

Tax questions offer comic relief

Prompted by the frustration of taxation chairman Ed Smith in his attempt to get straight answers from local regional government officials, the question was raised by members of Nassagaweya Ratepayers Association as to how to get rid of the regional set-up.

"It doesn't serve a purpose, there is duplicate work in planning being done, they are just creating new jobs without replacing the old ones," member Don Duke stated.

"It really bears investigation," he continued, "no-one seems to know why they are hiring so many people and continuing to offer duplicate services in the region and local municipalities."

Chairman Walter Tkachenko added, "One example is the stupidity of Halton Region Conservation Authority in not using Nassagaweya Township Hall for their temporary offices. They all want to work in the Taj-

ma Hall. I wouldn't mind being within seven or eight miles of my work."

He then said, "I'll be glad to see them in action."

Chairman Smith told the Tuesday evening meeting that Milton Council will be meeting in Brookville on April 16. "They'll hit the road and then we can see them in action," he said.

"It was really only able to gather comic relief information for this evening's meeting," he explained. "When I asked what our mil-

lions I was told they didn't know. It wouldn't be until July. When I asked how we would compare with Milton, they didn't know that either."

"They were quick to point out the 'additional' services we're entitled to, such as the Milton arena, the library in Milton, and a police force five years from now," he added.

Mr. Smith was told the financial report of the assets of Nassagaweya at the time of annexation could be seen in the auditor's report in the

Town of Milton offices but it would not be ready until the end of April.

Hampered

His efforts to gather information for the meeting were further hampered by the assessment information offices being located in the Univer Building at Square One in Mississauga.

"I found that the assessment will be frozen until 1976, but that's not the mill rate," he asserted the 40 members of the association.

Complaints from the floor concerning tax bills being received only three days before the due date were heard.

Councillor Brad Clements attended the meeting and agreed to explain how regional government works at the next general meeting of the association.

"We should really try to get their answers in writing," someone suggested from the floor. "They seem to change their stories at whim."



SWETMAN'S SHOES and Lakeview Centre displays at last week's Bank of Montreal Open House helped to kick off the bank's "Spring into Action" campaign. Janice Freed and Sherry McNabb of the bank staff admire the display.

Murder trial in third day

(Continued from Page One)

Mrs. Bourke. They drove back to Milton Plaza to pick up Bourke's car. Bourke continued dependent and upset.

At 11:55 p.m. Beverly Bodfield in the apartment upstairs at Churchill Road, Acton, heard a male voice yelling "let me in—I'll kill him and you wouldn't want me to do that". There was the sound of arguing, screaming, and furniture moving, so she called the Acton detachment of the O.P.P.

A short while later, she saw four-year-old Tammy Bourke outside her door screaming "My mother's dead".

Tammy had a severe laceration on her leg that required 16 stitches to close. Another neighbor, Mrs. Reeve, stated she saw Bourke jumping off the apartment balcony and running away.

At 11:55 p.m. the O.P.P. found Mrs. Bourke in her bedroom with multiple stab wounds. Dr. Hunter pronounced her dead.

A severe state of depressed mood characterized by distortion of thinking. He reported the affected person can no longer accurately interpret events. He felt Bourke had been suffering from this disease for some weeks before the act. Greenspan asked if Bourke could have appreciated the nature and quality of his act. Dr. Rowselle said not.

Dr. Rowselle then went into some early history of the accused, starting from infancy in Scotland. Bourke was slow to learn to talk and it wasn't until he started school that it was learned Bourke was almost stone deaf, certainly deaf enough to misinterpret things, Rowselle said. Bourke was withdrawn at school, a loner, capable of closeness with only one person at a time and had a deep attachment to his wife, according to the psychiatrist. Bourke's education was apparently hampered by his deafness and his parents had trouble convincing young Bourke to wear a hearing aid.

It was brought out the accused was not wearing his hearing aid on the night of the murder because of repair and therefore had difficulty interpreting events.

Tension

At this point, Greenspan requested a seat closer to the front for Bourke, who was having trouble hearing his defense.

Dr. Rowselle discussed the classic tension symptoms shown by Bourke, the nail biting, finger picking, and varied emotions. He stated the accused had difficulty with sense of time relation. Bourke told Dr. Rowselle he was shattered by the change in plans when Colleen decided not to join him in their prepared apartment. Bourke repeatedly accused his wife of "cheating on him". He stated he stabbed his wife once and did not know Tammy was also stabbed. "I never saw the kids, honest to God I didn't" he cried.

Dr. Rowselle summarized his impression of Bourke as having been in a depressed state and suffering a reversal of thinking. The alternation between hope and despair had boiled to a climax which the final rejection had precipitated, he said.

Answering Greenspan's question the doctor did not class the accused as a normally violent man but felt he was under enormous stress at the time. Rowselle said Bourke had a stubborn, passive and withdrawn personality.

The third witness was Dr. J. Cooper, Chief Psychiatrist

with York Finch General Hospital and who was on the Toronto Mayor's Advisory Committee on all facets of violence. He corroborated Dr. Rowselle's evidence and discussed hearing tests used with Bourke. He said he didn't know how Bourke could communicate at all without his aid.

At this point, Justice Donnelly intervened for a lengthy discussion with Defence Counsel Greenspan on his manner of introducing defence which the judge felt was "a back door way of getting in defense".

After a recess, Greenspan returned to an involved discourse justifying his methods. The argument went unresolved until summation.

Dr. Cooper felt Bourke was out of touch with reality for the brief moment of the act but was horrified when he realized what he had done. He said this accounted for Bourke's apparent clear headedness in giving himself up. Dr. Cooper described Bourke as being in a floridly psychotic state with subsequent complete disorganization of mental processes immediately after the murder.

Dr. Cooper explained to the jury the procedure of psychiatric examination calling the mental state at time of the stabbing "a frenzy".

The judge questioned Dr. Cooper on the statement of the accused that "he didn't know how he'd feel when he got out in five or ten years". Justice Donnelly pointed out that Bourke must have known he had done wrong to realize he would be punished by five or ten years in jail. Dr. Cooper did not agree, stating the accused was aware of his crime after the fact but not at the time of committing it.

Justice Donnelly also ques-

tioned Bourke's statement that "he stabbed her but her eyes were open so he stabbed her again". Didn't Bourke know his wife was not dead when her eyes were open so he made another attempt at killing her, queried the judge. Again Dr. Cooper disagreed reminding Justice Donnelly the accused was in a frenzy and so not aware of what was happening.

Father called

Thomas Bourke Senior was called as the fourth witness for the defence stating he resided in Mississauga with his wife, children, and grandchildren—the children of his son and dead wife. He observed pictures of furniture and said they were pieces his son had kept in their basement while he was living with them during the separation. He replied to questioning that the furniture was for the new apartment young Tom and Colleen were planning to occupy on June 1.

He stated quietly his son had been of a non-violent nature. He also said Colleen's mother had written to himself and Tom several times and sent gifts recently for the children.

Attorney for the Crown Owen declined to cross-examine or to call further evidence. Justice Donnelly then instructed the jury the evidence was finished and they would be recalled the next day, Wednesday, to hear summations and consider their verdict.

Nine month sentences

An Acton man, charged with breaking into Toth Motors last December, appeared in court in Georgetown March 19 for trial.

He was found guilty and sentenced to nine months for break and entry and nine months for carrying a concealed weapon, to be served concurrently.

New homes

Four model homes are rising in phase three of Bovis Homes. There will be 25 homes in the first group, with a total of 126 planned for altogether.

With a price range from \$47,000 to \$57,000, many of the first group are spoken for already.

Monday two Bovis helicopters circled the site taking photographs.

Construction of the first model home began March 4.

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Four rejected

Consider group grants

Halton Regional Council will consider grant requests from a multitude of organizations at a special meeting tomorrow (Thursday) at 10 a.m.

The Community Services Committee of Council met Monday to discuss grants which relate to the services offered by departments under the control of that committee.

The committee recommended no grants be authorized for the Canadian Mental Health Association, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Georgetown Red Cross and Multiple Sclerosis Association.

Committee members claimed that only those groups which provided a regional service should be recipients of the grants. It was pointed out those who were not recommended for grants were either providing service on an area municipality level or a provincial or federal level and should look elsewhere for grants.

Past grants

Georgetown Red Cross has received grants of \$4,000, \$700 and \$2,500 in the past three years respectively. The committee agreed that group should go to Halton Hills Council for a grant as that is the area it serves. The region pays for some services

provided by Red Cross on a fee basis. The requested grants would be over and above the fees charged.

Grants are being recommended for the following groups: Associations for Mentally-Retarded (\$6,000); North Halton, \$7,500 Oakville, \$9,600 Burlington; Salvation Army \$1,800, Canadian National Institute for the Blind \$1,500; Victorian Order of Nurses, \$6,000; Burlington Youth Residences, \$3,000 and Youth Housing Oakville, \$2,000.

Windbags restrained in House—O'Connor

When Sir John A. Macdonald made an eight hour speech in the House of Commons with the support of water glasses of straight gin, M.P.'s weren't unduly excited. Long speeches were the rule rather than the exception when Canada's first Parliament met.

Last year he made 12 major speeches and he felt he had something tangible to deal with in each instance. "I like to concentrate on two or three subjects," O'Connor says, "and I put my mind to it. I suffer sometimes but feel it is the best way to do it. My experience so far has justified that position."

If these speeches were analyzed for content and meaning "people would stone us to death," says O'Connor of the wordy ramblings some people indulge in to glorify their own part of Canada.

The Halton M.P. is sitting on two committees this term—Privilege and Election.

An election this year—or perhaps as early as this Spring? O'Connor doesn't think so although he felt earlier the Trudeau Government was preparing for one. However, he admits Pierre could call a snap election much as Prime Minister Edward Heath did in Britain.

If he does, then he's betting on a change in Government. Unlike Britain where the Conservatives were replaced, he predicts the P.C.s will make it.

Sidewalk clearance

Council says no

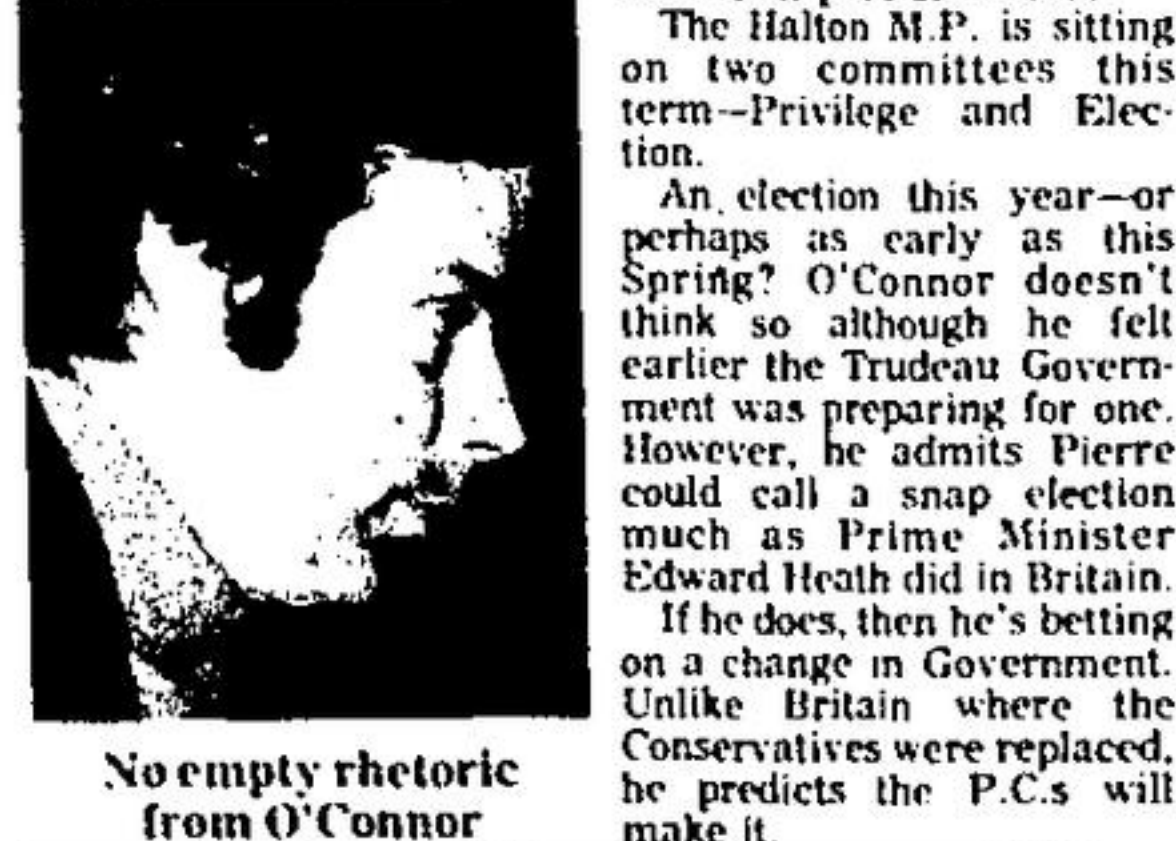
Halton Hills residents won't have their sidewalks cleared and that's that. During a meeting of the Halton Hills Council Monday members supported a recommendation from the works committee that would see the policy of sidewalk snow removal discontinued.

Councillor Ric Morrow introduced the matter once again at the Tuesday night continuation of the meeting. Morrow asked that the engineer prepare cost estimates for a snow removal program for sidewalks in the serviced areas of Halton Hills.

Councillor Ern Hyde objected to the resolution noting if the matter was referred anywhere it should go back to the works committee.

He and Len Cox argued that the works committee had looked at the matter and were convinced it was too expensive.

Morrow and Pat McKenzie insisted a cost estimate should be available. The pair said the council did not have the proper information in front of them with which a decision could be made.



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What's doing in North Halton area!

CARD PARTY

The Acton Lionsettes invite you to a Euchre and Card Party on Friday, April 5, at 8 p.m., to be held at St. Alban's Parish Hall, 52 Willow Street. Prizes and refreshments will be provided. Tickets are \$1 and are available from any Lionsette or at the door. Proceeds will go toward the Acton Centennial Pool.

RED CROSS

March is Campaign-For-Funds month, and there's still time to make your donation! Their headquarters are at P.O. Box 106, in Georgetown. The Red Cross thanks everyone for their encouraging support.

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