

# \$300,000 difference in cost of pools

By next March year-round swimming will be a reality in Halton Hills and residents will have the new town's first pool, the school board, Acton Lions club and numerous citizen groups to thank for it.

There are many similarities between the two new facilities, located in Acton and Georgetown, and one glaring difference: the price tag.

The Georgetown pool will cost close to \$800,000 when completed, hopefully next spring. The Acton pool, which will open its doors to the public any day now, rang in the cash register at around \$500,000.

Close examination of features of the two pools, however, explains the big price difference of what, on the surface, appear to be identical facilities.

Both pools are indoor heated structures, located adjacent to high schools, and are 28 metres in length. In many respects the materials used in construction and equipment installed are similar. Yet there is nearly \$300,000 difference in price between the two pools.

A brief look at the history of the two projects and how they evolved goes a long way in explaining this difference. Firstly plans were underway for both pools long before regional government was born in Halton.

The Acton pool was in the minds of many when the most recent construction took place at the Acton high school. It was a toss-up between a pool and another gym for the school's next building project. So the last addition was built with this fact in mind. Washrooms and

changers, an important facet of either a pool or gym, were included in the project.

Thus when the Acton pool plans were drawn up back in 1973 two major costs—plumbing and washrooms—changers facilities were already in place.

"What we had to do with Acton's pool was take the existing features and adapt the new positions to it. We had to build the whole thing around what we already had," said Halton Hills recreation director Doug Collison.

Collison pointed out the Georgetown pool was started right from scratch.

"There was nothing already in place with the Georgetown pool so it was easier in some ways to plan. We had much more leeway and so were able to put in some extras which were impossible in Acton," he explained.

The Acton Lions club had much of the planning already completed for the Acton pool well before any municipal body got into the act.

Collison noted there was also a time difference between the dates the pool contracts were signed.

"The papers were signed and construction commenced for Acton's pool on April 1 while Georgetown didn't get off the ground until August," he said.

Both Mayor Tom Hill and the supervising consulting engineer for the two pool projects, Donald Snyder, pointed out inflation played a key role in the price difference during the five month period between the beginning of the two pools. "During the time span construction costs

went up 20 per cent," Snyder noted.

Snyder supported Collison's contention that the many provisions for a pool which already existed in Acton were a significant factor in the price gap.

Halton Hills finance committee chairman Pat McKenzie concurred with the others' opinion that the washrooms, changerooms and plumbing that was already in place in Acton brought down its cost considerably.

"Georgetown's pool is dressed up more because they had more to work with and weren't restricted by what already existed," he added.

Collison said the mere fact the building contracts were of different types was a factor.

"The Acton agreement was a design tender. In other words approval was given to a basic set of specifications but most of the choice of materials and such were left up to the contractor. The only requirements were that he meet existing town building codes," he explained.

Georgetown on the other hand was a full design tender project which he said was "more expensive the majority of the time." With the full design tender agreement the town produced preferred specifications and material priorities and then worked from there.

In other words, there was much more control on how the pool would turn out looking in the hands of the town. Thus another factor in \$300,000 cost difference.

"As it turned out because of the time jump Acton had on Georgetown and building restrictions the Acton pool



Acton pool a bargain

was built with economy in mind so when it came time for Georgetown we wanted to make sure the extras and fringe features we couldn't get in the Acton pool got in Georgetown. We wanted the town to have the frills in at least one pool," Collison summarized.

With respect to size the Acton and Georgetown pools are the same length but that's where the similarity ends.

Once again because of building restrictions Acton's washrooms, changerooms, and administrative space is considerably smaller than Georgetown's.

In addition Georgetown has a first aid room and hair dryers in the changerooms while Acton has a sauna.

The Acton pool is 12 feet six

inches deep while the Georgetown pool is to feet six inches in depth. Acton's extra depth allows it, under government regulations, to have a better diving board.

Agreements have been worked out between the town and school board governing the amount of time the school uses the new pools and the hours the public will be able to use them. Weekends, holidays, and evenings are reserved for the public along with at least five hours per week of daytime use.

The schools have the use of the pools daily from 7 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Both groups (the town and school), are required to give written notice of at least two weeks if they need a time change from their normal hours.

While the town and citizens groups were responsible for the costs of building the pools all future maintenance costs are paid by the school board.

"Maintenance could run from \$20,000 to \$25,000 each year and in the long run the town will have made a good deal. You could pay off the cost of the pool in a relatively short time in what is saved in maintenance costs," Collison explained.

Each group is responsible for their own staff and administration costs.

"Over all I would say we will have two very fine pools and be able to run very good programs. Both have distinctive features which the other doesn't have. Acton got a very good pool for the money they spent," Collison concluded.

## Four people die in crash

(Continued from Page 1)

Mr. Bradshaw is survived by his wife and daughter in Guelph, parents in Montreal and brothers and sister. The funeral was Monday in Guelph.

Heather Richardson is survived by her parents, two sisters and two brothers. Funeral was Tuesday at Warton.

Mr. and Mrs. Vera Bealy are survived by a daughter and three sons as well as other relatives. Funeral was at Knox Presbyterian Church, Burlington, Monday.

Police and neighbors set up flares well down the highway to warn approaching cars of the accident.

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## Driver worries

# Cars, trucks pass stopped school bus

School bus driver Shirley Kleine Deters has been growing more and more concerned.

She talked to Speyside school principal Norman Howell and she talked to the O.P.P.

This week she also decided to come to the Free Press, and through the local paper to talk to all the car and truck drivers of the district.

Needless She wants to let them know how urgent it is to keep alert for school buses and to be sure and stop when the bus has its red lights flashing.

She and other drivers are alarmed at how many vehicles pass them unconcernedly, just when little children are getting out to cross the road.

It's provincial regulation—where a school bus is stopped on a highway or part of a highway on which the maximum speed limit is greater than 35 miles per hour for the purpose of receiving or discharging school children, the driver overtaking and meeting a bus which has red signal lights flashing must stop.

But, Mrs. Kleine Deters has discovered, many don't.

Didn't notice? It's not defiance of the law, but sheer absent-mindedness, she thinks. Drivers have told her, after a hasty stop, they

"hadn't noticed the bus at all."

She anxiously recalls her close calls.

One day this week eight oncoming cars passed her when she was stopped and two passed from behind.

Can't prove "There's nothing we can do," Mrs. Kleine Deters explained. If she gets a license number, she must still prove the identity of the driver and prove that her own red lights on top of the bus were indeed flashing.

A police car followed her along her route one day recently and the officer laid three charges. He could do the proving—she can't.

She does use her horn, though.

Mrs. Klein Deters and Mary Ann Martin of Norton bus lines both drive youngsters to Speyside school, and their principal backs them up 100 per cent. It

was he who called police, after three or four unpleasant scares with kindergarten kids who cross No. 25 at noon hour.

"As far as I'm concerned it's entirely due to lack of attention of the drivers," says Norman Howell.

And the bus drivers have too much else to do, which requires good judgment as well as liking for their young passengers.

The children also learn at school to be cautious and watch for the bus driver's wave that the road is clear.

"I'm really impressed by the calibre of people driving school buses!" boasts the principal.

Mrs. Kleine Deters takes 50 or so to Speyside and Limehouse schools each day. Her bus will hold up to 60.

"Please be alert when driving!" she pleads. "You could save somebody else's child, and somebody else could save yours."

## Accident

On Saturday, Nov. 2 at 4 a.m. on County Road 3 a car driven by Karen O'Rourke, 13 Young St., Acton was in collision with a telephone pole causing her \$800 to her vehicle. She was uninjured.

## when your rates are about to go up we think you deserve to know the reasons why

With most products you buy you never get to know about the increased price until you reach the cash register. The few pennies added to a can of this or that just seems to happen.

Now that we're forced to increase our rates we want to tell you plainly what's happening—and we want you to understand why we have to do it.

First there's the wholesale power we purchase directly from the Ontario Hydro generating system. This year it will cost us some 15 per cent more. A number of factors have forced this increase to us... rising labour charges, higher construction costs and increases in the cost of practically every industry or business you'd care to name are also affecting the generation of electricity. Our local costs are going up too. Lines, transformers, poles, gasoline for our service vehicles—all these essentials have been rising at an almost unprecedented rate.

In the past, we have been successful in absorbing many of these increases, rather than passing them immediately on to you. However, we've now reached a point where the present rates will not return sufficient revenue to cover costs.

Thus, in spite of the many economies we've made and will continue to make, we must now ask for a rate increase. An increase that will be sufficient to handle the rising costs outside our direct control.

Since 1970, the rates to Acton Hydro customers has not increased. In the meantime through careful management, the Acton Commission has absorbed four increases in the wholesale cost of power from the Ontario Hydro.

While it wouldn't be human to be pleased about any kind of increase, we hope you'll understand our position—and the reasons why we must make this adjustment in rates at this time.

### NEW NET MONTHLY RATES FOR RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

Effective on all bills issued on or after Nov. 1, 1974

Kilowatt-hour (KWH) Consumption	Monthly Charge
RESIDENTIAL	
First 50 KWH	4.8
Next 200 KWH	2.1
Next 500 KWH (for customers with Hydro approved water heater)	1.1
Balance KWH	1.35
Minimum Bill	3.00

### NEW MONTHLY RATES FOR GENERAL RATE CUSTOMERS

Effective on all bills issued on or after Nov. 1, 1974

Monthly Charge	Monthly Charge
GENERAL SERVICE	
First 50 KWH	5.30
Next 200 KWH	2.70
Next 500 KWH	1.85
Balance	.75
Service Charge	2.20
Minimum Bill	3.00

### comparison of preferred residential rates (monthly)

	250 KWH	500 KWH	750 KWH	1,000 KWH
Acton	6.60	9.35	12.10	15.48
Brampton	8.70	11.70	14.70	18.08
Burlington	8.41	10.91	13.41	16.54
Georgetown	7.63	10.63	13.63	17.13
Guelph	7.50	10.63	13.75	17.25
Milton	7.70	10.58	13.45	16.95
Rockwood	7.70	10.20	12.70	15.83
Streetsville	5.90	8.40	10.90	14.03

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POSTAL CODES are written on a Christmas card list by special post office employee Bernice Gibb. She's looking for more.

## Code early for Christmas

The postal codes that will soon be in general use throughout the country will be provided for you—free. The post office has engaged Mrs. Bernice (Sargent) Gibb to provide this temporary service, in order to speed use of the codes.

She has finished half of the hydro mailing lists and has done part of the Free Press mailing list. She also has lists from a couple of other industries. But she has only had a couple of personal Christmas card lists—the first, the post-master's.

Takes book She will take an address book and asks only that there be room to mark in the three letters and three numbers required. There is no need to re-copy the list unless you want, she explains. She points out

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