

# Council holds line on mill rate

**Increased assessment,  
sale of land helps**

Good news for Acton taxpayers came from the council chambers last night (Tuesday), when council passed a by-law fixing the 1973 residential mill rate at 90.5 and the commercial and industrial rate at 101.2.

The figures represent a .2 mill decrease over 1972 for residential ratepayers and a .7 mill decrease for commercial and industrial ratepayers.

Reeve Pat McKenzie, who chaired a three man budget committee, which also included Mayor Les Duby and Councillor Earl Masales, explained his committee recognized

early that this was an unusual year, since there had been a slight assessment increase of \$184,000, council had obtained \$134,600 in revenue from land sales and there was a 1972 budget surplus of \$11,843.

Mill rate figures were based on an assessment of \$2,315,625. General expenses for 1973 were estimated at \$789,109.06, while estimated general receipts were \$310,989.17, leaving \$478,119.89 to be raised by taxes. County of Halton levy for residential ratepayers increased .3 mills, but the Halton County Board of Education levy decreased .5 mills.

## New system

Unlike last year when a budget committee made up of a majority (five members) of council did all the preliminary work, then presented it to a full council for the first time on the night it was to be passed, a system involving not only council as a whole, but also representatives of local boards and committees was introduced this year.

The three man budget committee first gathered in budgets submitted by the various local boards, then met with representatives to discuss them further. The budget committee then recommended all budgets to a full council and they were discussed further at two separate meetings which took in a total of six and a half hours. Town works staff was also allowed to submit estimates on work for council's consideration.

Last night Reeve McKenzie outlined the budget for council and the press, touching on what he considered to be the highlights. Copies of all estimated receipts and disbursements as well as detailed budgets were available for all to follow.

## Arena improvements

Acton community centre will benefit from a sizeable portion of money allotted for its improvement. Council granted parks board \$20,000 for the next phase of the arena reconstruction program which began three years ago. This year the north and south walls will be reinforced with cement blocks.

Mayor Duby pointed out, however, that this reconstruction program is not relative to anything the Centennial Commission is proposing for its arena improvement project. Also included in the recreation budget was \$2,260 for the installation of servicing for heaters over seats around the ice surface. The figure includes installation of four heaters this year.

A new tractor will be purchased for the arena at a price of \$3,500 and the old one traded. An additional \$500 was allotted for hydrants for outdoor rinks.

Parks development fund received a budget increase of close to \$2,000. Part of this money is to be used for improving land at the foot of Elmore Drive.

Following a request from a Y board delegation, council also allocated \$5,000 to cover a maintenance program for the Y building. Mayor Duby said that it seemed logical for council to assist the board in maintaining their building in order that more of their funds might go into the recreational program. Councillor Norm Elliott also pointed out that the building has suffered from community neglect. Of the \$5,000, \$1,300 will be used to pay for waterproofing work done on the basement of the building last year.

The budget of the Acton Public Library Board was increased by over \$6,000 to allow for necessary interior improvements to the building and the purchase of additional reference books mainly.

## Centennial commission

Although the Acton Centennial Commission had not submitted a budget, council allocated half a mill, (\$4,500) to the commission for 1973. The same amount was set aside for the commission last year but not used.

The Acton Fall Fair board will benefit from a \$200 increase. "We felt the work they are doing warranted the increase," said Reeve McKenzie.

The Acton Development Commission received \$6,400, most of which Mayor Duby said will be spent to improve the town in connection with Centennial year, 1974.

In the realm of public works, council set aside \$30,000 for the construction of new sidewalks and also established a reserve working fund of \$43,783.44, which Reeve McKenzie said will be used at council's discretion throughout the year to improve situations around town which have been neglected.

If the money is not spent it will be used to reduce the budget next year. Of the \$30,000 sidewalk figure, \$15,000 will be used to extend the sidewalk on Mill St. south from Park Avenue to Cameron Avenue. Some of the remainder will be used to lay lead-in sidewalks into Glenlea subdivision.

The town police department budget was increased by \$10,000, mainly because of salary increases. Police committee chairman Councillor Orv Chapman said a survey taken showed that purchase of a new cruiser was not necessary.

The town's total debenture debt was estimated at \$157,669.40, an increase of \$9,000 over last year. Budget estimates of both planning board and committee of adjustment were decreased from last year, because of existing surpluses.

## Salaries increase

Council salaries represent a total figure of \$20,500 in this year's budget, an increase of more than \$7,000 over last year. Administration salaries jumped from \$39,000 to \$48,000. Reeve McKenzie explained that extra staff members have been hired.

Council estimated they will receive an additional \$15,000 in supplementary taxes, when assessment revenue of buildings constructed this year is finally calculated.

Mayor Duby congratulated Reeve McKenzie on the fine way the budget was handled this year. "He accomplished what he set out to do after last year's recommendation," the mayor remarked.

The mayor also paid tribute to newly-appointed clerk-administrator Grant Usher for doing a fine job in presenting his first budget.

"I believe it was a combination of his own abilities and the excellent coaching of our retiring clerk-administrator Joe," the mayor said.

Councillor Elliott added his appreciation for the way the budget was presented this year. All members of council were present for the meeting except Deputy-Reeve Peter Marks who was detained on business in the U.S.

## RECAP OF 1973 MILL RATE FOR THE TOWN OF ACTON

	1972		1973	
	Comm.	Res.	Comm.	Res.
General	51.7	44.8	51.3	44.8
County	7.6	7.6	7.9	7.9
Education	42.6	38.3	42.0	37.8
	101.9	90.7	101.2	90.5

# The Acton Free Press

Ninety-Eighth Year. — No. 41

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1973

Thirty-Six Pages—Fifteen Cents.

## Plan principals' recognition day

Principals' Recognition Day—Saturday, May 26!

Secret meetings have been held for weeks and at another of them last night (Tuesday) it was agreed the news could now be made public. Special events are being planned to honor the town's two retiring principals, G. W. "Pat" McKenzie and Elmer Smith.

A committee was assembled of interested people in the schools and community and they have come up with a dazzling dayful of plans.

In the afternoon a reception

will be held at the high school followed by a dinner in the curling club and then a dance in the community centre. All the places were particularly chosen because of the large attendance expected. More details will be given later.

Kathy Sanford is in charge of invitations; it's hoped as many students as possible will be contacted in each and every school year from the two public schools. Mrs. Sanford would appreciate receiving any out-of-town addresses of former pupils. Her address is Box 906, Acton.



PONCHOS AND sombreros in place, Mexicans are ready to skate into the spotlight at the Ice Review Saturday. Among the 150 young skaters in the sparkling show are Susan Milne,

Connie McCristall, Denise Kunz and Karen McKnight. Crowd attending was estimated to be a record for the two shows. Sally Leatherland is club pro. (Photo by H. Coles)

## Mayor gets increase salary for council

Acton councillors will receive a flat salary of \$2,000 for 1973, while Mayor Duby will be paid \$4,000 plus \$500 for expenses.

A total of \$20,500 was set aside in the 1973 budget approved by council last night (Tuesday) to cover the salaries.

The total figure is \$7,140 higher than last year, when councillors were paid a per diem rate of \$20 per meeting and the mayor received a salary of \$3,000.

Explaining the change to a flat

salary for members of council, finance chairman Reeve Pat McKenzie said:

"At first we felt we should stand pat, since this is our last year. But we found out that \$20,500 wouldn't even cover the per diem rate. With the number of meetings we've had so far this year, I've taken a cut."

Councillors will be permitted to miss up to six meetings with good reason. After that they will have \$25 deducted from their salary for each meeting they miss.

## Set aside half-mill for Centennial Committee

Although the Acton Centennial Commission formally submitted no budget request for 1973 to council, council set aside half-mill, (\$4,500) for the new committee's use this year.

Mayor Duby explained that members of council have met with the commission to discuss their needs. The \$4,500 figure is the same as was allocated for commission work in 1972.

Councillor Bill Coats, who represents council on the commission reported that the

commission did not claim the \$4,500 set aside for it last year.

Centennial commissioner Jack Carpenter was to have been allowed \$2,500 of the \$4,500 for expenses, but Councillor Coats reported Mr. Carpenter did not charge a cent against the allowance.

Nothing was included in the budget for the Centennial project itself. Reeve Pat McKenzie said council preferred to await the results of a town canvass before deciding upon a figure.

## New sidewalk for Main St.

Residents of Main St. South can be assured they will have a brand new cement sidewalk in front of their homes after Bell Canada has finished installation of an underground cable along the street.

Following a query by Reeve Pat McKenzie at last night's council meeting, clerk-administrator Grant Usher said that according to specifications Bell will replace the old sidewalk which they tore up with a new cement walk.

## Halton's educators accept reforms

Bold and vast reforms were approved by the Halton County Board of Education at a meeting Thursday. Basically the moves will see a drastic change in the headship system under which

about 128 department heads, 44 minor heads and 70 assistant

head positions will be removed. About 12 chairmen for each school will be appointed to accept responsibility previously handled by heads and their associates.

Rather than have a head for every subject, chairmen will be appointed for subject areas that would take in three or four subjects.

### Phase out

Director Jim Singleton suggested the heads would be phased out over a period of two to four years and this would be done partly through attrition. As people leave their positions for one reason or another, those positions would not be filled.

Singleton said the changeover from one system to another would be started by local initiative or by the school staffs themselves. He said he suspected

that once the first school started there would be others eager to switch over before they were robbed of some of their top department heads who wanted chairmanships in other schools.

The board also endorsed the idea of differentiated staffing and agreed the executive committee in consultation with principals would establish role descriptions and salaries for paraprofessionals.

Both Halton County Elementary Teachers Association (HETA) and OSSTF, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation have offered strong opposition to recommendations in both reports.

The recommendations passed Thursday came after dozens of meetings with principals, teacher organizations and staff

(Continued on Page 11)

## Commend three

Three people from this area have received letters of appreciation from Bruce Howlett Incorporated, environmental planning consultants to the Soland Commission, for their assistance in the study to determine corridors for Ontario Hydro's 500 KV transmission system.

Named for their work in collecting information on significant areas within the community were Mrs. Betty Lou Clark of R.R. 5, Rockwood, Mrs. June Barnes of R.R. 1, Campbellville and M. T. (Jack) Tizzard of R.R. 2, Acton.

The information the trio collected will be mapped as a separate map and also be used as input for the series of study maps prepared on all aspects of the environment in this area. The material will be returned so it

can be used for community purposes.

A series of four evening meetings was held to display the series of 10 maps showing the wide range of environmental factors which must be considered for the transmission corridor. The volunteers, 28 in all, helped by collecting information from local citizens on significant sites or areas in the communities, much of it extremely detailed. Among things listed were historic homes and sites, residents, history of property, identification of local wildlife areas and rare bird nesting areas, century farms, cemeteries, etc.

Next stage of the Howlett program is to determine a series of alternate corridors which may be considered in detail to find a corridor with the least environmental impact.



ROCKWOOD-ERAMOSA FIREFIGHTERS are silhouetted against roof flames which completely gutted the stone farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Duncan McPhedran and family at R.R. 4, Rockwood, last Wednesday night. The brigade fought

flames the entire night in an effort to save the home but the intense heat completely destroyed the contents and left only the walls. Loss is estimated at \$75-\$80,000. Turn inside for more details. —H. Coles Photo