

Modest 5.67 increase for Acton but Esquesing's rate up 8.11 mills

The former township of Esquesing was smacked with one of the biggest tax increases in its history as Halton Hills council unveiled the first budget for the new town Thursday night.

Rural ratepayers face a still 8.11 mill increase while Georgetown escaped relatively unscathed with an increase of less than a mill. Acton emerged with a 5.67 mill hike.

Councillors figure the average Esquesing ratepayer will be forking over anywhere from \$30 to \$64 more per year depending on assessment while Acton taxpayers will average about \$25 per year more. The Georgetown increase will be nominal.

The increase could have been more but council ticketed one mill of the \$150,000 start-up grant from the Province to reduce the general levy by approximately one mill (\$67,000) across the board. The remainder was applied to the working fund.

Councillors Len Coxe and Dick Howitt from Ward 2, the former township of Esquesing, felt the entire \$150,000 should have gone to reduce the levy for rural ratepayers since most of the surplus left over from Esquesing last year was to go to the new Georgetown arena along with the Georgetown surplus.

Predicting that next year's tax increase rather than this year's would show the true figures with less provincial assistance Councillor Coxe said he was "thoroughly disgusted and disillusioned" by

First budget Halton Hills

the increase for Esquesing which means "in our area we'll wind up paying for things we don't want or those we don't get."

"We are baled out this year by transitional grants," Coxe said, "but what we don't face this year we'll have to face the next."

Colleague Dick Howitt was equally vehement. "It is easy for Wards 3 and 4 (Georgetown) to glibly say, throw the start-up grants into the reserves (working fund) while Ward 2 (Esquesing) is looking at nine mills. The people there never saw any more than two mills at one time. Nine mills is a heck of a jolt to these people. I preferred all of Esquesing's surplus to go back to Esquesing and all of Georgetown's to Georgetown but the majority see different," Howitt said.

Acton had a \$10,425 deficit in 1973.

Ward two taxpayers in Norval, Glen Williams, Stewarttown and Ballinafad must also pay two mills for street lighting.

Halton Hills must raise \$5,253,222 in taxes from an assessment of \$67,241,213 but only \$2,043,291 is controlled by the town. Levies from the region of \$697,386, secondary school purposes of \$1,105,082 and \$1,328,050 for public schools as well as \$75,428 for separate schools are completely in the hands of the regional council and board of education.

The final two tax instalments are due and payable on the 16th day of September and the 21st of October. Penalty for non-payment is one per cent of the amount due on the first day of default and an additional penalty of one per cent of the amount due is added on the first day of each month until taxes are paid.

Two interim tax levies by the town accounted for a levy reduction of 30 mills.

Finance chairman G. W. McKenzie paid tribute to town auditor Graeme Goebelle, acting treasurer Grant Usher and Henry Hutzal of the treasury department for their work on the town's first budget. He noted the budget had been prepared so it did not reflect in any way the \$150,000 in start-up costs provided by the Province, (Halton Hills had asked for \$350,000 in start-up costs) and the money could be used to reduce the mill rate.

In auditor Goebelle's opinion council deserved a pat on the back for having \$100,000 in the reserve working fund but he refused to be drawn into the

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(Peter McCusker photo) I WILL LOOK INTO the crystal ball and tell you of your future and little Shirley Van Ryk was the Tuesday fortune teller at the Kingham Hill carnival which drew a number of children and adults to enjoy festivities.

Residents want answers

Town water off 5½ hours

More than 75 percent of the town was without water for 5½ hours Saturday night and many Acton residents are now looking for an explanation and assurance from authorities from the Halton Region, which now controls water services that it won't happen again.

The interruption, the Free Press has learned, resulted from more than just the normal waterline break

which did occur on Church St. near the corner of Maria St. Town workers were notified of the break by a Church St. resident about 5 p.m. and immediately took measures to shut the water off on Church between Frederick St. and the Force Electric plant so that the break could be repaired. However, for reasons not yet determined, water was cut off to the entire town with the

exception of the Leishman Block and Glenlea Subdivision. Workers began receiving complaints from all over town. The break took only 2½ hours to repair, but water service was not restored until 10.30, as workers tried to figure out why most of the town had been shut off, when only the valve for a small portion of Church St. had been closed.

A similar two hour water service interruption occurred approximately two weeks ago when pipes were being connected from Churchill Rd., north into the newly constructed phase of the Acton Meadows subdivision. That interruption affected both the Building Products and H. K. Porter plants, even causing serious concern about damage to boilers at the Porter plant. It is known

that engineers from the Region, unfamiliar with Acton's water system supervised that shutoff. Adding further to the frustration was that with most of the equipment needed to repair the break now housed in Georgetown since the introduction of regional government, town workers needed an hour more than it usually takes to do the work. Only piece of equipment

available in the Acton yard was a clamp. A backhoe, truckload of gravel and other necessary tools had to be picked up in Georgetown by workmen who drove down there from Acton.

It is also now compulsory for workmen to notify both the telephone and gas companies first, before they begin to dig to repair a break.

Police lay drug charge

An out of town man has been charged with possession of marijuana after he was found lying on the shoulder of Queen St., near the Becker's Milk store at 12.15 a.m. Tuesday morning by Acton O.P.P. He will appear in court September 25 to face the charge.

Police also charged another out of town man with wilful damage and possession of an offensive weapon, after they were called to the Station Hotel at 1.20 a.m. Saturday morning. The man had caused considerable damage to the door of the hotel with a tire iron. He will appear in court September 11.

A charge of theft under \$200 was also laid against a third out of town man following a week long police investigation into discrepancies in the

bill at a local shoe store. The suspect was working at the store. He will appear in court September 11.

Police also charged two persons with common drunkenness after they were picked up on town streets, made three liquor seizures, charged one impaired driver and two minors for drinking under age.

Strike fizzles

The Ontario Hauler's Association strike has apparently fizzled out. The haulers had not been recognized by the Aggregate Producers because the strike was illegal. The haulers had been trying to set prices. The organization picketed the quarries in this area.

No. 7 Heritage Hwy.?

Claude Bennett, Ontario Minister of Industry and Tourism, thinks if Highway 7 becomes a Heritage Highway it will bring more tourists to Halton Hills.

He expressed this view when he met with Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill, Halton M.P.P. and Minister of Governmental Services, Jim Snow, and Walter Gowing of the Niagara Escarpment Commission, last Friday at the Georgetown Market Centre.

"We are presently reviewing the Highway 7 situation. I think it would be good because it would take tourists off the 401 and give them a chance to see the

Ontario countryside," Bennett said. Bennett was in Georgetown as part of a tour of Ontario in which he is visiting various industries and talking with municipal officials. They had an informal discussion in Bennett's touring trailer.

The Minister pointed out that Highway 2 is already a Heritage Highway and that they have found that once roads are so designated that it's where the tourists go. "Tourists make fine use of these roads once we get brochures and our special map productions into their hands," Bennett added.

He asked the mayor if he has been contacted by the

new Ontario Tourism and Travel Association.

"No, but they might have gone to the Region," Hill answered.

Bennett explained that the Association was expected to create a greater spirit of co-

operation among different areas and greater unity.

"I think this will mean that various regions will no longer be worried about just their own small area and will now work together for the be-

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MR. AND MRS. PERCY WOODS, Main St. N. had an unexpected caller Wednesday of last week when this driverless 1971 Hornet knocked loudly on their front door after knocking down a picket fence in front of their home. The freak accident happened about 5.35 p.m.

Town streets quieter following crackdown

Hot-rodgers and tire squealers beware.

Six months of driving privileges and \$250 have already been lost by drivers who chose to ignore the recent crackdown by Acton O.P.P. and according to Cpl. Bob Arbour, at least 25 more persons charged are scheduled to appear in court during August and September.

"As a result of our increased patrols, the streets have definitely been quieter at night," Cpl. Arbour said this week. Recently, one person

charged was convicted of careless driving, fined \$200 and had his license suspended for six months. Another local was fined \$50 for making unnecessary noise.

Cpl. Arbour emphasizes that the new practice of having offenders appear in court rather than simply paying fines out of court will continue.

The community centre parking lot and the parking lot at Becker's in the east end of town are well-known turnaround points for some hot-rodgers, who have often used town streets in between like drag strips.

Halton Hills tax tale

TOTAL MILL RATES - (Excluding Special Lighting Areas)				
Residential and Farm	Acton	Esquesing	Georgetown	Oakville
Region	15.49	3.33	11.79	6.63
General	35.42	25.26	29.63	24.69
Secondary Schools	18.05	17.70	14.72	13.46
Elementary Schools	23.11	22.32	18.71	18.21
	92.07	68.61	74.85	62.99
Commercial and Business				
Region	18.23	3.92	13.87	7.80
General	41.67	29.72	34.86	29.04
Secondary Schools	20.06	19.67	16.35	14.96
Elementary Schools	25.68	24.80	20.79	20.24
	105.64	78.11	85.87	72.04
TOTAL MILL RATES - (Special Lighting Areas Only)				
Residential and Farm	Glen Williams	Norval	Stewarttown	Ballinafad
Esquesing Basic Area Rate	68.61	68.61	68.61	68.61
Area Total	2.04	.96	.75	3.33
	70.65	69.57	69.36	71.91
Commercial and Business				
Esquesing Basic Area Rate	78.11	78.11	78.11	78.11
Area Total	2.40	1.12	.88	3.52
	80.51	79.23	78.99	82.03

False alarms

Acton firefighters were called out on two false alarms this week. A car accident with two vehicles in flames was reported on Highway 25. The second one reported was a house and barn fire in Ward 2 (Esquesing).

Both false reports seem to have been made with malicious intent.



WINNEY KROES MODELS the latest fashions which were used in the dressing relay race at the field day penny carnival at Prospect Park, Wednesday. The day events raised \$50 for M.D. (More details inside).

Hornet plows through fence and front door

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Woods, Main St. N. had an unexpected and unwelcome visitor last Wednesday at 5.35 p.m. when a yellow Hornet plowed through their picket fence and knocked in their aluminum front door before coming to a stop.

You may have guessed by now the Hornet was a driverless '71 model which performed a pirouette after being struck by a truck and plowed into the Woods home, pickets flying. Mr. and Mrs. Woods were in the kitchen at the rear of their home when the vehicle made the loudest

knock they ever had at their front door.

Mrs. Woods rushed to the front to see what had happened and was disturbed to see the car had no driver. She thought perhaps the driver had been injured and was lying out of sight in the car. Fortunately no one was injured.

Neighbors said the car, owned by Jean Parker, Tidey Ave., had parked on the School Lane alongside Mrs. C. K. Browne's store on Main St. N. When she went into the store, the car moved out onto the highway where it turned

aimlessly before being clipped by a northbound truck driven by David Eaves of Rockwood.

The car left the road and banged through the fence into the home of Mr. and Mrs. Woods.

Police estimated damage to the car at \$600 and the house and fence \$250. There was no damage to the International truck.

Mr. and Mrs. Woods said they were thankful no one was injured and weren't really too disturbed by the large yellow caller at the front door.