

Education budget set

Acton levy down

Expenses for the Halton County Board of Education will be up \$4,330,162 for a total of \$35,961,543 this year. All but one of the seven Halton municipalities will realize a reduction in their levy. Nassagaweya, the only township without a reduction, will see its mill rate jump 6.21 mills, subject to final calculations.

Board officials said the rise for Nassagaweya was due to a wrong estimation of the provincial equalization factor, resulting in an underlevy last year which has to be made up this year. Both Esquesing and Nassagaweya felt an adverse effect of this factor.

The provincial equalization factor is established by the Department of Municipal Affairs. With assessment increases last year in Nassagaweya it was estimated the factor would rise. Instead it decreased. The underlevy last

year which produced a 12 mill drop in Nassagaweya, is reflected this year as well as the lower equalization factor.

The second factor influencing the net effect on the mill rate was the arbitrators' award. When the County Board took over all schools at the end of 1968 some councils had surpluses and some carried deficits on the 1968 operations. The Nassagaweya board ended that year with a surplus. Had it not, the mill rate would have jumped 9.33 mills rather than 6.21 this year.

If your assessment is \$5,000 in Milton for 1970 your school taxes should drop about \$13. The same \$5,000 assessment in Burlington would give a reduction of about \$32, in Georgetown about \$29, in Oakville about \$24, in Esquesing about \$6, in Acton about \$14.40. If your property is assessed at \$5,000 in Nassagaweya you can expect to

pay about \$30 more than last year.

The mill rates are down 6.46 mills in Burlington, 2.68 mills in Acton, 1.33 mills in Esquesing, 5.89 mills in Georgetown, 4.76 in Oakville, 2.60 in Milton and up 6.21 in Nassagaweya.

The Board will ask municipalities for \$17,721,415 or 49.28 per cent of the total spending. Provincial grants account for 49.73 per cent or \$17,882,528. The remaining 99 per cent is accounted for through tuition fees and miscellaneous incomes.

The province increased its support this year by close to \$4,500,000 or 7.11 per cent more than last year. The increase in provincial support is significant in Halton because the Board was able to take full advantage as they contained per pupil costs.

The budget jumped 13.69 per

cent over 1969. Five per cent is due to increases in pupil enrolment and nine per cent can be attributed to increases in costs.

The per pupil cost of elementary students this year is \$642.33 or an increase of 9.8 per cent over last year. In the secondary schools per pupil costs jumped 7.28 per cent to \$1,099.45.

The board will spend \$19,769,138 for the 30,777 average enrolment in public schools and \$16,040,955 for the 14,590 average enrolment in secondary schools. In Milton education will cost \$530,459, in Acton \$384,436, in Esquesing \$792,146, in Nassagaweya \$355,805, in Oakville \$6,957,501, in Georgetown \$1,093,131, and in Burlington \$6,853,579.

The Board was not asked to accept the budget at the Thursday meeting but will be allowed a week to study it and offer questions at this Thursday's Board meeting when they expect to finalize the budget.

Director Jim Singleton said salary negotiations with staff and teachers are still underway. He noted there was a provision in the budget for a realistic settlement and an allowance for negotiations. If this should prove insufficient the rest of the budget will have to be examined. "Don't think because the budget is drawn negotiations will stop or are in any way jeopardized. Negotiations are underway and very amicable the director added.

Motorcycle, car collide

The driver of a motorcycle and his passenger were both slightly injured when the motorcycle and a car were in collision on Mill St. W. on Friday evening. Nigel Scott 17, was driver of the car which pulled out from a driveway.

David Bittorf, 16, driving the motorcycle, had an injured right knee and John Last had a twisted leg. The motorcycle had \$100 damage.

Cons. B. McArthur investigated.

Firefighters plan exercise

Plans for a spring training exercise for the firefighters of Halton's five fire departments were considered last week at the March meeting of Halton Mutual Aid Fire Services Assoc., held in Georgetown.

Mutual Aid co-ordinator Chief Douglas Wilson of Oakville and deputy co-ordinator Chief A. E. Clement of Milton are considering a date in May for the exercise. They held a mock fire drill at Stewarttown last year to train the firefighters to co-operate with members of the other county brigades.

Members settled on April 25 as the date for their annual dinner and dance. On that night certificates for winning the 1969 National Fire Protection Association's fire prevention scrapbook contest will be presented to Halton Fire Prevention Bureau, the Oakville and Milton fire departments.



RETIRING CARETAKER of the post office and customs building, George Collins was the guest of honor at a staff get-together Saturday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Murray Harrison. He was presented with a projector table, combination barometer and thermometer. A cleaning service takes over his job. (Staff Photo)



JANET BRAIDA

Janet Braida joins staff

After a two year training course in journalism at Sheridan College, Janet Braida has joined the news staff of Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd. She'll be working primarily from the Milton office on general news, pictures and feature stories.

A resident of Acton all her life, she attended both the Robert Little and M. Z. Bennett public schools and then completed the four year Arts and Science program at Acton District High School.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rino Braida, R. R. 2.



At the regular meeting Tuesday night, Acton council:

* Read and passed a by-law approving rezoning of land at the corner of Main St. S. and Church St. from CH to C1 to allow the erection of five stores and five apartment suites on the second floor. The by-law is subject to the approval of the O.M.B.

* Accepted the recommendation of the committee and appointed J. H. Goy to the Halton County Industrial Committee for 1970.

* Passed accounts for March totalling \$11,529.39.

* Passed resolutions recommending no objection to separations for lot 247 belonging to Lake Manor Holdings on Main St. N. on the south side of the CN tracks and another on Main St. S. belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Campbell.

* Endorsed a resolution from the town of Pelham requesting the Ontario government to amend the provisions of the Planning Act limiting the cost of applications to Committees of Adjustment to \$25, or as an alternative to amend the Act giving authority to municipalities to fix the cost of applications.

* Accepted the recommendations of the Acton Development Commission that all or part of the proceeds from the sale of land in the industrial park be applied against installation of services as required by council.

* Requested Planning Board consider a joint planning committee with Esquesing and Nassagaweya township planning boards.

* Authorized the mayor and clerk to sign a completion agreement for the addition to the water pollution control plant dated January 3, 1970, and also to pay the \$12,995.57 completion payment.

Minor accident at Mill-Main

\$20 damage resulted from a minor two vehicle collision at Mill and Main St. Thursday morning at 8.45 a.m. Cons. Doug Noseworthy investigated. John Bouclair, Peel St., was driving a truck for A. P. Green Company, and the driver of the car involved was William Bannister, Churchill Rd.

Arena repair bill back in council's court

Engineering reports on the condition of Acton arena, documents which town council and the recreation and parks board have been shuttling back and forth like a tennis ball, are headed in council's direction again.

The twin-hatted Board of Parks Management and Recreation Committee, passed a resolution at a meeting Monday that the latest engineering report regarding the desrepair of the arena be presented to council with the recommendation the town accept the responsibility for funds necessary to repair the building as outlined in the report. Estimated cost of the immediate repair job—\$24,000!

The engineers contacted by property chairman Phil

McCrill outlined nine steps necessary to put the arena back into safe condition, with numbers eight and nine not requiring immediate attention. The firm estimated the maximum total cost of the entire job would not exceed \$27,000 and would take five weeks to complete. However, the report indicated it would be impossible to know the full extent of repairs until the job was being done.

Mr. McCrill said he was assured that no one thinks the price would go as high as \$27,000. "That would be the worst possible condition," he emphasized.

"We are putting the town in the position of having to borrow the money," chairman Peter

Marks told the meeting, "but every member of the board has had the opportunity to see the work is necessary. And since it is a structural type of building it must be done step by step and reassessed as work progresses."

"This kind of work costs more money if it is done year by year," Councillor Orv Chapman declared, indicating he would support a move to have it done now.

Vice-chairman Bob Laughlin reminded the committee they were only asking for the minimum requirements and a "partial repair job year by year would lose more than the interest on money borrowed to do the job all in one stroke."

"The facts are indisputable," Mr. Laughlin declared.

Turn arena problem to budget committee

Council decided to have copies of the latest engineers' report on the condition of Acton arena made and distributed to all members and referred to the budget committee for their recommendations, following presentation of the parks and recreation board motion Tuesday.

Park chairman Councillor Marks told council the engineering firm had detailed

specifications drafted using safety as the criteria and this was as far as the board could go. They recommended immediate action on repairs to the building. Cost?—\$24,000.

"How many years do you suppose it will take to collect the money to get the work done?" asked finance chairman Oakes.

"Are you suggesting debentures?" asked Mr. Marks.

Bulldozers clear way for farm soil tests

Bulldozers at work on the Rognvaldson farm, south of Acton, are merely clearing a roadway in preparation for experimental soil tests, clerk-treasurer Delmar French told Esquesing council Monday night.

The farm is the site of a proposed centralized waste disposal plant.

Mr. French told council he contacted William Lombard of Trecon Associates after a township ratepayer called to ask what the bulldozers were doing there.

Mr. Lombard said his company had received prices on the construction of lagoons, but had definitely not started the actual construction.

He also said his company had engaged a solicitor to meet with lawyer Ken Langdon, who is representing area ratepayers opposed to the proposed plant.

Earlier in the meeting, Mr. French read a letter from the clerk of Moore township, informing council 18 residents in the area of Goodfellow disposal plant near Corunna have had their assessment lowered \$500, since the plant began operation.

May borrow books from other libraries

Acton library users will now have access, free of charge, to library collections other than those of their own local library.

Member libraries of the South Central Regional Library System will honor the library card from another library within the system. For example, a resident

of Acton, by reasons of his work, may find it more convenient to use a branch library in Burlington. He has only to present his Acton Public Library card to be permitted to borrow books from the Burlington Library System.

Car hits pole

Early Sunday morning at 1.30 a.m., a Rockwood driver was taken to Milton by Acton O.P.P. and failed their breathalyzer test. His car had run into a pole on Mill St. W., Acton, with \$500. damages resulting. Cons. Kressler investigated.

OBITUARY

Hubert Jordan long illness

Hubert Jordan was born in Melanethon, March 9, 1886 to Hugh Jordan and Mary Ann Stewart. On February 23, 1916 he married Laurenia Ritchie in Arthur, Ontario.

Mr. and Mrs. Jordan moved to Acton 28 years ago, where Mr. Jordan was employed by Beardmore Tannery until he retired in 1958.

Mr. Jordan had been ill at home for six years. He was admitted to Guelph General Hospital in February. After a period of three weeks he was transferred to St. Joseph's Chronic Hospital in Guelph, where he passed away one week later on March 11.

Mr. Jordan leave his wife Laurenia Ritchie, five sons and three daughters; Delmer, Gilbert, Melvin, Earl, Hugh, Mrs. Harold Andrews (Hazel), Mrs. Kevin Breen (Irene), all of Acton, and Mrs. Etalo Gaston (Beryl) of Milton; a brother George of Weyburn Saskatchewan, 27 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Mr. Jordan was predeceased by brothers Isaac, Will, Roy and Alfred and sisters Mabel and Fanny.

Funeral services were held at the Rumley-Shoemaker Funeral Home on March 13 with Rev. G. Turner of Trinity United Church officiating. The pallbearers were Harold Andrews, Kevin Breen, sons-in-law; Royle Howes, George Jordan, nephews; Keith Andrews and Morley Andrews, grandsons. Flowerbearers were Ken Jordan, John Jordan, Barry Breen, grandsons; Glen Gow, Siebe DeWitt, and Bill Hagan. Interment was in Fairview Cemetery.

Esquesing plans

Esquesing Council are presently drawing up plans for a building to house township equipment. The building is to be constructed on property adjacent to the present township offices near Stewarttown.

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