

# Maybe a budget this week

Taxpayers anxious about the amount of taxes they will have to pay this year may have an answer this week if the region and Halton Hills can co-ordinate their budgets. Halton Hills council hoped they would be able to sit down Monday night this week and strike a rate but the region wasn't able to finalize their budget because the Province still had no answer about grants the region is to receive. Now, if all goes well, the region struck a budget Tuesday afternoon of this week and Halton Hills should be able to follow suit on Thursday. The region in its aim to cut their budget ordered 10 per cent cuts in regional department budgets but the best most could do was an estimated five per cent shaved off their allotment. It should be noted a recommendation that council ad-

opted be shaved, in line with the budget, was also lost. Councillor Carl Erikson of Oakville recommended a salary cut of \$48,000 for council salaries of \$2,000 each but council's concern is not that drastic. Perhaps the two areas which will receive the biggest jolt from the first Halton Region budget will be the former townships of Escouping and Nantawaga, now part of Halton Hills and Milton respectively. Milton Mayor Anne MacArthur noted they faced rate increases of five mills from the regional budget caused mainly by police protection for which they will be paying directly for the first time. There is some indication that the rural taxpayers will get a similar jolt when Halton Hills sets

its budget. Speculation is that it will be in the neighborhood of 12 mills but that's a big cut from the 26 mill increase predicted four weeks ago.

In any event, the ratepayers of Halton Hills must face up to tax changes that emerge from the budget discussions. There is a chance the Province will provide some amelioration in the first year of regional government in addition to start up grants but they would be only for the year to save provincial embarrassment.

Ratepayers are concerned because they feel regional government has added rather than deleted costs and duplication. The budget should be a good indication of how much costs have increased, have increased.

## Free Press Editorial Page

The Acton Free Press, Wed., July 31, 1974

### \$3 fee unfair to some

Halton Regional Council may have a good objective in their determination in making the sanitary landfill sites of the region self-supporting, but the \$3 dumping fee they propose for Acton's site is unfair to those who look after their own garbage collection. In effect it is penalizing merchants, businessmen and industry who absorb the complete cost of collection thereby saving the municipality time, effort and money. There was no fee for dumping in Acton dump previously. When Acton was a separate municipality the town had a very

good collection and fill system which the taxpayers were able to handle easily through their taxes. Now they've started building empires on garbage hiring contractors to do a job easily handled by the municipality. Fortunately there is no fee for those who take cars or trailers full of garbage to the Acton dump or even for the first 300 pounds in a pick-up truck but after that you are obligated to pay the \$3 dumping fee. We understand the regulation is in effect to control those commercial operators who bring in gar-

bage from outside the region as well as helping to pay for the dumps but it still discriminates against those who look after their own collection. They now will pay twice for garbage collection—through their taxes and the \$3 fee collected at the dump. Certainly commercial collectors are going to charge fees back to their customers.

It is not much—the \$3—but it is just another reminder that while only trucks full of garbage need to pay now the regulation may one day extend to cars and trailers.

### Canadian aid for U.S.

While we hear a lot about Canada's welfare program for developing nations we haven't heard so much about gifts for the United States. It is interesting for both the Americans and the Canadians to learn that The Canadian Embassy in Washington sponsored a Canadiana project in which collections of books were distributed to 200 schools throughout the United States. The gift collections were designed to carry a broad spectrum of Canadian culture, ranging from things like Eskimo art to the Canadian economy. About ten per cent of the books are in French "to reflect Canada's

bilingual character." The project cost about \$140,000.00. In addition, the embassy sponsored an awards program, at a cost of \$26,000 in which students and teachers from schools showing the most use of the collection were taken on a two-week visit to Canada. It would be gratifying to be able to report that the program was a great success and that American students are experts on Canadian affairs as a result of this effort. However, it was difficult to find teachers qualified to teach Canadian studies. Some schools have no report of having received the books. Other schools have placed them on the library shelves

for reference. Some schools used the material.

A Massachusetts high school student set up a series of book exhibits; a school in Tokeka Kan., produced a travelogue about Quebec; and a high school in Cleveland studied about the Eskimos.

This is probably as high a return as we get for a good deal of the money invested in developing countries, and gives an answer when someone like Gordon Sinclair asks what we have ever done for our good friend and neighbour, the United States.—Ridgetown Dominion.

## Free Press back issues

### 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of August 5, 1954. Although branches crashed to the ground—one striking a car—and power was disrupted in Milton during a violent electrical storm on Saturday, there was no damage in Acton. The rain on Saturday and Tuesday was welcomed by country and town folk alike, as both fields and gardens were parched. Southern Ontario crops in danger of becoming a total loss due to lack of rain have taken a new outlook. On Saturday the Lorne Scot band was the official "duty band" at the Legion Biennial National convention in Toronto. Playing with the band from Acton were Charlie Landsborough, Charlie Kingsmill, George Smith, George Elliott and Rudolph Spielvogel. Local employees of the Ford-Oakville plant are holidaying during the annual shut-down, from Friday, July 30 to Monday, August 16. The plant has been shut down twice before this summer. Born: DeHaan; Mr. and Mrs. F. DeHaan (nee Mary DeVries), R.R. 3, Acton are delighted to announce the arrival of their son William Lucas, on July 31, 1954, at the Acton Nursing Home. Mother and baby doing fine. The Smith-Bell farm was held on Civic Holiday at the rear home of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Davidson near Acton. A good crowd attended.

### 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of July 31, 1924. The centre of the roadway on Mill Street received another coat of tarvia on Tuesday

morning. Another lot of fine ground stone was added to this coat and is being worked into the larvia. The road was necessarily closed for a day or so. Last Wednesday evening a new Chevrolet coupe, with balloon tires, was burned during the night on No. 5 side road, near the fifth line, in Erin township. The car had come from the direction of Rockwood or Guelph, and after being burned was left on the road and had to be pushed off to allow traffic to pass. The number plates had been removed, and the owner apparently thought the remains not worth looking after. The Acton Driving Club has arranged for another afternoon of racing in the Park next Saturday, 2.20 and 2.30 classified races will be run, starting with the first race at two o'clock. Eight horses have been entered for the two events. Coming on the Saturday before the holiday this event will round out the week-end of entertainment provided for holiday visitors to Acton.

### 75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of July 27, 1899. A farmer on the fourth line reports that last Sunday morning, as the family were sitting down to breakfast, their attention was called to a man passing with a team and hayrack. An hour or so afterwards he returned with a load of hay and turned at Bannockburn School toward Acton. There can be no excuse for this Sabbath desecration, and the law-abiding observers of the fourth commandment in this vicinity do not relish such a spectacle on the Lord's Day, and will not permit it without protest. Both exterior and interior of the Power House have been transformed in appearance the past week or so. In the interior the ceiling and floors have been painted and the walls oiled and varnished. Outside the

front stone coping has been built up, and a stone tablet inserted in the centre bearing the inscription in large gothic letters "Power House, 1899". The masons are engaged in building a stone coal house and oil room addition, to the rear. They will point up all the stone work when this new building is completed. Miss Ruby Clark is spending a few weeks, with friends at Penetanguishene

## THE ACTON FREE PRESS

PHONE 853-2010

Business and Editorial Office

1000

1000

1000

1000

1000

1000

1000

1000

1000

1000

1000

1000

1000

1000

1000

1000

1000



PETER McCUSKER'S camera records the twisted and sliced trees being cut along the perimeter of Fairview cemetery. Halton Hills council gave developer Kingham Hills Estates permission to go into cemetery property to improve the steep grade created at the back of their subdivision land. New trees are to be planted.

Well, I thought this column would have a fairly exotic date-line. Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Rue de Something-or-Other in Paris.

That's what I had in mind for the summer. My young brother has an apartment with lots of sleeping space in the Black Forest of Germany, or the Schwarzwald, as we jet-setters call it.

He offered it to us as a base for basking around western Europe. It was ideal. About five hours from Paris, the same from Switzerland, Denmark, Belgium, Berlin. A day to Sweden. A mere bagatelle to Holland.

I had it all worked out. A one-day trip to Zurich, a two-day spree in Paris, a smash at a Munich beer garden (that's a coffin when you have to keep your socks up), with the occasional foray into Frankfurt or Hamburg.

Unfortunately, most of our forays this summer will be into Hamburg. That's all we can afford, and that only once a week.

There's an old nursery rhyme, which doesn't even rhyme. "For want of a nail, the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe, the horse was lost; for want of a horse, the kingdom was lost." Or something like that. I'm quoting from memory. I read it in the Book of Knowledge when I was eight. And along with all these nails and shoes, a good bit of my memory has been lost.

At any rate, you get the message. One thing leads to another. Or something.

That's why I'm not writing this column from the Eiffel Tower in Paris or God's Radburg in Germany.

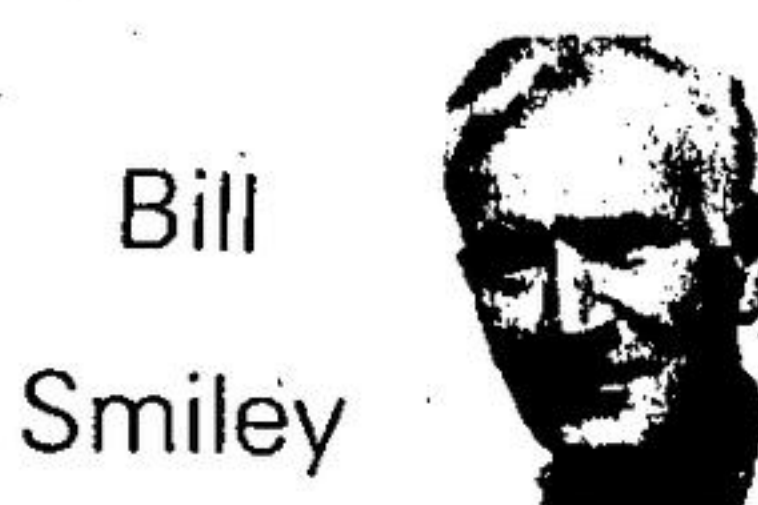
It all started with the Good Samaritans. You may recall that I wrote a column a few weeks ago about some former students who came around and fixed my garage door for nothing. They absolutely refused to accept a cent. It gave me quite a warm glow at the time.

That warm glow has, over the intervening weeks, turned into a blazing ulcer.

Not their fault. It's my wife's. She's been saying for about two years, "Bill, we've got to get the house painted."

I always agree. "Yep, Sweetie, next summer for sure." Now, our house is not something you paint on a holiday weekend, buy a case of beer and get some of your old buddies to come in and help.

It's a two-and-a-half storey edifice of brick. Driving past, you might say, "Hell, I'd paint that for \$25.00." There's just the trim that needs painting, you see.



Bill Smiley

But that is some trim. There are thirteen storm windows, thirteen screens, twenty-four shutters, two French doors, and at least 27 blackbirds in a fir tree. That's before you start painting the trim.

Well, in a burst of sentimentality, my old lady suggested we give "the boys" the job of painting the trim. I would have given them a case of beer and felt I was all even.

The "trim" is costing me \$500. Fair enough, in these days. I could have done it myself, but I'm not going to climb a 50-foot ladder unless there's a mighty fair damsel at the top. And all they found was a hornet's nest.

Next, The boss, who still calls me "Mr. Smiley" or "Sir", bless him, said, "Sir, you've got troubles, with that roof." My heart sank. I've been through it before.

Well, I don't have to go into detail. Any home-owner knows the rest. The roof is shot, everything is rotten, though it hasn't leaked a drop since we came here. The only thing leaking is the downstairs toilet, just after we've spent \$16 having it "fixed".

Farewell, Amsterdam. Farewell, Copenhagen. Hello roof. Hello, bank manager.

I shouldn't complain, I guess. Suppose those boys hadn't come to fix my garage door. I might have been loitering around in Copenhagen, saying "Pas de rail, cherie," instead of answering the door ten times a day to loan the construction gang a screw-driver.

It's going to be a \$2,000 summer holiday. At home. It turns out that the garage has to be painted, too, and the back porch. Rather bitterly, I asked one of the "boys" if they shouldn't paint the woodpile, as well, to go with the decor. And with a nice twist of wit, he said, "Would you like us to paint the cat, as well?" He sleeps there. Why not? Green. Shutter green. With a high gloss.



### Our inflation plot

In our inflation garden, In our straw hats and jeans, We take it slow and ply the hoe, And cultivate the beans.

It's saving on the money, So we can pay more TAX With prices high, we have to try, And realize the FACTS.

It also keeps us healthy, Gets rid of excess freight, It's a lovely spot, our garden plot, To leave behind some weight.

But, it's always full of insects With some that carry stings, They catch us where the flesh is bare, So we cover up our things.

One day they caught me bending, With a bare spot in my jeans, They got me where, the flesh was bare, And how they stung the beans.

They never have to go on Strike, To get a hike in pay, They stay on guard, in our back yard, To chase bare bums away.

But the Lord assures my Harvest, It's been so from the start, This Master-plan feeds every man, And his creatures do their part.

Good health is gained by labour, We put our trust in GOD, I don't despair, I get my share, Of good things from the sod.

Victor Smith, R.R. 2, Rockwood.