



CAR BEING moved for closing time at Bill Toth's service station suddenly burst into flame Sunday evening. Acton firefighters put out the fire leaving the '65 Chev with \$750 damage.

Can't meet with Rhodes

\$187,000 not spent from works budget in 1974

Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill and members of the works committee won't be meeting with John Rhodes, Minister of Transportation and Communications, at least not in the immediate future. At last week's works committee meeting the mayor suggested the committee meet with the Minister as soon as possible to straighten out the carrying over of subsidies for projects not carried out this year. Because of the lateness of Halton Hills' first budget, which was brought down August 1, a number of works projects weren't carried out this year. Many of the delayed construction programs were eligible for subsidy by the province. Mayor Hill said this week the town was unable to arrange a meeting with Rhodes and will now have to send him a letter explaining their problem. "I don't expect we will get the subsidy. They can't promise funds for 1975," the mayor stated.

Need gardener

A full-time gardener is needed for Acton parks, Brendan Aherne told members of the Acton recreation advisory committee last Thursday. Someone with a "feeling" for gardens and trees. Work in the parks the past year was done by the Halton Hills works department, and before that, the Acton arena staff. Arena manager Harold Townsley said it would be a good job for an older man, paid by the hour. Recreation director Doug Collison agreed it would be a good idea, if it could be arranged. Acton could afford one before, snapped chairman Diane Spielvogel. I don't see why we couldn't afford one now.

The works department spent \$187,000 less in 1974 than had been budgeted for. Former works committee chairman Len Cox said last week that many of the projects were approved by works long before the budget was set but the council wouldn't let them go ahead with them until the budget had been decided. Cox had pointed out to works meeting the province might be sympathetic to the town's dilemma because it was the first year of regional government, and the problems had been unavoidable because of the lateness of the budget. A report from town engineer Peter Morris indicated the town had underspent the engineering structures budget by \$99,609 in the area of roads improvement and culverts. His report explained the town had overspent by \$28,225 on storm sewers and ditching projects. Thus the town had spent \$71,384 less than it should have. Two major projects which have been held over until next year and are eligible for subsidy by the province are Fifth Line improvements and the installation of culverts on the Sixth Line. The work on the Fifth Line was slated to cost \$66,000 and the culverts were pegged at \$15,400. Halton Hills didn't go on a spending spree with the money allocated under public works maintenance or roadways budget, they spent \$78,100 less than they should have. For roadways they underspent by \$49,300 projects which were subsidizable and \$4,500 on drainage programs. In addition they underspent \$25,100 on unsubsidizable projects.

Some of these projects included surface treatments and reconstruction of Highway 25 in Acton. A total of \$30,000 had been budgeted for surface treatment but council never accepted the program so instead three streets were overlaid with asphalt. The three streets cost \$15,000. Highway 25 improvements were to cost \$25,000 but only \$1,000 was spent. Works department administration costs ended up being \$17,800 less than the town expected. Maintenance of the engineering and works

buildings ended up being \$8,000 more than was allocated. The Georgetown works yard cost \$7,000 more than was expected because of office expansion. The Esquimaux yard cost \$1,000 more than it should have and the Acton yard cost exactly what the budget said it would. Garbage collection cost \$28,000 less than was expected. Garbage pickup went \$15,200 over the mark but dumping charges were \$19,500 less than anticipated. In addition \$22,000, which were to be used to clean-up the old landfill site, weren't spent.

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Three Halton seats by early next year

Halton East MPP Jim Snow will apparently test the political waters before deciding which riding, Halton or Oakville, to run in during the next provincial election. Under a redistribution report, which will be debated before the Legislature some time in the near future, Burlington and Oakville would each get a riding, and Halton Hills and Milton form a third riding called Halton. "I can't make any announcement of where I will run until the final decision on redistribution is made. I live in the new riding of Halton so my tendency would be to run there but I just haven't made any decision on the matter yet," Snow stated.

The Minister of Government Services explained the second report from the Redistribution Committee came in recently and it will be debated before legislation is prepared. "It will be impossible to pass the legislation before the Christmas recess. After Christmas we will be able to finish it up and it should be law by the end of January," he said.

Oakville would become a single riding and the city of Burlington, south of highway 401 and 403 and south west of Kearns Road would be another seat. The remainder of north Burlington and the towns of Milton and Halton Hills would be the third riding. Snow pointed out that both he and Halton West MPP George Kerr agreed with the city of Burlington and Halton region that there should be two ridings for Burlington, one for Oakville, and one seat for the remainder of the region.

Burlington seat right up to 5 Highway but the committee rejected that idea too. "We thought the entire urban area should be together in one riding but they said it would throw the population count out. There would just be too many people in the one riding and would have cut down the population of the new Halton riding," he said. Snow added this subject may be debated by the Legislature in the coming weeks. "We thought it would be a good idea to put the big urban area of Burlington together and the predominantly rural

area of Halton Hills and Milton together. Maybe in another ten years when there is redistribution again, Halton will get four ridings then," he said.

Cooksley will quit

Ron Cooksley, a north Milton resident employed by the town of Oakville for the past 15 years, has resigned from his post effective Dec. 31.

Cooksley was industrial commissioner for Oakville for many years but with the introduction of regional government in 1974, his job was wiped out. He remained with the town, doing several special assignments including organizing the downtown shopping mall.

He was also active on the banquet committee which organized a dinner for 1,800 guests at Mohawk Raceway in September, in conjunction with the International Flowering Match in Halton Hills.

In his letter of resignation Cooksley explained he hoped the regional municipality of Halton would establish an economic development department but that has been ruled out as "premature".

"We both suggested two seats for Burlington but the committee on redistribution didn't agree with us," he stated. Snow explained they suggested putting the

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