

Nassagaweya remembers

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES in Nassagaweya township November 12 were held at the Soldiers' Memorial at Haltonville under the auspices of the council, Acton and District Legion and the clergy. Rev. Jeffares led in prayer and preached a short sermon. Hymns were led by Dr. George Elliott on the cornet. He also played the Last Post for the traditional two minutes of silence. Wreaths were laid for the province by Mrs. Taylor (shown), for the township by Reeve Anne MacArthur and for the Legion by Comrade Hugh O'Rourke.



—H. Coles Photos

Bell asks increases in telephone rates

Basic residence telephone rates in the Acton exchange would go up five cents a month in 1973 and 30 cents a month in 1974 if the Canadian Transport Commission approves increases asked by Bell Canada Friday, November 10.

Proposed increases were included in applications "A", to take effect in 1973, and "B", to be introduced in 1974.

The 1973 application asked for increases in basic rates, service charges, long distance rates and other services such as extensions.

The 1974 application includes proposed increases in basic rates, service charges, long distance and pay phone rates, extensions, and a new 25-cent charge for some calls to directory assistance.

L. G. Denby, Bell manager in this area, claimed increases allowed Bell by the CTC last May are being largely offset by increased operating costs beyond its control.

Service charges would double in two stages, with a 50-percent increase in 1973 and a further one-third increase in 1974. Present rate for a new residence phone installation is \$11. This would go to \$18.50 next year and \$22 in 1974.

Increases proposed for 1973 for long distance would apply to the initial charge period and only on calls within Bell territory: two cents for customer-dialed; five cents for operator-handled station-to-station, and 10 cents for person-to-person.

The 1974 proposed increase is one cent on each overtime minute for all long distance calls.

General increases proposed for 1973 include five cents a month for residence and hotel extensions and 1.5 percent — with a five cent minimum — for most other services.

Pay phone rates for local calls, which haven't changed in 20 years, would double to 20 cents over a 15-month conversion period, beginning 1974.

New vandal-proof phones with a dial-tone-first feature would be provided. This would permit a caller to reach an operator in an emergency without depositing money.

The proposed 25-cent charge for calls to directory assistance would not apply to handicapped persons such as the blind, nor would the charge be levied on calls from pay phones, or hospital or hotel rooms.

General increases proposed for 1974 — in addition to basic rate boosts — include an additional five cents a month for residence and hotel extensions, and 6.25 percent for most other services.

As part of its application to the CTC, Bell is asking approval of a five-year plan — to go into effect in 1974 — to make four-party service the new standard in rural areas. As many as 10 customers share a line in some rural areas today.

Multi-party service would not be offered to new customers in these areas. Increases in 1974 for residence customers, which would range from 95 cents to \$1.65

a month, would depend on the number of telephones in the exchange's local calling area.

Under this plan, only single and two-party service would be available in built-up areas of an exchange outside the main urban centre. Commuted mileage charges would be eliminated for these customers.

Customers living in rural areas who have single and two-party service do pay mileage charges, based on quarter-mile units, in addition to their basic rate.

Mileage charges would go up in both 1973 and 1974, and under this plan they would be computed in half-mile units beginning in 1974.

Monthly increases would depend on the distance the customer is from the urban part of the exchange. Eighty-five percent of Bell customers affected by this part of the plan live within two miles of their exchange's main urban centre.

Increases for them would range from \$1.30 to \$5.60 a month, beginning in 1974. Maximum increase under this plan would be \$10.60 a month.

Georgetown store changes location

A change in location is advertised this week by George Bergama, owner of Georgetown Decorating Centre. The business has moved from Mill St. to 17 Main St. in Georgetown, next to Caruso's fruit market.

"The people of Georgetown, Acton and Erin have been good customers," Mr. Bergama observed, "and I appreciate the fact that without their business we wouldn't have been expanding as we have."

He is proud of his modern new store and is marking its opening with specials in paint and wallpaper.

Mr. Bergama came from Holland to Canada about 19 years ago, living in Brampton first and then Georgetown. He was a house painter and decorator before opening his first store over four years ago. He and his wife have four children.

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Cost of regional government causes brows to wrinkle

Some members of Halton County Council are worried the province is not fully aware of the change in tax structure which may result when regional government is implemented in this area.

Concern about the cost of regional government was voiced during a County Council administration committee meeting. The members were discussing a financial report which will eventually be submitted to the province.

The study was prepared for the county by D. W. Farmer, a certified accountant with the Treasury Department of the Town of Burlington.

One disagrees
Farmer has documented the mill rate changes—either decrease or increase—which may result from the creation of a three borough setup in Halton. All the Halton municipalities, with the exception of Milton, have agreed on a three unit system. Milton is pushing for a four borough setup.

During last week's meeting Burlington Deputy Reeve Dave Coons and Nassagaweya Reeve

Anne MacArthur both expressed concern about the province's grasp of the money situation. They suggested a letter voicing the county's concern should accompany the study when it is presented to the province.

Can't afford
Mrs. MacArthur declared, "I don't want to drag Nassagaweya into something they can't afford."

Warden James Swanborough disagreed with them, claiming Premier Davis was well aware of

the financial problems involved. "But if you wish, I'll support the idea of sending a letter," he said.

It was agreed by the other committee members to have such a letter drawn up. County Council will be examining the ramifications of the Farmer report at future meetings.

Except for a thank you to Farmer by Mrs. MacArthur, no other discussion was voiced on the subject. Farmer's study claims the cost of police protection will rise in Esqueving and Nassagaweya Townships in a

regional government setup. "I would like to thank Mr. Farmer for pointing this fact out," stated the Nassagaweya Reeve.

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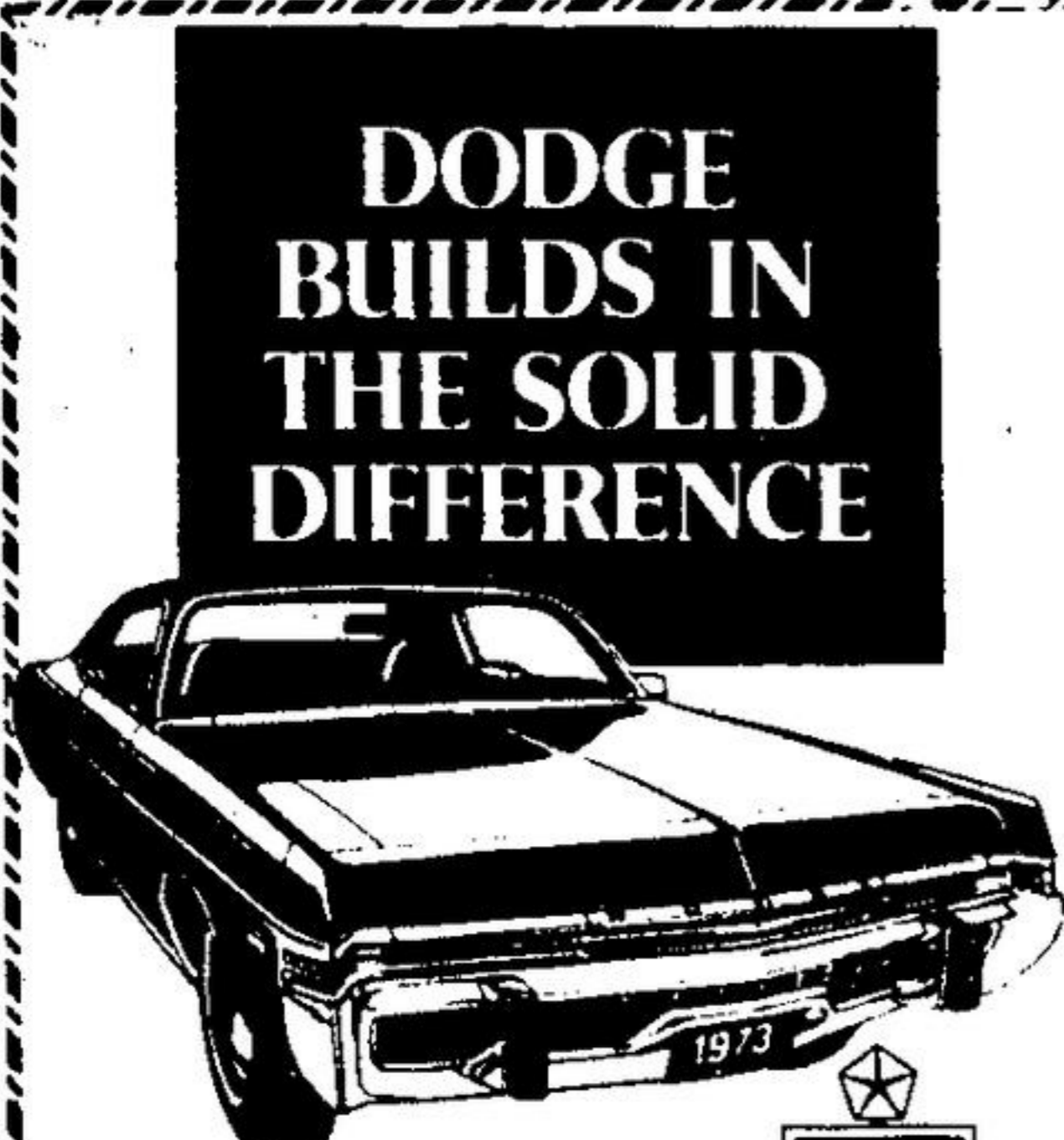


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