

# Tax bills on way

## Education tax relief could affect Acton

Tax bills will be mailed to Acton ratepayers today (Wednesday) and much to the chagrin of town fathers there could be an overlevy for education.

Based on the statement of the Minister of Education, the Hon. William Davis, to the Ontario Legislature last Thursday, it appears Acton will be one of the municipalities which will benefit from a subsidy designed to assist communities where education costs have distorted the mill rate. But it could be too late for Acton.

Although the County Board of Education is unsure about how these subsidies will apply, clerk-administrator Joe Hurst said his understanding of the minister's statement could mean an approximate six mill cut in the Acton education levy. Since tax bills are already printed and on their way to ratepayers, Mr. Hurst pointed out this could mean an overlevy.

Taxes collected for education cannot be directed into another pot and would probably have to be carried over into 1970.

The provincial proposal as outlined by the minister provides a special grant to the board to limit the increases in mill rate on provincial equalized assessment in any municipality having a population less than 60,000 to one mill of provincial equalized assessment for elementary school purposes and to one mill of provincial equalized assessment for secondary school purposes over the greater of the 1967 and 1968 mill rates.

This special grant will apply to an expenditure per pupil for 1969 up to 115 per cent of the expenditure per pupil for 1968.

Although the effect of limiting the increase to one mill of provincial equalized assessment will vary from place to place in terms of local mill rates, on the average the increase in local mill rates will probably vary from two to five mills. The Department of Education will pay a subsidy to the Board for the portion of the levy in a municipality above the one mill of provincial equalized assessment or above the average of three to five mills on local assessment.

Variations will depend on the equalizing factors in each municipality.

The big reason, of course, for the large increase in school taxes for Acton was the slash in government grants. Grants for 1968, according to tax bill figures were \$451,044 while the 1969 grants were only \$291,474. (Clerk Joe Hurst points out, however, that the 1968 figure is not a true indicator since there were mistakes in grants to Acton boards at the Department of Education. He estimates grants were cut at least \$100,000.)

Town office employees worked on the 1969 tax bills over the weekend so they could be mailed out Wednesday. Included with the bill is a supplementary sheet explaining the tax structure in Acton.

Mr. Hurst is also concerned that taxpayers may not understand the provincial residential property tax reduction which was mailed directly to some home owners last year. There are changes in this year's method of apportioning the rebate which will come directly off taxes instead of being returned to ratepayers by cheque.

A property assessed at \$1,240 or more will be granted a rebate of \$52.70. However, multiple dwellings are levied on the individual assessments of the units rather than on the total assessment of the building. Mr. Hurst explains:

"The provincial residential property tax reduction is to be continued in 1969 with two main amendments. One confirms the eligibility of crown properties, which does not apply to the Town of Acton, and the other introduces a requirement for a minimum payment of fifty per cent of the taxes on each eligible property.

"This means that in 1969 the amount by which the taxes on any residential property is to be reduced is the lesser of the two following amounts:

"(a) The amount that is produced by the application of the equalized mill rate to \$2,000.00 of the assessment, or  
 "(b) One-half of the municipal taxes levied on the individual property.

"In Acton with an equalizing factor of 31 a property assessed at \$1,240 or more will produce a rebate of \$52.70.



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR Charlie Thomson and his wife were guests of honor at the Chamber of Commerce dinner and dance Saturday night as Mr. Thomson was picked from several nominations to be Acton's 10th Citizen of the Year. (Staff Photo)

## Large crowd honors 'Charlie'

A beaming Charlie Thomson was in his own words "the happiest man in town" last Saturday night at the Music Centre, when a full house turned out in his honor for the 10th annual Citizen of the Year dinner and dance, sponsored by Acton Chamber of Commerce.

Following a standing ovation, Mr. Citizen '69 was close to breaking down in his acceptance address. "This is a great honor

Le. 31 x 2000 = 62000 x 85 mills = \$52.70  
 Properties assessed at least than \$1240 will produce a rebate equal to one-half the taxes levied.

Le. \$1200 assessment x 85 mills = 102.00 divided by 2 = \$51.000

"In multiple dwellings each apartment or unit is assessed separately and the rebate, or reduction, is levied on the individual assessments of the units rather than the total assessment of the building.

1.e. building with 4 apartments

Total Assessment	\$4800	
1st apartment	1400 = 31 x 2000 = 62000 x 85	= 52.70
2nd apartment	1300 = same	= 52.70
3rd apartment	1000 = 1000 x 85 = 85000 divided by 2	= 42.50
4th apartment	1100 = 1100 x 85 = 93500 divided by 2	= 46.75

Total Rebate \$194.65

The increasing complexity of grants and rebates is making municipal authorities scratch their heads and ratepayers give up completely. The provincial government has indicated it will have many of the complexities straightened out next year in education but the province is also heading into regional government which could produce some new king-sized headaches.

## ACTON PORT REVENUE AT ALL TIME HIGH

Revenue at the Port of Acton reached an all time-high for the year ending March 31, Collector

There was a record number of entries for the year—2900 compared to 2847 last year—with total revenue of \$378,008.88 compared to last year's total of \$355,210.38.

Significant changes in the Acton Port, which is now under the direct jurisdiction of the district Port of Toronto, have been touched off by the Kennedy Round. Tariffs have dropped from 5 to six per cent on some items imported. Importers are also now able to get a remission of duty on large machinery which has stepped up the import business.

Plastics and chemical tariffs have also changed significantly in the last year.



DELPHIN ROACH holds a catfish exultantly aloft Larsen. He caught the muckcat in Fairy Lake for a panel of admirers including his brother Henry Saturday morning. (Staff Photo)

# The Acton Free Press

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## Old post office sold

What's going to happen to the old post office and the big clock tower which has been keeping time for Acton for over half a century?

Signs posted this week on the Mill St. landmark proclaimed the building was sold. The Free Press contacted one of the owners, businessman Ben Rachlin, and he said the building has been sold to a Toronto businessman but he was not at liberty to disclose his name.

Mr. Rachlin admitted he had heard many rumors about the fate of the building including one that General Motors had bought it. He said that he knew no more than anyone else about what would happen to the old post office now.

"We are leaving Acton people with a timepiece in A1 condition, however," Mr. Rachlin said. He and co-owner George Robertson repaired the old clock this week and wound it up, a chore which must be performed twice a week on the striker and once on the mechanism.

"We got a great kick looking after it," he told the Free Press reporter, "and we couldn't relinquish the building without leaving the clock in A1 condition."

## Gary Masters hit by car

Crossing Young St. at 8.35 p.m. Sunday evening, Gary Masters, 15, of MacDonald Blvd. was struck by a car. He suffered cuts and abrasions to his scalp and concussion, and was taken to hospital.

Driver of the car was Gerald Skirrow, R. R. 4, Acton

## Pellet guns shot

Another incident of shooting with pellet guns was reported this week to Acton O.P.P. Minors had aimed directly at a home in Lakeview subdivision.

The police remind parents it is illegal to shoot these guns in town limits.



M. Z. BENNETT SCHOOL, ACTON, took first place in the boys' unchanged voices choir class at the Wednesday segment of the Halton Music Festival. They are shown with the Acton branch, Bank of Montreal trophy. (Staff Photo)

## Mill rate down, but Nassagaweya taxes up

While the mill rate for 1969 is lower than it was last year, taxes are up in Nassagaweya Township (as they are everywhere else) owing to a major re-assessment of property values carried out during the past year.

Council approved the 1969 expenditures and a complicated series of area mill rates at their meeting last week. Clerk J. C. McIntyre called it "still the best mill rate in the county".

As in every other municipality, the costs of education brought about the greatest increase in township spending for 1969. Education will cost Nassagaweya \$344,549 this year. Of that figure, \$156,612 is for elementary schools, \$187,109 for secondary schools and \$828 for separate schools.

Residential and farm ratepayers will pay a combined mill rate of 66.30 in the Acton fire area, 65.42 in the Milton fire area. Commercial ratepayers will face a 74.70 mill rate in the Acton area, 73.82 in the Milton area.

Campbellville residential assessments will have a mill rate of 65.53 and the commercial ratepayers 73.93. In the Eden Mills village with street lights the rate is 71.19; in the area without lights it is 67.19.

Shelter grants in the Acton fire area are expected to reduce taxes by \$27.82 and in the Milton fire area by \$27.46. The

grant is worth \$27.50 in Campbellville, \$29.88 in Eden Mills.

Clerk McIntyre as an example quoted figures on a "better than average" farm which would have been assessed at \$7,500 in 1967 as a tax base for 1968 taxes. The farm would have been re-assessed at around \$9,500 in 1968 for 1969 taxation, meaning a total increase in taxes of about \$95 this year. He said it was impossible to quote figures on an "average" ratepayer because of the wide diversity of taxpayers in the township.

The following amounts have been levied for tax purposes: County purposes \$40,218; Eden Mills police village, \$1,786; Campbellville police village, \$3,100; Acton fire area, \$4,201; Milton fire area, \$4,555; education, \$344,549.

Mill rates needed to collect the money include: County purposes 5.82; township residential and farm 1.91; township roads 8.19; Eden Mills (no lights) 10.96; Eden Mills (with lights) 14.94; Campbellville 8.30; Acton fire area 1.88; Milton fire area 1.00; public elementary education residential and farm 22.16; commercial 24.63; secondary education residential and farm 26.34; commercial 29.27; elementary separate school education residential and farm 22.16.

By his successor John Shadbolt, Mr. Shadbolt went on to introduce the new Chamber executives in the audience.

The 160-plate smorgasbord dinner and Citizen of the Year program was followed by a dance. Towards the end of the evening Rev. Harry Dawson walked off with the door-prize, a full-size steer skin rug donated by Beardmore and company.

Organizers estimated one of the largest crowds in the history of the award attended this year's program. Included in out-of-town guests were two of Mr. Thompson's sisters from Toronto.

## Hit by truck boy, 11, dies

Funeral service was held in Waterdown on Tuesday afternoon for 11-year-old Gregory Bruce Eaton of R. R. 1, Moffat, who died Friday enroute to hospital after he was struck by a small truck near Haltonville.

Greg would have been 12 years old on Saturday.

He was the son of Rev. and Mrs. Bruce Eaton, and a grade seven student at Brookville Public School. Several classmates attended his funeral.

Principal Kenneth Trowbridge described Greg as an "excellent student certainly one of the top calibre students." The boy had received most of his education in India where his father worked as a missionary for over five years. They returned to Canada last summer and Greg and three of his four brothers and sisters enrolled at Brookville.

After school on Friday, Greg is believed to have started walking from the school at Brookville to a home near Haltonville, further south on Nassagaweya's Guelph Line, to meet his mother. A friend gave him a ride on a bicycle and they stopped at the home just north of 15 Sideroad. Greg reportedly

staid goodbye to his friend and darted across the road.

A northbound half-ton truck driven by John Carter of Grand Valley struck him. A Milton O.P.P. spokesman said the driver didn't have a chance to miss the boy. He was rushed by Alexander Ambulance to Milton District Hospital where Dr. I. A. Hunter checked his severe head and chest injuries and ordered him to be transferred to Hamilton General Hospital. The boy was dead on arrival.

It was the second fatal traffic accident in the North Halton area this year.

## Whistle hours change Monday

Summer hours start at Beardmore and Co. on Monday, May 5 and the plant whistle will blow at 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. instead of the usual 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., company president Norm Brada announced last week.

Introduction of the earlier quitting time has proven popular with employees during the spring and summer months.

Monday, April 21, must have been atonement day in court. Forty-five convictions were registered for liquor, criminal and traffic offences. Over \$1300 in fines and costs were paid.

## 120 vehicles checked but no plates removed

The Acton Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police is proud to announce that after safety checking 120 motor vehicles, no licence plates have been removed. The majority of cars have minor faults, but as a rule the quality of cars is better than last year.

Nine motorists were issued traffic tickets for Highway Traffic Act infractions, and 39 other drivers were warned for various minor infractions, most of them arising from the safety lanes.

The local detachment of the O.P.P. warns that children on bikes are everywhere these days. Some of them are experienced, safe cyclists, but some are not. Give these young inexperienced cyclists the same consideration you'd show if one of them were your own child. Always overtake them cautiously, never startle them with a sudden blast of your horn, and pass them with plenty of room to spare. Remember, your extra care could save a young cyclist from serious injury, and possibly his life.



TRAINED DEPARTMENT of Transport year with no licences being removed. (Staff Photo) Results indicate a better overall record than last