

# Average home owner will pay \$65 more this year

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### Resume Rockwood hearing May 1

The final phase of the controversial water and sewer debate in Rockwood may be heard at an Ontario Municipal Board hearing called for the village hall Tuesday, May 1, at 10.30 a.m.

The hearing is a continuation of two previous sessions, which resulted in a 13-page O.M.B. decision dated January 20 asking for more information regarding the additional cost involved in by-passing the conservation park and reasons for the selection of the outfall pipe location.

**Decide change**

During the interim the Ontario Municipal Board suggested the time could be used to decide on the service charge to be imposed on commercial users and the school board.

The board also ruled any reports used in presenting further evidence should be exchanged between counsel for the Village of Rockwood and counsel for the Ratepayers' Association at least 10 days prior to the date set for the continuation of the hearing.

One of the most contentious issues in the case to date has been the cost and the OMB in its last report noted it had not been established that there is any extravagance proposed by the works.

"The determination of the application therefore hinges on whether it is reasonable to undertake the expense involved in order to derive the benefits to be received from the works, and whether the charges have been fairly assessed to the residents of the village," the OMB report noted.

"In order to properly consider this question the Board should have all the financial information available to it, and in particular the additional expense required to by-pass the Conservation Authority lands with sewer effluent," the report states. It is reasoned this has now been done and the OWRC is ready to present it as evidence.

There is also evidence to be refuted by the OWRC that the flow in the Eramosa River is slight and does not represent the considerable volume of turbulent water flowing over a rocky river as suggested by the engineer Hawkins. The OMB said that data on flow measurements would be

crucial to a technical evaluation and the Board noted the OWRC had no such evidence at the December hearing.

**Pond suitable?**

"It may well be," the report continued, "that the head pond of the river dam is a more suitable body of water to receive and assimilate effluent of this nature, and were it not for the desire to accommodate the recreational facilities of conservation lands, such a location might have been selected."

The Board felt the OWRC should be given the opportunity to provide the necessary information and so deferred the remainder of the hearing until it was available.

Both sides of the question—the Ratepayers Association and village trustees—interpreted the January report as being favorable to them but the new hearing scheduled for May 1 should settle the question once and for all.

The OMB said in one section of the report that unless the discretion of municipal council to proceed with these works is clearly shown to be erroneous the Board felt that it should not interfere unduly with the exercise of that discretion. However, in the concluding remarks the Board notes, "the Board does not believe it appropriate to dismiss the application outright until the OWRC had a chance to supply information."

### Two charges of forgery

A Malton man was arrested in Acton Sunday, April 16 and charged with two offenses of forgery. The young man was recognized by Con. Roy Wood at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

The offenses for which he was charged occurred here in October and November and involved the passing of Workmen's Compensation Board cheques at two town banks, The Bank of Nova Scotia and the Toronto-Dominion.

He will appear in court in Milton May 15.

### Late fishing

Ice on Fairy Lake was beginning to get very slushy last Wednesday when two 10 year old lads strolled out on it all set to go ice fishing. A neighbor on Elizabeth Dr., alarmed at the danger, phoned police. The youngsters came off and their parents were contacted.



NORTH HALTON O.P.P. were called to the scene Monday morning, when a Donline Haulage cab, trailer and pup, travelling west on 22 Sideroad, slipped off the road into the mud. Driver of the vehicle Alberto Bursic was not injured.



TWO LARGE TOW trucks were needed to pull a Donline Haulage cab, trailer and pup out of the mud on the north side of 22 Sideroad, Monday afternoon. No injuries resulted, when the vehicle slipped off into the mud, while trying to get past an oncoming truck, which was also loaded. The mishap occurred at 8.40 a.m., but the vehicle was not pulled out until late afternoon. Police allowed traffic to pass through the area intermittently, although the road was blocked for some time. (Photo by D. Gibbons)

## New company, same plans former Seynuck property

Construction of five model homes on the former Seynuck property at the corner of Wallace and Mill Streets, is scheduled to begin next month, Bovis Corporation housing division manager Ken Pain told Acton Hydro Commission Thursday night.

Pain told the meeting his company, which has previously been heavily committed to housing development in the U.K., has entered a purchase agreement with Hulad Development to acquire approximately 50 acres of land and hopes to assume Hulad obligations.

He said he hoped to have the first 50 units of the development in the throes this year, in keeping with phase one of the Hulad plan.

**Same agreement**

Pain said he hoped his company could carry on dealings with the commission under the terms of the Hulad agreement, so that no time would be lost in drawing up a new agreement.

Mayor Les Doby, who is also a commission member, told Mr. Pain the commission and the

town will be most co-operative. "I'm quite surprised at these developers, who have played around in the Acton area for the past four years," the mayor commented in obvious reference to previous owners of the Seynuck property. "This

development could have been built three years ago," he lamented.

Commission member Ted Tyler Sr. pointed out ownership of the land has changed four times. "And they've all made a dollar at it," he added.

## No objection medical centre

No objection was made Tuesday to the application of KVG Stores Ltd. for a second storey to house a medical centre and a resolution was passed permitting the change. Committee of Adjustment held the hearing in the council chambers last night (Tuesday) with chairman Neil Miller presiding.

Dr. Craig Hutchinson and pharmacist Bill Yundt made their presentation for a second medical centre in town and a pharmacy in the existing area, formerly Red and White store, on Queen St.

A couple of observers attended the meeting but no objections were made.

The application will be sent from the town office to the Department of Municipal Affairs. After a waiting period of 14 days the decision becomes final.

Pain said his company's purchase agreement with Hulad is due to close at the end of this month. He explained Bovis has recently acquired the heavy equipment division of McNamara Construction, but will phase out the heavy equipment business, in favor of housing development.

Asked about plans to heat homes in the new development, Pain said the matter had not yet been discussed, but indicated he has always had trouble selling electric heat in a project in the past.

The commission and Hulad representatives failed to sign an agreement last year on the type of wiring to be used in the development. Hulad originally asked for overhead installations, while the commission insisted on underground wiring. A verbal agreement was reached on underground.

**WARMEST** day of the year yesterday. Some people even had nerve enough to complain about the heat!

### Holding by-law says

## No barn dance in Esquesing tonight

Georgetown area French Canadian Association president Roger Primeau failed Monday night to convince Esquesing Council they should reconsider their previous refusal to issue the group permits for social gatherings in a renovated barn on the property of Miss St. Jean, south of Georgetown.

Council originally issued Miss St. Jean a building permit for a barn for agricultural purposes only, but found out later washroom facilities were being installed and social functions were taking place there.

Subsequently, as a result of

council action, one event was stopped by police, shortly before it was about to begin. Another was allowed to take place, only because plans had already been made and council did not wish to interrupt it, according to Councillor Dick Howitt.

### Not forthright

Howitt charged that Miss St. Jean has not been entirely forthright in her dealings with council.

"The permit was issued in the first place for agricultural purposes only," Howitt said. "Even when the washrooms were

being installed and we became suspicious, she assured us it was strictly for agricultural purposes."

Councillor Len Cox explained to Mr. Primeau the township's holding by-law must be upheld. "That's our big stumbling block," he said. "Sometimes we don't like it any better than anyone else, but it's something we have to live with."

Primeau told council his association is trying to develop land around the barn for recreational purposes. Social events, he explained, were being held mainly to help finance

recreational facilities. He said group workers have used tractors and farm equipment to work the land into suitable condition for recreation.

"Why did you go ahead and put a stage in without asking? Why didn't you come for a building permit," Reeve Tom Hill asked.

### One complaint

Primeau asked if 200 people were going to have to do without the social gatherings, when only one person had actually issued a complaint.

"It doesn't matter if nobody complains, a by-law is a by-law," Howitt replied. He added the

group may have a chance to have the land re-zoned, after the township's official plan receives OMB approval.

Primeau wondered if the association might confine their activities to barn dances.

"You can go ahead and have your barn dances, but if we shut you down, you'll know why," Reeve Hill emphasized.

Primeau said he has heard of three other similar places in the township that are holding dances.

"To my knowledge there aren't any," Hill concluded.

## Slash budgets but mill rate up 3.6

Residential taxpayers in Acton will pay 3.6 mills more in 1972 while the commercial and industrial rate is up 5.7 mills.

Acton council came up with the new rate at a special meeting Monday night but final details of the budget will not be settled until council decides which particular items will be cut. The residential rate was set at 90.7 mills compared to 87.1 in 1971, while the commercial and industrial rate jumped from the 1971 figure of 96.2 to 101.9 mills to raise \$473,170.84 - up almost \$50,000 from 1971.

The figures are based on a total assessment of \$9,151,353, comprised of \$5,120,011 residential and \$4,021,342 commercial and industrial.

For an average householder with an assessment of \$3,500 this means the new rate represents a tax hike of \$12.60 in 1972, based on \$3.60 for every thousand dollars worth of assessment. However taxpayers will also have to remember the provincial tax rebate scheme has been shelved. In 1971 it looked after \$53.20 of the average tax bill.

So the average taxpayer faces an estimated \$65.80 hike in tax payments for 1972, some of which will be recoverable on income tax during 1973.

Finance committee chairman Reeve Frank Oakes said this year's budget was the most difficult he had experienced in more than eight years on council. "We were faced with two adversities; (1) the increased costs in every budget and (2) it was a poor year of growth for assessment."

The reeve compared the growth in assessment in 1971 which was up \$550,000 over 1970 while 1972 showed only a meagre \$75,000 over the 1971 figure.

"It is the lowest increase I have experienced as a councillor in a given year," he said.

However, the reeve saw better times ahead in 1972. He predicted a healthy increase in assessment for 1973 which would give council of that year a stronger base to draw on.

Oakes told council the budget committee faced a 1 1/2% mill increase when the various budgets were all added up, and they found this "totally unacceptable." The committee decided a 3 1/2 or four mill increase for residential and five mills for commercial would be their aim, meaning they would have to pare eight mills from the budgets submitted to them.

Then they proceeded to chop mills from submitted budgets to arrive at the acceptable figure.

Biggest cut was \$17,100 in the recreation committee's budget slated for operation of the community centre. The committee asked for \$31,688.81 to operate the centre but council chopped that figure down by \$6,700, took \$400 off capital costs, and pared another \$10,000 off repairs the recreation committee hoped to do.

The reeve said the recreation budget reached almost \$13 a person which in the committee's opinion, was "too rich for our blood." They felt the \$8 figure they allowed was "generous."

The public works budget also took a \$9,200 chop as did the administration committee's proposed budget. The parks board budget took a \$1,200 cut, the development commission also was reduced from \$2,500 to \$1,500—a \$1,000 cut.

The budget also proposed to raise a \$7,100 capital reserve fund for the use of either public works or administration committee, whichever need was greatest, allowed \$4,500 for the newly formed centennial committee, both of which were criticized.

The levy of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority was increased in 1972 to \$4,709 from the 1971 figure of \$3,341, which the clerk explained was no longer levied on per capita figures, but on assessment.

Although the education levy—which accounts for 38.3 mills of the budget—was up approximately half a mill, there is no increase because of a \$5,000 reserve existing from last year. The county levy was also up by 2.9 mills residential and five mills commercial and industrial.

Complete figures were not available at press time but the Free Press hopes to publish final details of the budget next week.

Reeve Oakes estimated the newly introduced interim tax billing in January and March saved taxpayers at least \$2500 in interest charges this year.

Council also decided that the remainder of taxes would be collected in four instalments due on May 31, July 15, September 15 and November 15 of this year.

### Recap of mill rate

	1971		1972	
	Comm	Res.	Comm.	Res.
General	46.7	41.9	51.7	44.8
County	6.9	6.9	7.6	7.6
Education	42.6	38.3	42.6	38.3
	96.2	87.1	101.9	90.7

Residential assessment  
Commercial and Industrial

5,120,011  
4,021,342  
\$9,151,353

To be raised by taxes \$473,170.84  
This amount is determined by subtracting receipts of \$156,573.68 from general expenses of \$629,744.52.

## Struck by car dog bites teacher

A distressing accident happened just before school Monday, when a dog was struck by a car and had to be destroyed.

The beagle, which had broken loose from its chain, was hit by the car driven by M. Z. Bennett school principal Elmer Smith on Mill St. about 8.30 a.m.

Teacher David Boycott, driving behind, stopped to help and was bitten on the hand by the injured dog. He was treated at Guelph General Hospital and didn't get to school till about 11 a.m.

**Vet passing**  
By chance a veterinarian, Dr. Vicky (Zavitz) de Klier of

Georgetown was driving past and stopped to help. With her training she was able to secure the dog with a belt and muzzle it with a rope, to prevent its biting again.

It was taken to Dr. Oakes but its injuries were so severe it was destroyed. Its owner, Jack Walker, Maria St. had come to the scene of the accident.

Students going to school at both the M. Z. Bennett school and high school saw the incident.

The police also were called.

**SAVE** up your newspapers. Knox Young People will be around for them at the end of the month.