

TAXES  
KEEP

# RISING MILL RATE SOARS TO '85

## Eight mill increase blamed on education

"A tight budget," the auditor commented, "but a good budget". Acton home owners will pay eight additional mills on their taxes this year, nevertheless, while industrial and commercial rates will rise 8.5 mills.

Council struck the 1969 rate at 85 mills residential and 95.5 commercial and industrial at a special meeting Friday night, clinging to a "tight budget" which marked last year's "bare bones" figures.

General expenses to run the town for 1969 were calculated at \$438,997.64. Receipts are expected to be \$153,817.95, leaving \$285,179.69. This is further reduced by a per capita grant of \$22,513.35, which leaves \$262,666.34 to be raised by taxation.

Education costs for 1969 were calculated at \$406,117.63 per cent of the tax melon - while the county rate dropped 1.1 mills to raise \$47,185.65.

Education costs - a whopping 9.45 mills were blamed on Department of Education errors by the County Board of Education's Acton-Nassagaweya representative.

The general rate - 30.5 residential and 35.7 commercial was kept the same while the county rate dropped 1.1 mills.

Budget chairman, Reeve Frank Oakes, told council that "the education levy really slapped us down," so much so that the budget committee felt they had to keep the general mill rate the same as last year's. And they managed to do it "despite the crying need" for a public works program beyond last year's.

The figures which set councillors paring down budgets and postponing town improvements came from the Halton County Board of Education which levied a 9.45 increase in the mill rate.

"It's quite obvious the rise is entirely in the school budget," commented the reeve, although he complained "It's a difficult pill to swallow and present to taxpayers."

Dr. Oakes said the budget committee decided to take care of the increased school budget "all at once" so it wouldn't have to recur.

Council could expect a certain amount of criticism for the hike in taxes, the budget chairman thought, but "critics will have to be reminded this is not a situation of our making."

"One area where taxpayers might feel they can criticize is the bigger problems of public works but the budget committee feels the increase is all the taxpayers can handle," Dr. Oakes said.

Changed into dollars and cents, the eight mill increase means approximately \$40 more taxes for a home owner with a \$5,000 assessment or a \$32 hike for a \$4,000 assessment.

Mayor Les Duly pointed out that the tax rebate from the provincial government would adequately cover the tax rise. Clerk Joe Hurst figures the rebate would be approximately \$57 this year, up from \$47.74 in 1968.

Another possible bright spot for ratepayers could be the sale of town-owned land recently annexed from Esquesing. Several developers are interested in the approximately 40 acre parcel bordering on Mill St. and Cobblehill Rd. and money from sale of the property could lighten the tax burden.

Council is not banking on the money, however, preferring to depend on a capital works program to finance projects such as road work in Lakeview subdivision and Bower Ave. and Church St.

Councillor Bill Coats asked if any pet projects had to be left off the general purpose budget to hold the mill rate.

Councillor Earl Masales answered that the general program will be debentured but there were inadequacies in town equipment

which the lean budget would bother. The water budget could run into difficulties. The allowance for road works is also cut very fine, Mr. Masales admitted.

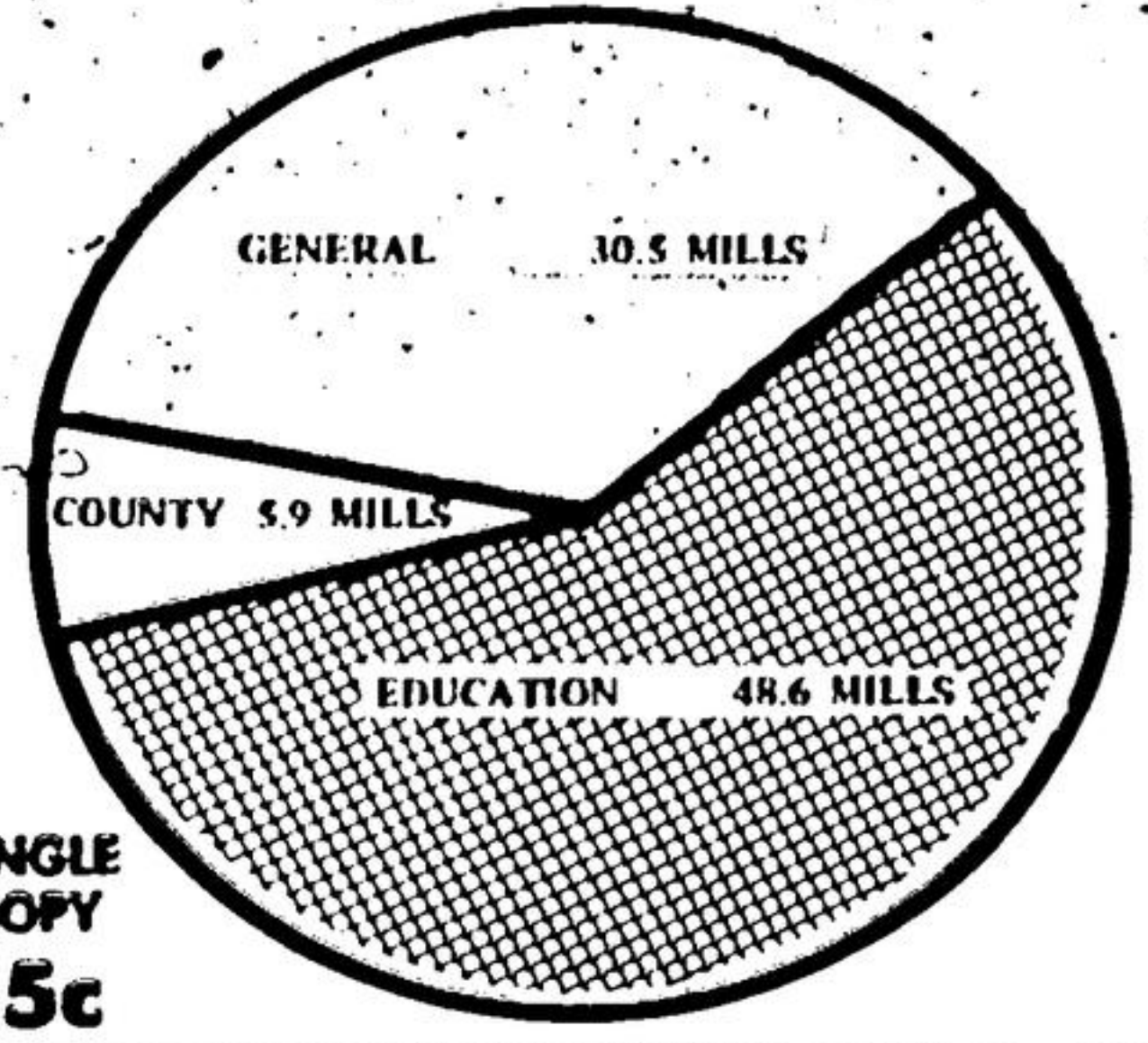
Mr. Masales later said he hoped people in town would not be confused about the lack of projects in town in budget figures such as Lakeview roads.

"I don't want people to think because an item is not in the budget that it won't be done," he said. They are going to be considered as part of a capital works program as soon as possible, he promised.

Hopes that the Tyler Ave. drainage project being paid out of current revenue were destroyed by the large levy for education. It will be debentured rather than adding four mills to the current budget.

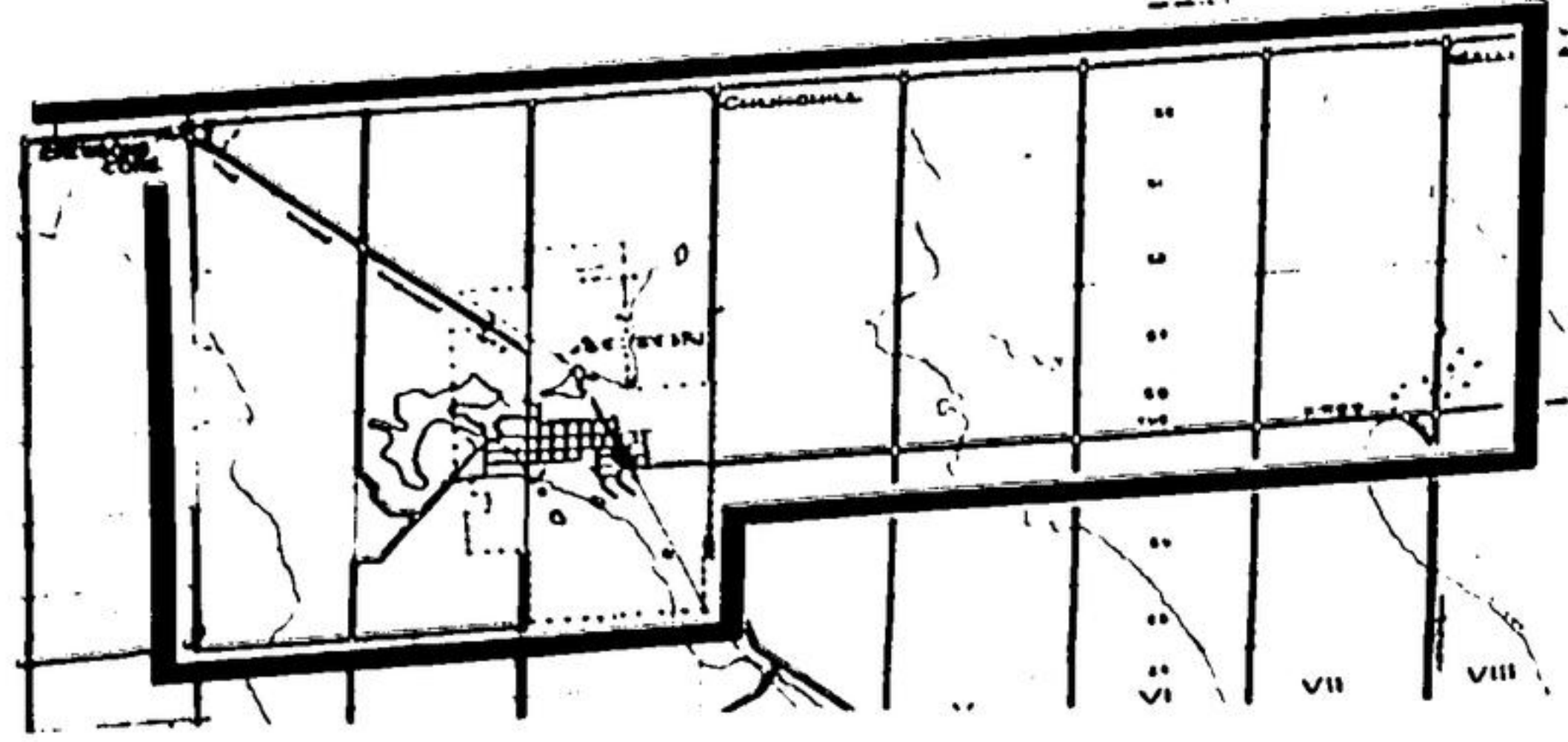
Council chopped \$2,500 from the Parks Board budget, which

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## Board of Education Extends boundaries Acton schools

Additional elementary school pupils from Esquesing and Nassagaweya will be attending Acton schools in September, according to boundary changes approved by the County Board of Education on Thursday.

Those included in the move to the town schools are the pupils in the Eden Mills area of Nassagaweya on or near Highway 7. This will include an estimated 70 pupils.

Pupils on or near the Nassagaweya-Esquesing town line, north of No. 10 sideroad to No. 25 sideroad, will attend the Speyside Public School.

Another group of over 100 to attend Acton schools will be those in Esquesing from the north County line, south on the seventh line (both sides) to highway 7 (both sides) west to Acton. From Acton across the No. 25 sideroad (both sides) to the Nassagaweya-Esquesing town line and north on the town line to the north county boundary. This will include some students who formerly went to

## Esquesing bucks tax increase education burden on landowners

Esquesing Council is not about to accept proposed 1969 education tax increases without a fight.

Following the regular meeting in council chambers Monday night, letters of protest are being sent to Education Minister William Davis, Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeeough, Halton East MPP Jim Snow, Opposition leaders in the provincial legislature, members of the Halton County School Board, and all municipal councils in Halton.

The motion came after Clerk K. C. Lindsay reported taxes up a total of \$204,972 over last year, largely due to increases in the education budget under the new county board. He went on to cite actual figures on a number of farms and lots in the township under new assessment.

For a 300 acre farm where total taxes in 1968 were \$1,670.54, this year's education tax alone is \$1,839.66, an increase of \$169.12 over total taxes a year ago.

On a 100 acre farm, total taxes last year were \$773.77. This year the education tax alone is \$796.25, which is an increase of \$22.48 over total taxes last year.

For a lot with a house of average assessment, total taxes last year were \$425.95. The education tax alone this year is \$419.15, a difference of \$6.80. Total taxes in 1969 will be \$558.89 or a 31.94 per cent increase over last year.

"Quite obviously they are throwing the tax burden on the land owner," snapped Reeve George Currie. "How long are the people going to put up with this kind of silliness?"

According to figures compiled by Mr. Lindsay, the total taxes for education paid by the various councils in Halton last year were \$14,947,190. This year the total levy on the county is set at \$18,435,842. On this basis, the levy to Esquesing township would be \$832,219, or an increase of 23.3 per cent. If this were calculated on the basis of county equalized assessment, the levy would be \$745,643.

At this point, Clerk Del French quoted an article from an area paper which reported Mayor M. Anderson of Oakville as refusing to sign by-laws accepting the increased taxes levied by the County Board of Education.

"All municipalities are going to have to rise up and get at them," boomed Councillor Tom Hill. "That's the only way we are going to get anything done."

Councillors questioned to what extent schools in the township would benefit from the increased taxation. According to Councillor Russell Miller, there are only 224 new children registered for the fall term which means an 8.31 per cent increase in children of school age. He went on to say many residents are annoyed at the manner in which rural schools are being short-changed by the Board in favor of schools in larger centres.

## Reprimanded

Boys shooting an air rifle were apprehended by police last Tuesday and taken to their parents for reprimand. They had deliberately shot at and struck another boy riding his bicycle.

## Teenagers find \$200 rewarded

Two Acton teenagers are each \$10 richer and a Georgetown farmer thankful for their honesty this week.

Fourteen year-old Robin Salt and Bob Howson, both of Longfield Road, found a wallet containing \$200 in bills on Churchill Rd. last Thursday. Inside, along with the money, was a invoice showing the wallet belonged to J. Kiteley of R. R. 3, Georgetown.

The boys got Robin's mother, Mrs. Alan Salt, to phone the owner and he identified the wallet as belonging to him. He gave each of the boys a \$10 bill as a reward for their honesty.

Mr. Kiteley had put the wallet in his pocket on his way home from Thompson Motors where he had his tractor repaired. He thinks the wallet must have slipped out of his pocket as a result of the wind whipping his coat, and the bouncing of the tractor on Churchill Rd.



## Narcotics investigated

R.C.M.P. from the narcotics division in Hamilton were summoned to Acton Friday night, after local police suspected drug law infringement at the high school.

While a dance was underway in the school, Cons. McArthur and Farion checked a car in the parking lot. They found three boys and one girl in the car, and a marijuana cigarette on the ground. They smelled a "strong, sweet odor."

The four were interrogated. No charges have been laid as yet, according to Corp. Ray Mason. The investigation is continuing.

## Rotary wants old glasses

The Rotary Club of Acton is asking for old eyeglasses to send to the underdeveloped countries of the world.

The glasses will be reclassified and redistributed in underdeveloped countries by the Missionary Optical Service.

Anyone with old glasses is asked to leave them at Gordon's Hardware or the Bank of Montreal in Acton.

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## Three cars in pile-up

Three people were injured and an almost-new car suffered \$1,000 damage Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m. when three cars were involved in an accident.

Two cars were stopped on Guelph St., just west of Toth's garage, when a truck came down the road and crashed into one of them, driving it forward into the other. The driver of the third vehicle was William Douglas, R.R. 4, Acton.

The first car to stop was driven by Arthur Andrews, Bramalea, which had stopped on Guelph St. to make a turn. The passenger, Chris Andrews, 4, suffered back and neck injuries.

The car that stopped behind him was a 1969 Envoy driven by Dorian Poloni of Milton. With only 300 miles on the speedometer, it received an estimated \$1,000 damage in the middle of the pile-up. The driver and a friend were slightly injured with possible whiplash.

## Mr. and Mrs. W. Ballentine celebrate golden anniversary

Over 200 guests called to bring congratulations Saturday afternoon and evening to Mr. and Mrs. William Ballentine at their home in Guelph.

It was on April 16, 1919 that the marriage was solemnized of Mary Myrtle, daughter of Thos. Dearing and Annie Collier, and William Norman, son of Thos. Ballentine and Ellen Atcheson, at the home of the bride in Orton, Ontario. Rev. Roscoe Smith, pastor of the St. John United Church, Orton, officiated at the ceremony. The couple farmed on the Ballentine homestead in Erin Township until 1953, when they retired to Acton, and in 1960 moved to their present home in Guelph.

Mr. and Mrs. Ballentine had four sons, Ross, Acton; Roy Georgetown; Kenneth deceased in 1967, and Leslie in Hamilton, and ten grandchildren.

Many bouquets and potted plants throughout the rooms made a lovely setting for Mr. and Mrs. Ballentine's 50 anniversary celebration.

Their three sons assisted in receiving the guests and Mary-Jane Ballentine, their granddaughter, in a yellow lace dress, matching slippers and corsage, looked after the guest book.

In the dining room the lace covered table was centred with yellow roses in a crystal vase flanked by gold-colored candles.

Those pouring tea were Mrs. Grace Armstrong, London and Mrs. Olive Stewart, Ospringe, Mrs. Lena Dearing, Guelph and Mrs. Mary McCutcheon, Guelph, while their four daughters-in-law served the guests.

A nephew who came from Downey, California, brought orchids from his own back yard. Others came from Detroit, Manitoulin Island, London, Toronto and Islington as well as from the community. Telegrams and letters were received from Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Hon. John Robarts, Harry Worton, M.P.P., Paul Mercer, Mayor, and John Root, M.P.P. Mr. Hales and Mr. and Mrs. Root also called at the home bringing best wishes and congratulations. Other telegrams came from Medicine Hat, Calgary and Sudbury.

On Sunday afternoon a family dinner for 28 guests was held at the home of their eldest son, Ross and Peggy in Acton.

## Hydro awards contract on substation build-up

In an effort to meet increased power needs, Acton Hydro Commission awarded a contract of \$21,350.00 to Ferranti-Packard Company Port Credit for work on No. 2 substation increasing its capacity to 5,000 KVA. Joyce-Sweaner Co. Port Hope was awarded the renovation contract for \$9,487. Construction is to begin this summer.

Both expenditures come out of this year's budget of \$80,822.40 approved during the regular meeting Thursday night.

Increasing power demand in Acton necessitated immediate action despite plans by Beardmore and Co. to install a substation of their own. Ted Tyler Sr. had argued in favor of a third station which he felt would be more economical in the long run. However, he was outvoted on the grounds there is no way of estimating which direction town expansion will take at the present time.



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM BALLENTINE over 200 guests. Former Acton residents, the genial couple was also honored at the home of their son, Ross, R.R. 2, Acton, Sunday. - Staff