

Slash County roads budget

Halton County Roads Committee slashed budget estimates for almost three hours Thursday afternoon and finally cut about \$600,000 from an estimated budget of \$2,822,100.

The committee slashed the budget by taking \$1,000 here and \$1,000 there and sometimes deferring entire projects for over \$150,000. But they still needed to cut over a quarter of a million dollars to receive provincial subsidy on all jobs.

Tighten belts

The province put a ceiling of \$1,064,000 on their subsidy which meant the county had to tighten its belt and bring their share of the cost to within that ceiling or pay 100 per cent for everything over \$2,128,000.

Warden Jim Swanborough pointed to Milton's Main St. reconstruction job valued at \$296,000 as a logical place to cut. He said that program had only been put into the five year program because the committee felt there would be a subsidy for it. He argued other projects were in the program first and should be treated first.

Milton Reeve Ron Harris, a non-voting member of the committee, argued the project should go ahead. He said the town would have been happy to do the work themselves and had no say in the recent county takeover of the road. He said it was essential the project go ahead.

County engineer Jack Corbett suggested the program would cost the town close to \$100,000 over and above the \$296,000 the county would pay. He said the job was due to have tenders let in April and construction underway in May.

The major cuts saw a \$40,000 job at Halton-Peel boundary at Norval in Esqueving Township deleted from this year's budget. The money was allocated towards design and construction of a storm sewer. A \$140,000 project on No. 25 Sideroad in Esqueving was halved. The first part of that project will be cut and the second done early in 1973.

Cut Steeles Ave.

A \$170,000 project to widen Steeles Ave. from Ontario to Harrop Dr. in Milton was all but cut from the budget. About \$1,000 was left in the budget to keep the project on the books.

The committee will also recommend to council that the new county garage be deferred for one year and the construction at 25 Sideroad near Acton be deferred unless the county is successful in getting a supplementary subsidy from the province. Together the two projects will ease the county roads committee needs by over \$200,000.

While the committee was insistent that the county pressure the province for additional money, department of highways representative Bruce Newington said it would be like trying to squeeze blood out of a rock. While he didn't entirely rule out the possibility, he left little hope for additional funds.

Name committee heads

Chairmen of committees for 1972 were named at the February meeting of Halton County Fire Prevention Bureau by Lt. Glenn Stringer of Milton, chairman.

Chief Douglas Wilson of Oakville returns as chairman of the literature committee and Chief A. E. Clement of Milton was named to chair the public relations committee, with Roy Downs of Milton as his assistant. Ivan Clarridge of Milton will be in charge of posters and trophies this year.

Capt. Harold Coulson, Milton, was named chairman of the Christmas program while four fire chiefs, J. D. Wilson of Oakville, J. C. Cunningham of Georgetown, A. E. Clement of Milton and M. Holmes of Acton were named to chair a program committee. The 1972 auditors will be B. Fowler and L. McIntyre of Acton.

Plan programs

Chairman Stringer, vice-chairman Jim Coulson of Milton, secretary Insp. Peter Campbell of Oakville and treasurer Doug Harley of Georgetown had been elected at the group's January meeting. District Deputy Chief Jim Jefferies of Burlington is past chairman. The Bureau members meet monthly to plan fire prevention programs and campaigns that are carried out on a county-wide basis by the five member fire departments.



BUILDING — CONSTRUCTION — OR JUST PLAIN MAINTENANCE

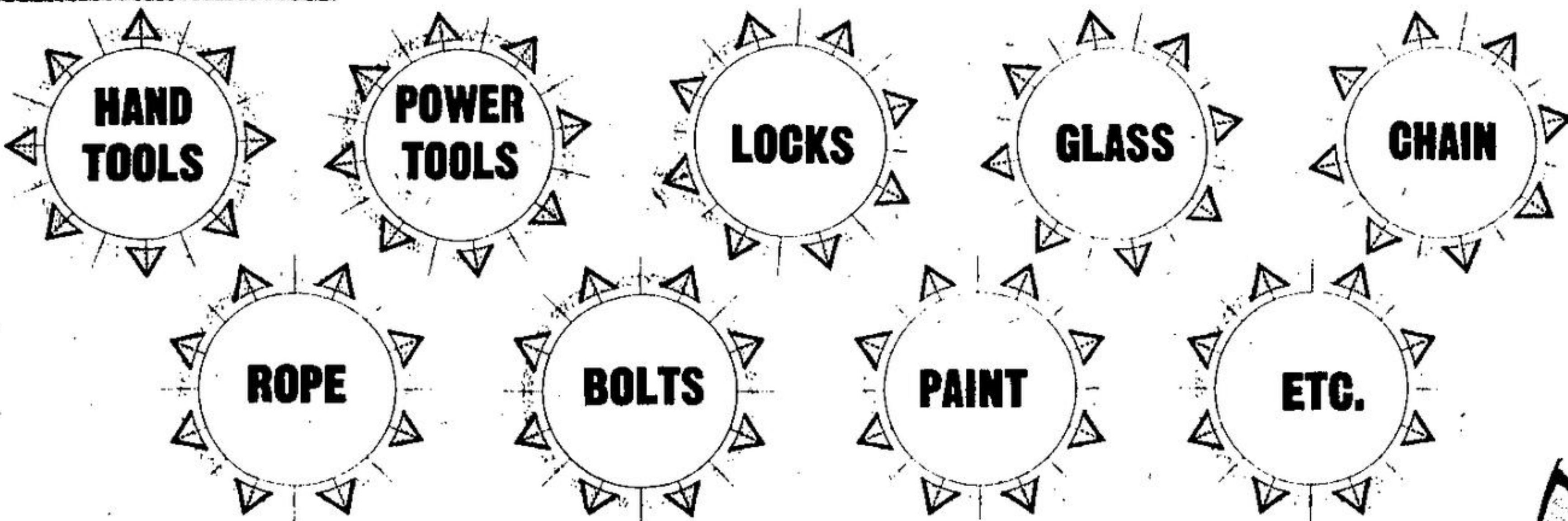
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