



IF YOU GUYS DON'T smarten up and curl right there'll be a couple of ringers on the team says Lyle Cantlon of Calgary to others on the western rink competing in Saturday's Northern Stag bonspiel. There was one ringer on the west—Monte Root

of Rockwood, flanked by two Winnipeggers, Len Brunton and Bob Morrison, all in mock horror at the threat. Entries for the bonspiel came in a variety of togs.—(Staff Photo)

Education levy . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

per cent. Per pupil costs at the secondary level are up \$73.58 to \$1,172 or an increase of 6.7 per cent.

Per pupil costs for 79 students at trainable retarded schools are up 22.10 per cent or \$471.21 to a per pupil cost of \$2,603.16.

Grants up

Locally, for the public schools, the percentage rate of grant has increased from 48.90 per cent to 52.94 per cent for the recognized ordinary expenditures and from 71.65 per cent to 78.35 per cent for the recognized extra-ordinary expenditures. For the secondary schools the grant for the recognized ordinary expenditures has increased from 56.52 per cent to 60.52 per cent and for recognized extraordinary expenditures from 68.57 per cent to 73.55 per cent.

At the public school level ordinary expenditures amount to \$36.53 per pupil compared to a ceiling of \$45. At the secondary level the recognized ordinary expenditure amounts to \$974.33 in Halton compared to the provincial ceiling of \$1,060.

However Halton County Board will not be allowed to go over \$979. That ceiling comes into play because of a stipulation by the department of education that states no board should increase its per pupil costs by more than \$75.

Bell costs more

Bell Canada's new assessing methods cost the Board \$205,000. This is reflected in an increase of \$4 on the per pupil cost at the elementary level or \$4 at the secondary level.

For the public schools, the grants are estimated to be \$11,443,702 which is an increase of \$1,740,407 over 1970, and represents 54.33 per cent of the costs. In 1970 the grants amounted to 49.24 per cent of the cost.

The secondary school grants are estimated to be \$10,401,180, an increase of \$1,834,947 over 1970 representing 55.50 per cent of the total costs. In 1970 the grants represented 52.04 per cent of the cost.

This significant increase in assistance from the Provincial Government has resulted in a corresponding reduction in the

amount required to be raised by taxes at the local level.

We pay 45 per cent

The amount to be apportioned between the municipalities for public school purposes amounts to \$9,551,307. This represents 45.34 per cent of the cost compared to 50.11 per cent in 1970.

The apportionment for the secondary schools amounts to \$8,032,152 representing 42.86 per cent of the cost compared to 45.25 per cent of the cost in 1970.

Compared to other boards across the province, Halton finds itself in a favorable position. A number of counties boards have found it necessary to cut teaching and supervisory staffs and curtail certain programs to meet guidelines set down by the province.

Instructional costs are the most expensive item at each level. Instructional costs represent 67.73 per cent of the elementary budget, 71 per cent of the secondary budget and 55.5 per cent of the budget for schools for the trainable retarded.

ACTON COUNCIL BRIEFS

At the regular meeting of Tuesday night, Acton Council:

—Passed a resolution making no objection to the separation in two of property known as the "old Beverly House" property at the corner of Church and Maria Sts. Bev-Ton Holdings propose to build two six storey apartment buildings on the site and asked for the severance to facilitate mortgages. They plan to build one apartment building on each lot if the severance is granted.

—Accepted the IBM estimate of \$567.40 for the production of the 1971 tax bill and ledgers.

—Authorized the attendance of town superintendent Alf Dudy and Clerk-Administrator Joe Hurst at a Department of Highways surface treatment seminar at Grimsby on April 14, expenses paid.

—Passed a resolution proclaiming April 18 to 24 as Chamber of Commerce Week in Acton. Councillor Bill Coats and Reeve Oakes were opposed.

—Made no objection to a request in front of the Committee of Adjustment from Alteo Construction for severance and minor variances on property owned by the company on Main St. N. The company has built two semi-detached dwelling units on the property and a separation would allow them to sell each half of each dwelling unit. It is also proposed to erect concrete porches at the side of the units which requires a variance.

The two and a half hour meeting was attended by all members of council with Councillor Norm Elliott in the chair for the Committee of the Whole session.

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Planning board loses member

seven copies of the official plan and the attendance of planner Denis Flood at one meeting.

EASTER seals are beginning to appear on mail. It's campaign time here.

County budget up 15% spend over \$3 million

Halton County Council's budget is up by 15 per cent or \$449,179 over last year. In addition to that the five northern municipalities will share the cost of a construction safety officer at \$8,392.

Approximate costs by municipality are Acton \$63,518, Burlington \$1,314,690, Georgetown \$208,856, Milton \$98,721, Oakville \$1,221,151, Esquesing \$130,677, and Nassagaweya \$50,280. At the final budget discussions Tuesday councillors agreed not to decrease the Halton Museum Budget by \$5,411 as recommended by the finance committee. This increase is not reflected in the above figures. That was the only change from the estimates approved earlier.

Councillors' boosted

The budget reflected a \$30,000 increase in salary increases for members of council. Other abnormal increases were attributed to extra staff in the social and family services department, a \$10,000 increase in grants to the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton and Burlington and an increase of \$122,000 in financial expenses to cover the balance of

a grant to Burlington's Joseph Brant Hospital.

The county roads department is the greatest single expenditure costing the county an estimated \$1,023,600 or 50 per cent of the \$2,059,600 spent on roads in Halton for 1971. The roads department finished 1970 with a surplus of \$57,000 so the county will raise an additional \$996,000 for the purpose of roads this year.

General administration will cost the county \$176,663, property \$172,377, and unclassified general government expenditures \$2,672. Other expenditures include unclassified protection to persons and property \$4,250, Emergency Measures \$19,200, Social and Family services \$772,200 (an increase of \$52,000).

Halton Manor will cost \$1,419,850 this year of which the county pays \$155,000, Children's Aid society will cost \$388,781 of which the county pays \$75,957. The county's share of \$778,012 to operate the Health Unit is \$388,066.

The county approved welfare grants of \$7,050 and community service grants of \$55,560. Halton County Museum will cost the county \$38,971. An amount of

\$1,700 was allotted for the County Economic Development committee.

Financial expenditures totalled \$968,044. They include interest on loans, provision for working reserve, costs of financing hospital debentures and other similar costs.

Revenue

In the revenue column the county will receive \$107,087 in taxes, \$844,337 in grants, recoverables and subsidies and \$31,950 for a total revenue of \$983,374.

General estimated expenditures are estimated at \$3,115,021 and the levy on municipalities is \$2,090,881.

The cost of road construction and maintenance in the county is estimated at \$2,059,600. Of that Department of Highways will pay \$1,035,000 and the county will pay \$1,023,600.

The budget passed unanimously. Oakville Reeve Allan Masson and Georgetown Reeve Rick Morrow made one last attempt to have all grants wiped out of the county expenditures but were unsuccessful.

Northern Stag bonspiel one of best this season

Northern Stag of Rockwood sponsored a bonspiel at Acton Curling Club Saturday.

It was one of the best organized and patronized of all the bonspiels held at the club this winter. Bob Armstrong of Acton was the guiding spirit and organized the event. There were rinks from as far west as Winnipeg and as far east as Montreal taking part. Most rinks represented firms with which the Northern Stag firm are connected in a business way, but they all came to curl and enjoy themselves.

This was a three game eight-end bonspiel and points counted for prizes. Both draws were lumped together when it came to passing out the prizes. And prizes were well worth the effort.

Recreation notes

—At their regular meeting Tuesday night, Acton Parks and Recreation Committee

—Decided lacrosse teams from out of town will be charged \$10 per hour if they wish to rent floor time in the community centre.

—Authorized secretary Doris Townsley to advertise for applicants for the position of lifeguard and for the position of recreational co-ordinator in connection with the committee's proposed new summer program.

—Authorized Mrs. Townsley to pay the monthly financial statement which amounted to \$1848.45. \$1400 of the total went to purchase stock for the arena booth. Another \$300 was used for machinery repairs.

—Arena manager Harold Townsley reported the booth netted \$748.78 during the month of February.

—Mr. Townsley also reported ice making machinery will likely be turned off Sunday, April 4, the day after the Acton Figure Skating Club's carnival. He also mentioned he has received several requests for ice time from Georgetown minor hockey teams for this week. Ice time in Georgetown arena is being taken up by the annual bantam tournament.

—Vice-chairman Gil Malcolm presided in the absence of chairman Hugh Patterson who is holidaying in Europe. All other members were present. Business was concluded in a record 55 minutes.

Acton contributes 20% county budget

Acton's share of county council grants?

About two per cent or one-fifth of the total budget, assured Reeve F. G. Oakes to questions from Councillor Norm Elliott asking about a \$20,000 grant to the botanical gardens at Hamilton during the enquiries at Tuesday's meeting of council. Dr. Oakes is Warden of Halton.

Reeve Oakes and deputy-reeve McKenzie defended the grants to the gardens, pointing out they as Acton's representatives on county council had to give into some requests from southern councillors. By the same token, representatives from the south supported projects in the north like Acton Fall Fair, by means of grants.

Councillor Elliott said he would much rather see Acton's portion of the grant go towards something for Acton than to the botanical gardens. It was estimated Acton's share of the grant would amount to \$400.

Broad view

The deputy-reeve said that by the same token representatives from Burlington would much rather see the money going towards the gardens than to Acton Fall Fair, but they supported Acton. "We have to take a broad view," he told council.

He said other counties contributed more than Halton to the well known beauty spot. It was pointed out that part of the

botanical gardens were in Halton and that quite likely county council would ask for representation on the board of management.

"Don't get me wrong, I haven't got anything against flowers," said Mr. Elliott with a grin.

Drowned in voices

The mayor saw the threat of more representation from the south as the real problem where Halton could end up like Peel County, where the north is drowned in the clamor of voices.

Reeve Oakes, warden of Halton, said one of his most difficult jobs as warden this year was to point out that the county did not end beyond Burlington and Oakville and he felt the message was coming through. He

pointed out often to other members of county council that Acton had no county roads and participated in grants to hospitals in the south when citizens here might rather they go to Guelph.

The reeve admitted the grapevine said Burlington and Oakville were meeting to ask for more representation on county council but he felt if it was true that it was a "distasteful" way of doing it.

Under the present system at the county the reeve of Burlington, for instance, gets five votes instead of having five representatives on council. The system allows equal representation but allows the south to outvote the north on crucial questions.

Shelve school carnival

The public school skating carnival, held annually by Acton Parks and Recreation Committee, has been shelved temporarily.

At Thursday night's committee meeting, arena manager Harold Townsley reported he has had only one teacher ask about the event. He suggested the committee let it go by the board this year and see if interest will pick up again.

Acton's two public schools competed in the yearly event along with schools from

Esquesing, Nassagaweya and Erin townships. Prizes were given for skating races, best costumes etc.

Committee member Barry Inscow, coach of Acton novice hockey team, reported Hespeler held their first public school carnival last Wednesday following the Acton-Hespeler novice game.

"The arena was packed and that was only three schools out of Hespeler," he said.

Seek more badminton players

Badminton, anyone? Although the badminton courts were overcrowded at the first of the season, now more players can easily be accommodated! The high school gym converts to badminton courts every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 to 10 p.m.

Players "come and go" during the evenings.

Present players figure a \$2 a couple membership should do from now till the end of the season, so they'd be happy to welcome any new players.

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