



**CURIOSITY WAS CREATED** last Thursday noon when two trucks were seen on Willow St. pulling two large school portables headed for Doon. Confusion came when they had to make the turn at River St. and it was close quarters for a while. Police escort was provided.

## Reasonable first budget

Halton Hills council has come up with a mill rate all of us can live with in its first budget, despite the restrictions Bill 151 imposed on the municipality.

Acton taxpayers face an average \$25 increase, Georgetown remains virtually unchanged while Esquesing was given an 8.11 mill increase which was bitter medicine for at least two of the Ward 2 councillors, Cox and Howitt. They pointed out the former township had never experienced a hike of more than two mills at any time during their political careers and the 8.11 increase was going to be difficult to explain.

It has been pointed out Esquesing residents never before had to pay directly for police protection or recreation either, but the two reluctant councillors said they have noticed no great improvement in either since they have been merged into Halton Hills.

Their concern was not so much for 1974 as it was for 1975 and 1976 when they foresee larger increases hitting rural people as grants from Queen's Park cease. They pointed out the increase this year could have been 20 mills if the Province had not rescued them in the form of

transitional grants and the municipality had not designated one mill of the \$150,000 in start-up grants to reduce the rate.

Both councillors were also pessimistic about future increased assessment baling the rural areas out, because as they pointed out, the Region is recommending only slow growth in Halton Hills.

The rural problems will also reflect on the two urban areas as well if the Region has its way. Halton Hills was denied some of the choice assessment in Esquesing when the Province decided there would be a fourth municipality in Milton, creating a merger of Milton, parts of Esquesing and the entire township of Nassagaweya. Some of the choicest Esquesing assessment went to Milton so it could be a self-sustaining entity.

These were all problems the finance committee of Halton Hills faced in drawing up the first budget. Regional councillor Pat McKenzie said the committee worked out their budget by figuring what had been spent in each of the three municipalities and adding 10 per cent for inflation.

The committee had to make some compromises.

Esquesing's surplus is going to

help pay for the new Georgetown arena, Georgetown's was used to pay off a \$10,000 deficit Acton arrived at in 1973 and the remainder went to the arena.

Acton was also faced with extra costs because of a debt which has existed since the formation of the Halton Board of Education. The town was paying the debt off in instalments but Bill 151 decreed it had to be fully paid this year and this affected the Acton rate.

Generally we think council has done an excellent job with the first budget and much of the credit should go to the untiring efforts of Ward 1 (Acton) councillor Pat McKenzie who worked night and day to forge a meaningful and payable budget in the municipality's first year of operation. If future budgets are as reasonable taxpayers won't have much to complain about.

There are two schools of thought about future budgets among members of council. Some predict the two years ahead are going to be roughest while others suggest that the municipalities will be able to cope with all the bills and hold the tax line.

Only time will tell.

## My wife called me "Dear" today

Summer reflections: some good, some bad. First we'll give the good news, then the bad, as the current crud goes. If you don't know what crud means, ask your family doctor. Or somebody else's family doctor, if you don't trust your own.

A family doctor is someone in the family. That means you try to get everything for free. So if he tells you that you have a little headache once in a while, take an aspirin, relax, you know you have a monumental brain tumour.

On the other hand, if you take somebody else's family doctor, beware. He'll probably tell you that you have a possible brain tumour, that you should relax, and take plenty of aspirin.

Well, I hope that takes care of that. I didn't really mean to get onto doctors. Grand chaps, actually.

But I have a lingering resentment against an R.A.F. doctor who insisted on giving me my annual anti-tetanus shot (a dirty great injection in your shoulder) the night of our passing-out party, from a training course on Spliffies.

I told him I had a bad back, a wrenched knee, a toothache, phlebitis, and pneumonia.

He said, "Jolly good," and sank an elephant needle into my shoulder.

I had the satisfaction of seeing him stunned by a coffee cup hurled from behind

the piano. It was thrown by our C.O., who, despite the fact that he'd had his pants pulled off and beer poured liberally over his lower torso, was still very much alive.

And a moment later, I had the satisfaction of seeing the C.O. caught right between the eyes by a dinner-plate flung by a New Zealander who said, "Whizzo" when he saw the Commanding Officer fall to his knees, trouserless.

This was in the good old days, when it was more or less expected you'd smash up the mess before you graduated.

It wasn't vandalism, in the modern sense. You had to pay for everything you broke, and you took full responsibility for what you'd done.

It was a wild, free, careening sense of destruction, perhaps based on the sense that you were destructible and were going to be destroyed. Perhaps that is what makes young people tick today. If they tick. Some of them don't even seem to be wound up, let alone tick.

As usual, I've gone far from my theme. The good news and then the bad news, it's like a Newfie or Polish joke, both of which I despise.

Good news? It's not raining; the town engineer is not going to cut down 31 maple trees until he tries again next year. My grandbaby is a little devil. One of my students wants to come around and talk. My wife called me "Dear" today. My bursitis is not hurting too much. There's a



Bill Smiley

rose bed in the backyard which hasn't produced a rose in three years, but this summer has a fine touch of green (three baby ones). I don't have a heart condition, though I'm not sure about me liver. The electric storm last night didn't hit my oaks. The plumber gave us a big bag of fresh beans out of his garden.

Bad news? My grandbaby is a devil. He and his mother are living in a dome (no lights, no water, no electricity, no toilet). I left an \$8.95 library book out on one of the lawn chairs yesterday and it rained all night. There's a nest of yellowjackets up in the roof and the roofer will quit, after he's taken half the shingles off. Two stings will do it. The boys who are going to do the painting will all have fallen off a ladder and broken their right arms by the time they're ready to go.

My mistress has the mumps. My doctor has a needie. My wife has a tongue. My cat is heterosexual. My daughter is cheerful. My son is cheerful. (This is bad news because it means they are both going to make a touch).

All in all, it's a pretty average summer, so far.

## Free Press Editorial Page

8 The Acton Free Press, Wed., August 14, 1974

### Casey didn't strike out

Last week this newspaper carried a feature story on beavers, relating especially to the nuisance the animals created on district farms and parks.

Particularly hit in this area was the farm of Casey Boss on the Fourth Line, near Limehouse. The buck-toothed animals were ousted from one spot adjacent to 22 Sideroad by taking them elsewhere and destroying the dam.

Casey breathed a sigh of relief. A year later beavers had constructed another large dam which destroyed several acres of cedars. The story unfolded Casey's futile battle to oust the animals without destroying them. But that's only part of the struggle on the Boss farm which has been hit with more natural and man-made problems than most farmers face in a lifetime.

The beavers are included in a long list of obstacles such as quarries, groundhogs, oil

spills and hydro lines which has hardly made agriculture a desirable profession for the Boss's.

If Casey wasn't such a stubborn cuss he probably would have headed elsewhere years ago but he grits his teeth and continues to farm, taking a lively interest in community affairs. This past year the crop of troubles came singly—a tribe of groundhogs in the asparagus that had to be gassed, a decision by Queen's Park that the 600 ft. 500 KV hydro corridor would cut a swath across his farm and the dam-builders, not to mention the wet spring and subsequent drought.

But the reason we started this epistle was to point out that in spite of the handicaps the Boss family still managed to come up with a win in the Halton Farmstead and Rural Home Improvement Competition.

Congratulations! Here's one Casey who won't strike out.

## Free Press back issues

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, August 19, 1954.

A new lumber and building supplies yard in town, on Queen Street east, was opened this week by Tom Cooke.

Three Hereford heifers were killed when lightning struck an elm tree on the farm of Gerald MacLeod, R.R. 4, Acton, during a recent thunderstorm. The cattle belonged to Harry and Mervyn MacLeod.

The breezes, a recently opened park on Fairy Lake near Acton, has been the setting for quite a few group picnics during the summer. Latest was that of the Nassagaweya Women's Institute, held there yesterday (Wednesday). Provincial Paper Mill of Georgetown will have an outing there later in the month.

### Others say . . .

The federal 12 percent sales tax is still causing tangles for clothing and footwear retailers—partly because the fall mail-order catalogues were printed before the tax was lifted and partly because consumers are slow to grasp that the savings work out to only about 5.5 percent-6 percent on retail prices, writes Susan Goldenberg in *The Financial Post*. Prime Minister Trudeau has said that the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs will monitor transactions to insure that any benefits are passed on to consumers. But just how remains to be seen. If the tax had been removed when the May 6 budget was introduced, the timing would have been ideal for retailers. It was a slack time for shipping as retailers and manufacturers prepared for a new season. Tax-exempt merchandise would have represented new-season goods. During the two-month interregnum, retailers either delayed accepting fall deliveries or postponed payment.

Born: Airdrie: To Johnny and Helen Airdrie (nee Jackson) a son, Jackson (Johnny), at the Guelph General Hospital on August 11, 1954.

About 25 enjoyed an evening of progressive euchre followed by refreshments. A blond wood steptable was presented to the couple by the group.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, August 14, 1974.

Owing to the resignation of Messrs. N. F. Moore and E. R. Gamble from membership in the Board of School Trustees, an election will be held to fill the vacancy, which will be announced. Mr. Gamble was appointed janitor of the School at a meeting last Thursday to fill the vacancy occurring upon the resignation of John P. Worden. Mr. Gamble will be paid the same salary, \$1,000 per year.

The School Board has engaged Mrs. Edna Mew, who has been principal of Sutton Continuation School for several years, as the new principal to succeed Mr. James Macdonald, B.A. who resigned since vacation commenced. Mrs. Mew's initial salary will be \$2,000. She comes highly recommended. Miss Lila Tisdale, of St. Thomas has also been engaged on the High School staff. Her salary will be \$1,300. Miss Hood, who was on the staff last year, will continue. Miss Bennett, Principal and the old five teachers on the public School staff of last year have all been re-engaged.

There was real rejoicing in the home of Mr. Harry Mainprize last Thursday when Mrs. Mainprize and their two children returned from a three and a half month's visit to her father's home in Saskatchewan, with friends in Manitoba.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press August 10, 1899.

This year's section of new pavement was completed on Tuesday, by the Guelph Pavement Co. It is a very fine piece of work, superior, if possible, in some respects to the splendid walk laid last summer. The members of the Council were inclined to have the walk continued as far as the G.T.R. Crossing, but finally decided to defer that section until next season. Our citizens generally are so well pleased with the permanent pavement that they would be glad to see it replace the plank walks more rapidly.

There was a very happy family re-union last Friday at the home of the Misses Laing, Agnes Street. Mr. Adam Laing, the father

of the family, and Mrs. Laing, were up from Brampton, and all the sons and daughters were home again. There were Mr. and Mrs. John Laing and Master Clarence, from Burks Falls; Rev. Byron and Messrs. Albert and Arthur, who have been travelling through the United States for several years, and Misses Allie and Phemie, who reside here. It is some four years, since the family were all together last.

Miss Greer, a well-known society young woman, residing on Dufferin Avenue, Brantford, was at the police court the other day fined \$10, for riding a bicycle on the sidewalk. Miss Greer and several other ladies were served with summonses last week. The others called and settled the fine of \$1 each. Miss Greer, it appears, wrote a letter to a local newspaper, in which she said the police commissioners, consisting of the Mayor, Judge Hardy and the Police Magistrate, levied their fines for the purpose of raising money to go on holidays. In fining the young woman \$10 the Magistrate referred in severe terms to the charges of the letter.

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PHONE 853-2010  
Business and Editorial Office

DAVID R. DRIS, PUBLISHER  
DON RYDER, ADVERTISING MANAGER

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## Halton Hills is Georgetown

We expressed fears in these columns before the advent of regional government that Acton's identity would be lost in the merger with two larger municipalities. We were continually assured both at the provincial, county and municipal level that such fears were groundless.

However, convincing proof the southeast end of Halton Hills has

more clout than the northern half was furnished by a post office memo to mail distribution people. It included Halton Hills.

We have reproduced it here for the benefit of those who might doubt that such a document exists. There it is: for Halton Hills the destination is Georgetown. There is no mention of Acton, raising the question again of losing more autonomy.

Georgetown, of course, is much the largest community in Halton Hills and no one wants to negate this importance but federal, provincial and regional officials better remember there is another urban centre called Acton in Halton Hills with a growing population.

We hope our new Liberal M.P. Dr. Frank Philbrook will bring this to the attention of the post office department.

### Taxing dream

Though the sun was burning up the sod, We found a shady spot, With my little pup, I cuddled up, Beside the garden plot.

We took a swig of liquid, From the bottle that I keep, No one about, we both stretched out, And soon were fast asleep.

I dreamed about my taxes, How I was going to pay, I had to go and get the dough There was no other way.

I walked into the golden bank The manager was there, He wasn't wild, he even smiled, And bid me take a chair.

He said "My Boy! the bank is yours, Just take what ere you please, Don't lose your nerve, we're here to serve, He saw my trembling knees.

So, I loaded up ten dump-trucks With golden bars and stuff, He said "I understand"—then shook my hand, When I thought I had enough.

We stopped at the regional offices And started to unload, When the local cop just holler'd "stop", You're blocking up the road.

Then he took and locked us all in jail I had no money left for fines The taxes got the banker's lot, Including Solomon's Mines.

It was then I heard a barking sound, That saved me from disgrace, My little pup had woke me up, Licking teardrops from my face.  
Victor Smith, R.R. 2, Rockwood

CANADA POST OFFICE  
TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

POSTES CANADIENNES  
DISTRIBUTION DES TELEPOSTES

DISTRIBUTION LIST - INDICATIONS D'ACHÈVEMENT

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ABBREVIATIONS - ABRÉVIATIONS

A - Add - ajouter	NC - Name changed to - nom changé en
C - Change - changer	O.C. - Office closed - bureau fermé
D - Delete - supprimer	N.O. - New office - nouveau bureau
C.R. - Complete revision - changer au complet	R.O. - Office re-opened - bureau rouvert

CHANGES IN POST OFFICES AND DISTRIBUTION - CHANGEMENTS DANS LES BUREAUX ET L'ACHÈVEMENT

OFFICE - BUREAU	Province	Region	DISTRIBUTION	SERVICE
DE GRASSE	PN	NO	SEPT ILES	
PLACE-HORNBLEND	"	NO	LEVIS QUEST	
ST-EMILE-DE-MONTCALEM	"	NO	ENTRELAACS	
TASUJUAQ	"	NO	MONTREAL ANP	
HALTON HILLS	ONT	NO	GEORGETOWN	
ARMONFIELD	BC	OC	PORT ST. JOHN	

### "Watch those prices" is warning

Dear Editor:  
I had an experience the other day and I hope no one else has the same misfortune.

Last Saturday I purchased four items from a small boutique in Acton for which I got the blind man's expense. I bought two pair of jeans and I was charged more than the price tagged on them due to a raise in the cost of the new shipment delivered later.

I was always under the impression that you could not charge the price of new stock on old stock after it was priced but not so, at this boutique.

I was also not told till Tuesday the true price of the items. I did not receive a proper bill either in case of the need of returning them.

When confronted with the above facts I was told "We never rip anyone off unless they ask for it."

So beware if you buy at this boutique. The proprietor has lost another nine faithful customers due to his attitude.  
Other friends priced the items on Tuesday and were told the old price so you don't know who you can trust any more.  
"A little bit angry"