

# Education levy up 9.45 mills

Acton's educational mill rate will rise by 9.45 mills to provide \$225,363 for elementary school education and \$180,754 for secondary and schools for retarded, according to the recently approved budget of the County Board of Education.

Acton's share of the elementary school costs was raised from those originally proposed. The town was the only north Halton municipality so affected but the increase of \$4,977 in Acton's share resulted in a re-apportioning of costs based on the effects of reassessment in all other Halton municipalities. Acton was not reassessed last year.

The new sharing of costs resulted in reductions to Milton of \$48,044; Nasagaweya \$28,068; Esqueping \$30,532 and Georgetown \$71,013. Increases were absorbed by Acton at \$4,977, Oakville up \$86,457 and Burlington up \$86,223.

In Milton the re-apportioning reduces an originally proposed 8.4 mill increase to 4.42. The Nasagaweya residents in the former Milton District High School area will see a 2.51 decrease rather than an increase, while those in the Acton District High School area will see a .02 increase.

Esqueping ratepayers in the Acton District High School area will see a 5.65-mill increase, those in the Georgetown District area a drop of 2.66 and those in the Milton area a 3.06 increase as the three rates are merged this year for a uniform rate.

The sharing of the \$32,025,422 budget was arrived at in March by the Board but a subsequent memorandum from the Department of Education indicated that in municipalities where re-assessment had taken place, a change in the "adjusted rate" would be required. Arrangements were made for establishing a new equalization factor and it was on this basis the new apportionment was arrived at. Any overpayment or underpayment, caused by the change in the "adjusted rate" will be made up in 1970.

The amount to be paid by each municipality for secondary and for public school education is now as follows:

Municipality	Public	Secondary and Retarded Schools
Acton.....	\$ 225,363.	\$ 180,754.
Burlington.....	3,870,998.	3,554,797.
Esqueping.....	490,561.	341,658.
Georgetown.....	620,597.	500,337.
Milton.....	326,849.	251,196.
Nasagaweya.....	156,612.	187,109.
Oakville.....	4,257,593.	3,471,418.
	\$9,948,573.	\$8,487,269.

The effect of reassessment during the past year resulted in the change in apportioning elementary school costs. In the initial calculation no provision was made for this difference. The reassessment throughout Halton ranged from a zero increase in Acton to a 29 per cent increase in Nasagaweya.

Burlington increased through reassessment by four per cent; Esqueping by 25 per cent, Georgetown by 28 per cent, Milton by 12 per cent and Oakville by 17 per cent.

## Watson blames hike on Department errors, failure to reassess

"There are two major factors in the rise in Acton's educational mill rate," trustee Tom Watson told the Free Press.

He pointed out the 9.45 mill increase is made up of 6.89 at the secondary school level and 2.56 at the public school level. "The deficit of \$47,000 on the Acton District High School Board's operations indicates the amount that has to be raised this year just to match last year's expenditures. The \$47,000 naturally wasn't reflected in last year's levy." At the public school level a surplus of \$20,000 was spent that was not levied for.

"It should be pointed out the deficit at the high school level was the result of a miscalculation of \$23,826 in grants of the Department of Education. A further complication was the tuition fees at Burlington for 21 students and the Board was not notified they would be attending until after the budget was struck. A change in payroll procedures from a 12 pay system to a 10 pay system necessitated catching up on \$16,180," the trustee stressed.

The other major factor, the trustee suggested, was that Acton did not re-assess any of its property last year while other municipalities increased as much as 29 per cent. This has the effect in those municipalities of raising the value of the mill and reducing the number required to meet higher costs. "Nasagaweya," he pointed out, "raised its assessment by per cent and its mill rate in the Acton District High School area will increase only .02 mills."

The Acton-Nasagaweya trustee suggested the mill rate for high school education was low last year as indicated in its application in Esqueping. The mill rate for the Acton area there was 14.74 while for the Georgetown area it was 23.05 and for the Milton area 17.33. This year the rate will be a common 20.55 for the three areas.

The recent increase, caused by the re-apportionment of new Department of Education formulas, was a result of consideration being given to the re-assessment program that took place in the other municipalities throughout the county.

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## Press secretary of year

FREE PRESS Youth Bowling Council columnist Jackie Palmer, selected as the Canadian press secretary of the year, was presented with a plaque at a mammoth victory banquet held in Hamilton last night (Tuesday). The vivacious young Acton mis, a student at Acton district high school, was chosen from press secretaries all across Canada for the award. Fred Sgambati, president of the Canadian Bowlers' Press Association makes the award. Miss Palmer's column appears each week in the Free Press during the bowling season. —(Photo by Wayne Todd)



CELEBRATING HER 81ST birthday on April 3, Mrs. Albert McCutcheon still enjoys good health in her home at 77 Young Street. —(Staff Photo)

## Set mill rate on Friday

Acton Council will hold a special meeting Friday night to set the mill rate for 1969.

Reeve Frank Oakes, chairman of the Budget Committee, asked council to consider a special meeting to review the Budget and set the mill rate soon at last night's regular meeting.

Wary councillors have been checking and rechecking figures at committee meetings but the delay in the education levy has created a delay in arriving at a figure.

Dr. Oakes said council doesn't want to neglect public works in Acton this year as some projects are urgently needed. "If we leave the mill rate much longer the clerk won't be able to handle it."

The reeve said the town would have to go along with the tentative county rate in order to facilitate the job of the clerk.

The mayor and council agreed and after discussion arrived at a decision to set the budget Friday.

Soaring education figures have alarmed council.

## Council unhappy over extension to bank

Acton councillors generally were unhappy with the decision of the Committee of Adjustment to allow owners of the Bank of Nova Scotia building to extend the present building but agreed they would have to abide by the ruling.

Reeve Frank Oakes was the most vociferous objector to the decision at Tuesday's council meeting, stating in his opinion the application should have been

turned down. He felt the reasons listed for approval were not valid especially the last one which claimed the addition would stimulate business.

"What does this mean?" he asked.

Mayor Les Duby admitted he was also perturbed but pointed out there had been no opposition from neighbors of the bank. He said perhaps the Committee also was trying to eliminate some of the decrepit backyard building which are eyesores.

The Committee of Adjustment asked for our opinion but paid no attention to it," mused the reeve. Council opposed the extension by resolution.

"The committee has the privilege to do it," Councillor McKenzie replied. "It's something we've got to learn to live with." He said similar situations had arisen when he was on the Committee several years ago. He thought councillors might see the decision in a different light if they were on the committee.

Councillor Orv Chapman said it was nice to get new assessment but asked what was the use of zoning laws if they were disregarded.

The mayor said perhaps council would have to be more flexible in the future because they would be facing more problems of a similar nature.

The Committee of Adjustment approved the Bank of Nova Scotia's application to build an extension to within one foot of the rear yard property line at a public hearing last week. Zoning by-laws require a 20 foot rear yard setback.

## Grass fires keep brigade busy

The annual grass fire season got underway in the Acton area last Tuesday, when volunteer fire fighters were called on to control two separate fires along No. 5 Sideroad in Erin Township. Bonfires at the homes of Mr. Semma and Lyle Cripps spread into neighboring fields but were extinguished before damage was done.

A neighbor's fire spread into a vacant lot across from the Gordon Thompson farm on R.R. 1, Acton, on Sunday. The owner is unknown.

"We have always maintained that there should be some restriction on grass fires," commented Chief Mick Holmes. "At the present time you need a permit to burn in town only." He feels now perhaps the air pollution people are working on a solution.

## Garages victims

During the early morning of Thursday, April 3, Bill Toth's Shell service station was broken into and some cash taken. Entry was gained through a window. Cons. Kressler is investigating.

This Tuesday morning Bill Thompson reported to the police a different kind of problem at his service station. Two tires on a new car and truck had been destroyed by a person using a sharp instrument like a screw driver or ice pick. The tires will have to be replaced and the loss is estimated around \$50. The malicious damage is still under investigation.

## Churches filled Easter services

Acton's churches were filled Sunday for Easter services, and special services characterized the week previous.

Members of most of the town's congregation joined for the Holy Week services which concluded last Thursday in Trinity.

A large crowd attended the Sunrise service Easter morning at 7 a.m. on the reservoir at

Churchill, followed by breakfast in the United church.

There were Good Friday services at the Baptist, Anglican, United and Roman Catholic churches.

Lilies, spring flowers and nuns were in profusion in the churches Sunday. Special music had been prepared by the various choirs.



## Man for all seasons 1969 Citizen of Year

SPORTSMAN CHARLIE THOMSON, a man who's ready to help with sports at any season, was picked as Acton's Citizen of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce. Chamber president John Shadbolt announced the choice to a surprised Charlie at his R.R. 2, Acton, home last week. The Citizen of the Year dinner will be held on Saturday, April 26 this year and tickets for the event are going fast. —(Staff Photo)

## Last meeting?

Last official meeting or not? High school board members Tuesday weren't certain.

While the county board's intention had been to "phase" them out at the end of April, they had received no further precise word on their status. They have been serving as a continuing committee, meeting as usual the first Tuesday of each month.

Secretary-treasurer Fred Salt will check out the future of the members. He will continue until the end of June.

Brian Skerrett will attend a "guidance dialogue" at the University of Ottawa May 12 to 14. There is a special county budget allowance for these courses.

Mr. Skerrett also sent the board a letter reporting on the bus trip to the Ontario Basketball Finals in Peterborough. He itemized expenses which indicate some \$20 remaining.

Plans are being made for an Open House with displays at the school April 24, principal Hansen reported, and the spring field meet will be April 25.

Principal Hansen also reported the four teachers required for next September are all hired now. Mrs. Hallman, Mrs. Warner,

Mr. Curtis and Mr. Holmes are leaving. He explained two of the newcomers are new to the profession; one has been teaching up north and a science head is coming from Georgetown.

Boy Scouts requested use of the gym for an evening program May 2. Since the local board no longer has the authority to grant permission, a letter was to be written to the county board recommending the rental.

Various letters to and from the new county board were included in the correspondence, dealing with such items as a personnel appointment, the ordering of supplies and assessment of property.

Present at the meeting that just might be the last were chairman Duncan Moffat, members Kerwin McPhail and Chester Anderson, secretary-treasurer Fred Salt and principal Ted Hansen.

## Six charged

Six persons between the ages of 16 and 20 were charged Saturday night by Acton O.P.P. with drinking under age. They were together in one car.



HEADLESS HOCKEY player who mystified judges at the school ice carnival last Wednesday turned out to be Kevin Marcoux carrying a huge puck. Story and pictures inside. —(Staff Photo)



LOVE-INS ARE A MODERN development but it isn't often you run into one for cool cats like this four generation group, caught by the Free Press camera at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Thomson, R. R. 1, Acton. The three mothers are all related and they each had kittens at approximately the same time. Readers of The Free Press

may be familiar with the names of the motherly trio through Mrs. Thomson's column, The Painted Box, which appears each week. Grandmother is on the right, aptly named Cockeyed Cat. Little Cat is on the left and Tansy is in the middle of the middle. —(Staff Photo)