

## Reject Two-County System Though Georgetown Agrees

Halton County council opposes the metro type super region of Halton and Peel as proposed by municipal affairs minister Darcy McKeough.

Tuesday, April 22 representatives of five of Halton's seven municipalities voted in favour of a Halton regional government separate from Peel County.

Only the representatives of Oakville and Georgetown wanted the council to endorse McKeough's plan.

The reeves and deputy reeves all voted according to the wishes of the majority of the members of municipal council which they represent.

Voting in favour of a two-tiered metro region for Halton alone were representatives of Burlington, Milton, Acton, Esquesing Township and Nassagaweya Township.

### Halton Area

The motion reads the county will work to get a two tiered Halton county regional government but if it fails to achieve this purpose then will work for the best possible deal in a Halton-Peel region.

Oakville deputy reeve William Gillies said McKeough doesn't care if the county council is opposed to his plan or not.

"He made his recommendation and he'll carry it out," Gillies said.

He said Halton should work for the best merger with Peel for Peel will approve the merger and be far ahead of Halton.

Georgetown reeve W.F. Hunter said if Halton approves the

merger now it will give the county council a chance to negotiate.

Acton's two representatives replied that McKeough told the steering committee studying his proposals that the first thing to decide is whether to have one or two regions.

There was an attempt made last week to delay the matter and turn it over to a committee of the seven reeves. However, representatives argued the Halton committee had to be told where the full council stands so that it can prepare a brief.

The plans for Halton Peel that McKeough announced in January are aimed at overhauling the existing municipal structure within the two county regions.

He favours setting up a regional council to govern the overall Halton-Peel region with seven borough units operating in place of the many local level councils. The two-tier plan is similar to the one now in operation in Metro Toronto.

### Question Mark

The question mark in McKeough's plan is Burlington which will either become part of the Halton-Peel region or be jumped with a Hamilton-Wentworth County region. The final decision will be based on the findings of the Steele Commission which is now studying regional government in the Hamilton area.



**SKATE CLUB PRESIDENT'S CUP** — Tom Pettingill, president of the Georgetown Figure Skating Club, presents the President's Cup to Sharon Watson at the conclusion of the club's season. The presentation was made in the Memorial Arena lobby. The President's Cup is presented annually to the Intermediate skater showing the best combination of technical merit, progress, willingness to help others and a genuine interest in figure skating. Also in the picture are six runners up (from left) Debbie Jarvie, Linda Finney, (Mr. Pettingill and Sharon Watson), Ann Kraus, Heather Moores, and Kérrí Hegstrom. Absent is another runner-up, Sharon Hewitt.



Photos by Adams Photography

**COMMITTEE'S CUP** — The most improved junior skater in the Georgetown Figure Skating Club this year, Denise Hatcher, receives the Committee's Cup from club president Tom Pettingill. Honourable mention was given to the six runners up (from left) Robyn Alcorn, David Broomhead, Kathy Elsiges, (Mr. Pettingill and Denise Hatcher), Rebecca Pettingill, Kris Barber and Nancy Richardson.

### Health Attendants For All Halton Secondary Schools

All secondary schools in the county will now employ health attendants. Georgetown High school has had the full time services of a health attendant for several years, but less than half the county schools were in this category.

At the Halton Board of Education meeting held in Georgetown, Thursday night, the board approved the hiring of a full time health attendant in secondary schools which are composite, or have an enrolment of over 1,000 pupils. Half time health attendants will be used in all other secondary schools.

In answer to a question from Ernie Bodnar, Georgetown's representative about the cost of the move, O. A. Gilmore, superintendent of instruction stated \$32,000 had been allocated for salaries and \$3,300 for supplies.

J. C. Ronson in reply to another question pointed out he had contacted the county health unit but felt they had no facilities to handle the schools as well as their public health nursing.

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## New Assessment, Can't Operate Chinguacousy Farmers Complain

The provincial court of revision has been told farmers in Chinguacousy, who make their entire income from their properties — can not exist under the 1969 basis of assessment in the township.

More than 700 individual appeals have been filed.

Evidence was given by Wingate farm manager Mel Armstrong that "any assessment much over \$300 per acre would make farming economically impossible."

He was backed up by farmer William Sheard who said:

"No one can buy farm land at over \$300 an acre and make any profit."

Peel County Assessment department has rated the eight Wingate farms at figures ranging from \$678 to \$741 per acre. A suggestion by Mr. Cham-

bers that the new figures were based on speculation as to what the land will be used for if sold for a use other than farming, and that "the assessment act does not state that speculation should be included in assessment," was refuted by the county assessor M. Williamson.

These figures are based on actual sales from farmer to farmer in this area or of a similar type property," he said.

"I suggest that any sale of farmland from one farmer to another at \$700 an acre includes a sum that is speculation for the future use of the land," said Mr. Chambers.

The board reserved its decision on the Wingate Farm appeal.

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### Manor Addition Cost County Taxpayers About \$900,000

The addition of Martin House at Halton Centennial Manor cost \$1,750,000 Halton county councillors were told during the budget meeting last week.

Treasurer Miss M. Maxstead reported the county share of the project is expected to be \$900,000, of which \$855,000 was financed, and a provincial loan of \$123,000 which was forgiven left \$150,000 to be financed. The current budget includes \$100,000 from revenue this year. The remaining \$50,000 is expected to be financed next year.

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