

Town's budget stalled - no input

The finance committee of Halton Hills council admitted Monday they could go no further on the town's first budget because there were no submissions from other committees.

Chairman G. W. (Pat) McKenzie said the earliest the committee could start discussions over the budget would be next week. The treasurer is away on holidays and recreation, engineering and fire budgets have not yet been received.

If the information was available, would we be in a position to strike a mill rate? asked one councillor.

The committee decided it could not.

"We can't complete our budget until we know what the region wants from us."

Councillor Harry Levy said.

One budget is finalized, however, the Halton Board of Education's, noted deputy treasurer Grant Usher.

Earlier in the discussion Mr. Usher distributed sheets showing what the treasury department felt start-up costs would be for the new town. The total came to over \$300,000 but the deputy treasurer acknowledged there were probably some items which the committee and Queen's Park would question. Bill 151, the apparatus used to set up regional government was mainly structural, and failed to deal with items such as start-up costs which the municipality hopes to recover from the Province.

Councillor Ernie Sykes reminded the committee this did not guarantee anything because start-up grants would be given to the Region and then distributed to the four Halton municipalities on an equalized basis.

The deputy treasurer said the town office had included all costs to date in the figures, which contributed to starting up the new municipality but felt there would be additional items to come. He said the town's new \$100,000 computer was included because the three municipalities of Acton, Esquesing and Georgetown were able to operate on their own equipment but this became an impossibility after the merger.

Councillor Levy was suspicious of provincial promises of start-up grants,

suggesting that every time it was mentioned to the province the possibility seemed further away.

The town also has problems working out financial levies with the region. The region levies must be paid by the town even though the region owes the town money which has never been tabulated. In an effort to sidestep this council decided that recent \$319,000 levy from the region would receive only \$219,000.

The region, in turn, asked for a breakdown of bills they owe Halton Hills, an item the treasury department must come up with.



FIRST PLACE ribbon for high jumping at Robert Little field day went to lithe Kim Wood. Over she goes!

Severe labor shortage affects Acton plant

Unemployment rates may be high in some parts of Canada but Government statisticians would have a hard job convincing plant managers in Acton and area there is no local shortage of labor.

Typical of employers in this area who feel this way is Michael Worthington, plant manager of Polypenco Canada Ltd., located in the Acton industrial centre on Frederick St.

Mr. Worthington says there is an acute shortage of labor but there is no shortage of people who don't want to work. He bases his statement on efforts to acquire additional help for the Acton plant, which have resulted in extreme frustrations.

The company has had a call in at the Canada Manpower since February 9 and only two people have been sent out to try for jobs. Yet a worker can make \$4.42 an hour after he completes his training at the Acton plant where nylon is machined into com-

ponents with unusual wear resistance and low surface friction. The result is a product which outlasts conventional brass and bronze castings by as much as eight times.

Polypenco's Acton plant, "baby" of the world-wide Polymer Corporation of which it is a subsidiary, has the most exciting growth potential of the giant corporation, Worthington says. He predicts a 35 percent increase in business this year but unless the company can get help to run its production the fantastic potential of the product won't be much good.

He admits the process requires some physical work which can become really warm with the 310 degree temperatures required to pour the nylon into castings, but says the jobs are interesting and have excellent futures because Polypenco is the only plant of its kind in Canada. The plant manager feels the company is on a com-

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Works strike threat eased

The threat of a strike by outside workers of Halton Hills eased Tuesday after a day long meeting with Department of Labor mediator J. McGuire.

The town negotiating committee and union representatives reached an agreement which must now be accepted or rejected by council and the 50 members of Local 73, Canadian Union of Public Services Employees. A union meeting is scheduled for later this week.

Both sides were tight-lipped following the meeting, and would not disclose any part of the agreement.

May 30 is still the legal deadline for the strike which could halt garbage pickups, road and parks

maintenance and grave digging. All parties seemed hopeful the agreement would be ratified by the council and the 50 union members of Local 73.

The meeting was called by the Department of Labor and was attended by councillors Len Cox, Harry Levy, Ernie Sykes, Pat McKenzie, Russell Miller and Mayor Tom Hill.

International representative Jim Anderson, Local 73 president, Kent Robinson, vice-president Bob Hyde and committee member Merv. White attended for the union.

Before Tuesday's meeting the town and the union were five cents an hour apart in basic wages, and eight or ten items were in dispute.

Costs spiral as jobs bungled

What was earlier recognized as serious bungling of public funds is now qualifying as a first rate horror story. Halton Regional Works Committee was advised Wednesday that tender prices on eight contracts worth about \$2,500,000 had expired and new tenders could increase costs on those jobs by as high as \$700,000.

The increased prices are caused by escalating costs of materials and labor. The committee had earlier dealt with the problem of the Kelso water main job in Milton where the price escalated from \$390,000 to \$468,000 and then to \$540,000.

The Public Works Committee is laying the blame on the Ontario Municipal Board for not giving approval of the funds earlier in the year. Had the board issued its approval, contracts would have been let at the initial prices.

The approvals were delayed with the advent of regional government. According to Bill 151, a Bill implementing regional government, any by-laws not approved as of Jan. 1 had to be processed by the new councils. In each case the by-laws were sent back to Queen's Park but were not approved in time.

The largest of the projects is the \$1.2 million job that will provide services for Burlington's industrial park and the Bronte Creek Provincial Park.

Members of the committee were shocked to learn the extent of the problem. Committee chairman Jack Rattis was unable to determine just who on regional staff was responsible for channelling the applications for approval through the OMB.

After questioning solicitor Noel Bates, Rattis learned Bates, treasurer Don Farmer, Public Works Director Bob Baillie, Chairman Allan Masson, and cabinet ministers Jim Snow and George Kerr had all been working on the matter.

Rattis and Burlington Mayor George Harrington were angry because the committee and council had not been made aware of the problem.

Milton Mayor Anne Mac Arthur said she was aware of the holdup on Milton projects and had been pursuing the matter with Baillie and Farmer on a weekly basis for several months. She noted one of the projects in Milton was apparently held up because the OMB lost a piece of paper needed for the processing.

Bates told the committee Continued on page 3



BAND STAND at park entrance is in for a facelift if Halton Hills works committee recommendation is approved by full council. Vandalism had turned the lovely structure into an eyesore, and it's been boarded up lately. Reports indicate it's structurally sound. Bob Price and Mike Marcoux look over the damage.

Salary range \$9-\$11,000 for aquatic supervisor

A pool supervisor for the indoor swimming pool at Acton, in a salary range of \$9,195 to \$11,121, was recommended by Recreation Director Doug Collison at general administration committee of Halton Hills, Monday night.

Collison saw the person as aquatic supervisor for the whole of Halton Hills after the Georgetown pool is built. The duties would include the outdoor pool at Georgetown.

He said it was time to consider the position since he anticipated the Acton indoor pool would be completed by the end of August or the beginning of September.

He said the position would demand an approved diploma in recreation, the possession of the Canadian Red Cross Instructors and Examiners

Certificate, and a minimum of the Royal Life Saving Society Award of Merit. He said a minimum of five years' experience in the aquatics field with at least three years supervisory experience was needed.

He said the aquatics supervisor would be responsible for the development of an overall pool program, development effective administration, the hiring and training of pool staff, and the preparation of a pool budget.

The recreation director said the person would start working out of Acton and get the program underway, then could take over Georgetown also, while someone at a lesser salary could be hired to assist. He stressed the aquatic supervisor would be responsible for the overall

summer program as well. Mayor Tom Hill said it was too soon to start advertising at the end of July as was suggested. "We could have them sitting around here with nothing to do for three months, before we need them," said the mayor.

Councillor Les Duby said they had the basic responsibility to do what is required to get the pool going.

Councillor Dick Howitt asked if there was money in the budget for this salary.

The recreation director said there is no budget as yet for the Acton pool. He pointed out the pools attached to school usually come close to carrying themselves, while the others operate at a deficit. The report was turned over to the finance committee.

Propose regrading swath in cemetery

A problem of steep back yards in upcoming homes in Kingham Hills estates brought Ray Wall of Windland Associates to Halton Hills works committee meeting Monday night. Town engineer Peter Morris introduced the problem and Mr. Wall joined in the discussion, which resulted in committee members agreeing to come to Acton to look over the site.

Mr. Wall brought his company's request to go 20 to 25 feet onto cemetery property to flatten grades for house lots.

Three sides These houses back on three sides of the far area of Fairview Cemetery, as shown in an aerial photograph in today's Free Press.

There have been no burials yet in this area of the cemetery. Mr. Wall explained the grade is so steep, the hill will end right at the back door of the homes.

Asked Mayor Tom Hill: Didn't you know this would happen when you sent in your plan?

Ungodly It's an ungodly cliff, commented councillor Joe Hurst. Problem areas were indicated on a map shown by town engineer Morris. "A 20-foot strip of bush

would be wiped out," observed chairman Len Cox. Engineer Peter Morris said he saw nothing wrong with the proposal, but a number of fairly large trees would have to go.

The developer wants to start work in this area in four weeks, Mr. Wall said. A draft agreement has been prepared.

The developers did not propose to buy the cemetery land or use it, other than to lower the grade of the slope into their building lots on three sides.

The works committee agreed to view the site.

Service Sunday

Centennial Year Decoration Day service is this Sunday afternoon, with a parade at 2.30 followed by the service at Fairview Cemetery at 3 p.m. Georgetown Legion Band will join Acton Citizens Band in the parade.

Members of the ministerial association will take part in the service and families are invited to decorate the graves of loved ones.



AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH of Acton indicates area of cemetery and Kingham Hills estates which will be toured by the works committee of Halton Hills council soon. Ray Wall of Windland Associates Monday requested permission for developers to lower the grades of their property on three sides of the back of the cemetery, by cutting 20 feet into the property. Backyards of houses to be built there have too sharp a slope, he explained. Many trees would be cut if the project were approved.



WORKMAN AT Kingham Hills estates grades the area to be discussed by Halton Hills works committee, following a tour of the site. Slope of lots brought request to works committee Monday that 20 feet be taken off the cemetery land (right) to permit a less sharp slope. Three sides of the cemetery property at its farthest end are involved.