

# County spending over 2 1/2 million

Halton County Council's budget is up 7/10ths of a mill to six mills this year. On Monday councillors approved the 1970 estimates totalling \$1,718,668.75 for general expenditures at 3.9 mills plus road estimates on which Halton's share is \$925,437.01 for a 2.1 mill levy.

In addition the five northern Halton municipalities which share the services of the county's construction safety officer will contribute toward a special levy of \$8,000.

It will cost Acton \$52,933; Burlington \$1,126,903; Georgetown \$174,925; Milton \$82,560; Oakville \$1,056,695; Esquesing \$109,817; and Nassagaweya \$48,372 for county expenses this year. Taxation is drawn from a total tax base of \$440,684,294 worth of equalized assessment.

Indications the county's budget committee headed by Acton Reeve Dr. F. G. Oakes had already done all the paring that was possible, were evident

during Monday's meeting. Dr. Oakes reported the original totals had been cut by an estimated \$20,000 to keep the 1970 levy at six mills. It was 5.93 mills total last year. Councillors attempted to further reduce some budgets during the final session this week, but all attempts failed and the final budget was approved as drawn.

Oakville Deputy-Reeve William Gillies tried to have \$8,275 chopped from the Children's Aid Society budget because there were moneys in their budget for new offi accommodations which he claimed could not possibly be ready before the half-way mark of this year. The change was voted down.

When Burlington Reeve Gordon Gallagher complained the county's grant to the Royal Botanical Gardens was left at \$10,000 instead of increased as requested, Deputy-Reeve Gillies argued the grant should be phased out entirely. He suggested the city of Hamilton

derived most of the benefits from the RBG although part of the Gardens are in Halton. The province would never step in and take it over as long as local municipalities continue to give it grants, he added.

Complaints about a cut in the Museum Board budget were voiced by Nassagaweya Reeve Mrs. A. MacArthur and Milton Reeve Ron Harris. They noted the board needs \$700 this year for repairs to the roof. Reeve Oakes suggested the board should use its special reserve fund of \$1,000 but the museum representatives argued this money was donated by individuals, earmarked for restoration of certain artifacts, and could not be used for building maintenance.

The Lorne Scots Regiment had asked a \$3,000 grant but it was held to the normal \$1,500 grant. Reeve Oakes noted it was the federal government that had cut out the Lorne Scots Military Band and it was not up to the county councils of the three

counties to keep the band going by making up the difference in costs.

Acton Deputy-Reeve Tod Tyler, who asked several questions throughout Monday's two hour meeting, was the only member of council to vote against passing of the budget.

Revenue of \$731,998 this year includes special levies on the construction safety officer and high school debenture debts, grants to Emergency Measures Organization, a subsidy on the social and family services unit, weed control and bounty subsidies, child welfare collections, licences, rents and interest.

Expenditures include: General government - council and committees, salaries, benefits, office supplies, advertising, printing, postage, telephones and equipment, audit, legal, miscellaneous, court of revision, insurance, conventions, gifts and county property - construction safety officer, EMO, weed control, biotunities, fire prevention, disaster fund, \$31,240. Last year's actual was \$30,496. Public welfare - health unit, social and family services,

Halton Manor, Manor extension, Children's Aid, maintenance of children in care of other Societies, sheltered workshops, Mayfield School and miscellaneous welfare grants, \$1,285,717. Actual last year was \$662,411 but the county has taken over the social and family services counselling and welfare from local municipalities at an estimated \$672,255 this year.

Finance - debentures, interest on loans, etc. \$834,815. Actual in 1969 was \$645,646.

Other - Botanical Gardens, county museum, Lorne Scots, planning board, industrial committee, agricultural grants, reforestation, \$55,090. Actual last year was \$56,419.

Grants approved in the 1970 budget include Salvation Army \$1,650; C.N.I.B. \$1,000; St. John Ambulance \$200; Navy League of Canada \$100; John Howard Society of Ontario \$200; Canadian Mental Health Assoc. \$100; Muscular Dystrophy Assoc. \$100; Sheltered workshops for adult retardates \$17,400 (North Halton \$3,900, Burlington \$5,100 and Oakville \$8,400); Lorne Scots Reg't. \$1,500; Fire Prevention Bureau \$1,200; Royal Botanical Gardens \$10,000; Mayfield School Burlington \$2,587.



TRACKS OF model railroad blazed during a grass fire Monday afternoon at the farm of Walter Simmons, Guelph Line. Between 60 and 76 acres were burned over and a barn, hay and straw were threatened. Milton fire brigade assisted Acton. (Staff Photo)

## Grass fires occupy brigade

Acton firefighters are in the midst of the grass fire season, with four calls this week.

One, Monday afternoon on the farm of Walter Simmons on the Guelph Line, Nassagaweya township, threatened the barn, demolished a car and burned off 50-75 acres of grass. Fanned by high winds it also burned a model train track and set bales of straw and wood afire.

The Milton brigade was called to assist in quelling flames. While the two brigades were fighting grass, a manure pile at the farm of H. Olson, 25 Highway near Speyside, broke into flames and required another run.

Sunday, grass in Lakeview subdivision on property owned by Tom Brankiewicz caught fire and Tuesday afternoon the brigade extinguished another at the farm of Les Swackhamer at Churchill. Mr. Swackhamer was burning rubbish when the fire spread across the field.

MAY WE .....

**CONGRATULATE**

**G. ALEC JOHNSTON REALTOR**

ON YOUR FINE NEW OFFICES  
LOCATED AT 2 MILL ST. E.  
WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE  
HELPED BY INSTALLING THE HEATING SYSTEM.

**HANK'S HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING**

R.R. 4 ACTON - 853-0188  
"YOUR CERTIFIED LENNOX DEALER"

*Congratulations*

to  
**G. Alec Johnson Realtor**

Your new office building is an  
asset to the community.  
I am happy to have been chosen  
painting contractor.

**DAVID COHEN**  
PAINTING and DECORATING

280 PEEL ST. ACTON 853-2815

## Esquesing denies approving drag strip

Esquesing Council denied ever approving the establishment of the proposed Golden Horseshoe Dragway in the north end of the township, Monday night.

"The only statement we made was that we had no by-law to stop it," declared Deputy Reeve Tom Hill at the regular meeting of council. Quizzed by ratepayer Peter Bowman, who told council he had been grilled in court that day in a preliminary hearing before a decision is given on the stop work injunction applied to the drag strip, councillors denied they ever gave approval.

Mr. Bowman declared an affidavit by drag strip promoters intimated that Esquesing council approved their project. "I understood council only approved the control tower and the washrooms," he said.

"This council never approved it," the reeve agreed.

Mr. Bowman also charged the solicitor for defendants in the stop work order case said the clerk told him the agricultural holding by-law 29-69 was not being pushed by the township. "Is the by-law being scrapped?" he asked.

Clerk Del French replied that what Mr. Bowman implied was not true. "Mr. Sopinka phoned wanting to know whether council was pushing the by-law. I told him council had engaged a planner and would want to consult him on any decisions they made."

Councillor Russell Miller said solicitor Fred Nelson told him there was no way council could stop the by-law now.

"It is in front of the O.M.B. now," agreed the deputy reeve. He also held the opinion council could be sued by others who had been affected by the by-law's provision if they didn't go through with it.

Mr. Bowman questioned evidence heard at the injunction hearing in an affidavit which said permission had been given for five and a half hours of racing when approval from the board of Health said the maximum allowed would be four hours.

Council made no comments as Mr. Bowman waved documents to buttress his case.

## Esquesing building permits

Building inspector Tom McLean issued a total of eight building permits in Esquesing township during the month of March.

Total value of the buildings is \$82,900 and the total cost of the eight permits was \$116.

Seventeen plumbing permits were also issued.

## Everton grant

A provincial grant of \$2,000 has been approved for capital improvements in the Everton Conservation area by the Minister of Energy and Resources Management George Kerr. M.P.P. John Root advised the Free Press this week. Work will be under the supervision of the Grand River Conservation Authority.

**OPEN HOUSE**

**G. Alec Johnson Realtor**

CORDIALLY INVITE THE PUBLIC

TO ATTEND AN OPEN HOUSE IN THEIR  
NEW AND SPACIOUS OFFICES AT  
2 MILL ST. E., ACTON

**SATURDAY APRIL 18th**

FROM  
**9 A.M. to 6 P.M.**

- REFRESHMENTS SERVED -

We now offer strictly private  
office areas for all business transactions



BUSINESS CHANGES AT the corner of Mill and Main Sts. include the offices of G. Alec Johnson. An open house will be held Saturday in the new premises formerly occupied by McLeod Furniture. The offices have been renovated and moved into the new and more spacious quarters.

**Congratulations**

are extended to

**G. ALEC JOHNSTON REALTOR**

ON HIS OPENING OF A  
NEW AND MODERN OFFICE BUILDING.

WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE BEEN  
CHOSEN AS ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS  
FOR THIS FINE BUSINESS PLACE.

**Jon Hurst Electric**  
57 Young St. - Acton  
853-2015

**Congratulations**

TO

**G. ALEC JOHNSTON REALTOR**

ON THE OPENING OF YOUR  
NEW OFFICE BUILDING

WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR FOR RENOVATIONS

**K & KR Schmuki Construction**

P.O. BOX 1003 ACTON 853-2028