, however, casting the only opposing vote to the budget. The reeve said the budget could have been set without any increase in rate.

He suggested council could have held the line by eliminating a proposed expenditure of \$20,000 for an incinerator, \$4,000 added for roads, \$300 for urban board membership and several other items he deemed could have been deferred or eliminated altogether.

"It's not fair for Acton to go year to year seeing the general and school budgets rise, rise, rise. Our duty is to cut the cloth according to our means," said the reeve.

"I can't say the estimate on residential is a modest increase," he charged. "How soon will the mill rate get up to a 100?"

Mayor Les Duby, checking the length of Mr. Hinton's remarks, said, "I can't see how you can possibly say such a thing!"

Charging the reeve was speaking out of both cheeks,

the mayor said he supports the budget and the budget committee had to proceed for the benefit of ratepayers.

First reading of the by-law was given by the clerk. Afterwards the mayor returned to the lists and tilted his lance.



KENT KENTNER, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kentner Jr., Victoria Ave., won the coveted prize of a week at hockey school and \$25 spending money at Saturday's minor hockey banquet. He's showing the winning number. Story and pictures on sports pages. (Staff Photo)

Commenting on the reeve's remarks on the urban board Mr. Duby said this was the only area where councillors can compare notes with others. It's a small item and other councillors don't have the opportunities the reeve has to associate with men from other municipalities.

Mr. Hinton said he wasn't opposed to membership in the urban board but felt Acton's \$200 fee was out of proportion since both other municipalities were larger. Councillor Tyler asked: "Don't all three share equally in the benefits?"

Returning to the budget, Mayor Duby said the reeve has full knowledge what was faced. "We had 14 mills to battle with and came up with 7.8 and 6.2. The reeve concedes the point. The budget committee — of which he is a member — did a good job."

The reeve persisted, saving \$40,000 could be taken off the budget without prejudicing the normal work program. He cited a cut in the fire department budget as an example of what he meant.

"You want a pat on the back and let some future council take it right between the eyes," said Mr. Tyler.

"We're sitting right in a perfect example of deferred business." (Continued on Page Three)



Awards Night at the Acton Minor Hockey Association's annual banquet was a big success. See sports pages for pictures.