

Report in newspaper

# Ratepayer questions method financing proposed new Esquesing fire hall

Brandishing a copy of The Canadian Champion, the Milton weekly newspaper, which contained a report of the township nominations, Ken Marshall of R.R. 5, Milton appeared at the last meeting of Esquesing council with questions about state-

ments he read in the paper. He was accompanied by Bill Lawson, a neighbor.

Mr. Marshall addressed his questions to Councillor Pat Patterson in particular asking verification of the statements recorded in the newspaper - which said the new fire area would be financed from lot separation money.

This money is collected from the whole township, said Mr. Marshall, asking if it is right to take money from the fund to service one section of the township?

"Would you rather have that or equalized assessment?" enquired Councillor Patterson.

"I thought we had equalized assessment," said Mr. Marshall. Mr. Patterson replied in the negative.

At this point Deputy-Reeve George Currie interrupted to say he wouldn't have anyone sit here and listen to arguments like that.

"People in that area pay debentures for the Milton fire area. Now they'll have to turn around and pay it here again," said the deputy-reeve.

"There are other ways of doing it," remarked township clerk K.C. Lindsay who outlined another proposal for borrowing money for the Georgetown Fire Area.

"The question still stands," reiterated Mr. Marshall. "Is it right to take taxes from the whole township to finance for one section."

Many different ways of raising the money are available, argued Councillor Patterson. The money is lying in a capital reserve fund, he stated, the main portion of it collected in the Georgetown area.

"I'd have to see figures before I agree with you there," answered the deputy-reeve. He said he personally had contributed \$600 to the fund and it was quite possible his neighbors had more.

"Is it legal?" he asked. "My understanding when it was taken from me the money was going to be used to build extra schools."

"We changed our minds about that," said Reeve George Leslie, "because of government grants."

Mr. Marshall again questioned the legality of the practice but was reassured by Mr. Lindsay.

"It isn't fair," he repeated. "We ended up with better schools, made the township a better place to live. My argument is the \$600

raised the price of the land." The clerk reminded council the capital reserve fund had been used to buy land and pay debentures on the township office building.

"You can do it for the office building," said the deputy-reeve, "but it's unfair to use the whole township to pay for fire protection in one area."

"It was just Mr. Patterson's opinion of how we should finance it," remarked Councillor Jim Goodlet.

"I see your point," conceded the reeve addressing Mr. Marshall, who wasn't quite finished with his objections to the proposed Esquesing brigade.

"Milton has one of the best volunteer fire brigades in the province," he stated. "One value of a brigade is how fast it is going to get to a fire. A brigade here would be no use to me," he emphasized.

"I hope the idea doesn't spread." The questioner also wanted to know why the township representative on the Georgetown area board didn't bring back the budget from Georgetown.

"We spent four months arguing with Georgetown over costs. Then they said that's it," replied the clerk.

Councillor Tom Hill, deputy-reeve elect, agreed. "They had us over a barrel. They said we paid 45 per cent of the budget and that would be it!"

Comparing costs in the three township areas, Mr. Marshall said perhaps the unit cost a square mile would be the same if the Georgetown brigade was serving a larger area.

The Milton area is larger, stated the deputy-reeve. Costs, he claimed, were worked out on an assessment. If this had been done in the Georgetown area costs would have been \$6,000 instead of \$13,000.

The fire marshal suggested Georgetown have another truck anyway, said Councillor Goodlet. "Ours would end up in the snow."

"Strikes me if I lived around here I'd be worried," continued Mr. Marshall. "The fire truck's here...but where are your firemen? Please keep on the good side of the Milton brigade!"

Mr. Marshall was reassured by council there were plenty of firemen available within a few minutes of the proposed fire hall.

He was also told the fire marshal recommended the township have a brigade of their own.

"It kind of made me rear on my hind legs when I read the report," said Mr. Marshall. He questioned the costs outlined by Councillor Patterson at the meeting and was promptly reassured no decision had been made on the hall yet.

"Then I gather the report isn't right," said Mr. Marshall. Councillors avoided the question but Mr. Hill said the report should say tenders for the new hall wouldn't be opened until Dec. 8.

Mr. Marshall and Mr. Lawson left with council's assurance financing for the new hall and cost were not yet decided.

# Acton, district drivers involved in accidents

Cars driven by Donald Gramme of R.R.1 Georgetown and Gary Meehan of Acton received \$150 and \$200 property damage respectively when they collided on Highway 7 west of Acton Tuesday, December 19. No injuries were reported.

Friday, a car driven by William Wittekoek of Acton struck and killed a deer on the same highway, east of Acton. The Wittekoek car received \$75 damage.

George Mathews of R.R. 2 Acton had \$600 damage done to his vehicle Christmas eve on the same stretch of highway in a collision involving a Grey Coach Lines bus driven by Dennis Collins of Toronto. Damage to the bus was estimated at \$150.

Saturday evening, a car driven by Thomas J. Daisley of the R.C. A.F. station, Angus, received

\$400 damage in a one-car accident just south of Speyside on Highway 25. The driver suffered minor lacerations.

## Addends

Omitted from the account of the C.G.L.T. carol service last week was the fact that Miss Barbara Symon is the assistant leader. The girls went carolling the Monday before Christmas despite the bad weather.

## Church choir has Christmas party

The senior choir of the United Church enjoyed a Christmas party together last Thursday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Don Van Fleet were hosts for the yearly gathering.

## OMSIP group coverage to start Jan. 1

As of January 1, 1968, OMSIP will offer a group medical insurance, Ontario Health Minister Matthew B. Dymond announced today. Many groups now too small to qualify for coverage by private companies will be eligible under this new provision.

The minimum size of groups will be six persons, much smaller than usually required for group coverage by private companies, and there will be provision for "collector groups," an innovation for medical insurance in this province.

Persons eligible for premium assistance who have applied for OMSIP benefits will continue to be covered on an individual basis.

Dr. Dymond pointed out that OMSIP makes medical insurance available to all, regardless of age, state of health or financial circumstances.

At present, OMSIP (Ontario Medical Services Insurance Plan) provides coverage only for individuals and their families.

## Investigating rest homes for aged citizens

An investigation of rest homes for Halton's senior citizens is being launched by the Halton Centennial Manor Board of Management, as an alternative to a completely new manor that is being sought in the south of the county.

Rest homes are allowed under new legislation as an alternative to old age homes, hospital chronic wards and nursing homes. Provincially-subsidized rest homes are similar to senior citizens' apartments, but more on the communal style of living whereby the residents partially look after themselves.

Oakville and Burlington Councils have demanded in the past few months that any further additions to the Halton Manor complex in Milton should be held back, and the next facilities should be built in the south of the county. Officials of the Manor Board point out the new Martin House was erected with equipment to handle a further 150-bed addition, and they prefer the less expensive addition over a completely new home in the south of the county.

Manor superintendent S.A. Allen and Dr. J.W. McCutcheon of Milton, the Manor's physician, are a committee investigating the rest homes idea.

The new 1968 calendars are being distributed locally.

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HIRB will be the central registration office which will handle enrollment, billings and premium collections, and answer inquiries about Ontario's medical or hospital insurance plans.

OMSIP and Ontario Hospital Insurance will continue to provide their present coverage. The only difference is that, from now on, when you see HIRB, you'll know it means the Health Insurance Registration Board is serving you on behalf of Ontario's health insurance plans.

If you have any questions about provincial health insurance enrollment or premiums just write to:

**Health Insurance Registration Board**  
2195 Yonge Street, Toronto 7

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