

# Town's first year through council's eyes



T. HILL

**MAYOR TOM HILL**

The council of Halton Hills has accomplished more than Mayor Tom Hill expected in the first year. He said each member of council has put forth every effort to benefit the new town.

He predicted the co-ordinating of the three official plans of the former municipalities would be a big job in itself in the coming year, but said the task will be done with the co-operation of council and the excellent planner on the town staff.

While he saw the garbage and hydro problems as the biggest battles ahead, he stressed the main problem at the regional level would be to unify the 21 regional councillors in an effort to strive for the benefit of the Region of Halton as a whole.

**RUSS MILLER**

Ward two councillor Russ Miller would like to see some changes made in the ward boundaries in Halton Hills.

Miller said the present boundaries aren't good because it makes ward two, Esquesing, too big. He would like to see the size of wards one, three and four increased.

"We have problems in that there are people living two and three miles north of Acton who are in ward two but have much more in common with ward one," Miller explained. He thinks those who are rural should be in ward two and those who identify with the urban areas should be in wards one, three, or four.

Miller pointed out while he was opposed to regional government he hasn't found it all that bad and thinks things have gone pretty well so far. "As for council some of us get along very well and work together while a few spend time politicking and causing problems," he said.

He foresees some very real problems in ward two and thinks if something isn't done to increase assessment Esquesing will suffer greatly from regional government. "We are having to pay for a lot of things now that we didn't pay for in the past and maybe we should have been paying for these things. We have to have more assessment and possibly estate homes will be the answer," Miller offered.

This councillor sees planning as being the big advantage of regional government and sees things getting better in Halton Hills as time goes by.

"Planning is much easier now because we don't have to worry about crossing boundaries and we can expand when we have to," he explained.

Miller sees Halton Hills having less problems, especially in the area of staffing, in its second and third year.

On the subject of the region he said he thought it wasn't as good a system as county council and worries about our poor proportion of representation at the region as opposed to other areas of Halton.

"I can see a lot of things we should be doing, especially in the area of recreation, but I know we can't do them. There is just no way we can afford it," he concluded.

**LEN COXE**

Ward two councillor Len Coxe thinks Halton Hills has come together fairly well considering it was the hardest job to do when Halton county became a regional municipality.

"It was a hard job. Settling up Halton Hills wasn't like putting together the rest of the region," Coxe said. He explained that unlike Oakville and Burlington, where regionalism came in the form of a takeover, in the case of Halton Hills they had to amalgamate three separate municipalities.

"What we had to do was take two major towns and the biggest rural area in the county and put it all together in one single town."

Coxe said he believes the councillors have all accepted regional government and thinks even the ratepayers are starting to realize it is here to stay and there is nothing we can really do about it.

He pointed out no one is completely happy with the new system but thinks things should work out if council and citizens face the problems realistically.

Coxe noted he has found it easier to be non-parochial because he was raised in Acton, has lived for many years in Esquesing and did business in Georgetown for a considerable amount of time.

"I can see signs of big improvement and the members of council and the citizens of Halton Hills being drawn together," Coxe said.

He sees north-south Halton relations improving at the regional level. "Once you get these guys from the south to drive up above Highway 5 they begin to realize there is a lot of countryside and people they have tried to ignore. Once they realize there is something up here things are a lot easier," Coxe said.

**DICK HOWITT**

Councillor Dick Howitt, Ward Two, formerly Esquesing, saw planning as the big problem to be faced in the coming year. He warned Halton Hills council would have to keep a watchful eye on the regional council to make sure things like the garbage disposal site do not come to the area.

He stressed rumblings of discontent about representation from the three former areas was not founded. He

pointed out Acton and Esquesing could combine to defeat the Georgetown vote if they so desired. "This has never happened and I don't think it ever will since the entire council have been working together as a whole town."

He said roads have continued to improve and the mill rate was held to a reasonable level under the circumstances, during the first year of the new town.

Howitt said he felt Esquesing had fared well on the representations of committees with the exception of the land division committee, which he termed a critical committee for Esquesing since most of the applications for severance are in that area.

He said council has worked well together and tried to look objectively at what is best for Halton Hills. He paid tribute to the town's regional councillors who he said had gone to bat for the town.

"The big difference as far as I'm concerned is the fact now councillors must fight harder for what they feel is right for their area. You have to argue and make your viewpoint known."

Howitt said the suggested one-tier government would be a disaster, where the present problems would be magnified many times.

He concluded by suggesting the administration committee should have more responsibility or should be dissolved and their duties on fire and recreation be absorbed by the remaining two committees.

A few months ago planning was taken out of administration and made a separate committee of the whole council.

## Hide head if invaded Bill McCreary says

When you have settled in a safe place, you are to lie down, cover your eyes and listen to a battery radio for any further news.

Bill McCreary is in charge of emergency operations in Halton county. When asked how to tell an accidental sounding from the real thing he explained that if we are faced with an enemy attack, the siren will sound an undulating wail of three to five minutes. It will not be repeated.

However, in case of war, the country will know weeks in advance of any impending danger because of military spies. Therefore a full program will be introduced at that time.

Location Georgetown has two air raid sirens located at Wigglesworth public school and George Kennedy public school. Acton has one at Frank Heller & Co. plant. Milton's sounding system is situated at East Mary St.

When these sirens do happen to go off, whether accidental or otherwise, it would depend where you are living as to the volume you hear. The sirens are turned in one particular direction, and if the wind is blowing a certain way, and you live behind it, more than likely you would only hear it faintly, if at all, according to Mr. McCreary. Sound sleepers beware?

Survival steps The book says to take protection in the strongest part of your house, to protect yourself against the blast, heat, light and any other effects of the explosion. If you are outside, hide in ditches.

What do we do in the case of an actual invasion by unknown enemies?

Acton fire chief Mick Holmes, who was one of many who did not hear the siren, said, "Go down into the cellar and hide your head." According to the Emergency Measures Organization book, Eleven Steps of Survival, Mr. Holmes was not that far out.

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## All birds "freeloaders" . . . .

Continued from page 4

people of Acton, that I have been perfectly well aware of lightening his load. I may be approaching senility, but not that far gone, yet.

I believe I can claim without exaggeration, that in the past couple of years, I alone have logged more man hours around the duck pond than Mr. Townsley and his entire staff. The latter I don't blame, because they take their cues from the manager.

I am astonished that Mr. Townsley should decide in late December that "we have too many damned ducks." What I mean is—so seldom ventures out to look at them—let alone feed them, how would he know?

It must have been a shock to realize mid-winter what he should have known in the summer.

The Community Centre manager must be worn out from his recent bout of activity regarding—certainly not on behalf—of the birds. All this letter writing and stuff. Enough to add ten years, or justify a request for overtime.

Forgive me, if in closing, I speculate about what brought on this year-end fever. Having a nasty, cynical mind, I suspect Mr. Townsley was smitten with fears that Halton Hills politicians would blame him personally for the mounting corn bill. Some people have well-developed bumps of survivalism and self-interest.

True, the cost of feed is high, as well I know. Corn has more than doubled in price per hundred pounds since I first began to buy it in 1972.

Our duck population may be getting out of hand. However, if you have any humanity, you don't suddenly decide in mid-winter when the creatures are dependent on human care, that you "have too many damned ducks."

Without having the text-book expertise of biologists and wild life officials, I submit that spring or summer is the time to make such decisions.

Referring for the last time to Free Press "freeloader" headline, I wish to make the point that Mr. Townsley if quoted correctly, is far from accurate in his freeloading

slam. The way it reads, only our poor little hybrids are gulping down corn hand-outs. The truth is, every bird in Fairy Lake, swans included, is a freeloader from necessity. And Mr. Townsley cut the pattern back in his exuberant wing-clipping summer of 1971.

Esther Taylor.

**The ANNUAL MEETING of the ACTON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21st  
at the Acton Community Centre  
8:00 p.m.

### Salamander

"I've seen lots of salamanders and lizards, but none that size or color and never at this time of year." Paul Colbourne of Speyside told this newspaper Tuesday after his wife found a frozen salamander on Highway 25 near their St. Helena Rd. home.

The six and a half inch long salamander was encased in ice. It is all black with large, bright yellow spots along its back. Salamanders don't usually venture forth in such weather.



**WELCOME SERVICE**

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**THE HALTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Acton**

**January Night School Classes**

Registration by Mail (using the form below) or at Acton High School  
Wednesday, January 8, 1975  
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

COURSE	NIGHT	TIME	WEEKS	FEE
Bookkeeping for a Small Business I	Wed.	7:00-10:00 p.m.	10	\$18
Bookkeeping for a Small Business II	Wed.	7:00-10:00 p.m.	10	\$18
Crocheting	Mon.	7:30-9:30 p.m.	10	\$12
Fitness & Recreation (Men & Women)	Mon.	7:30-9:30 p.m.	10	\$12
Landscaping	Wed.	7:30-9:30 p.m.	10	\$12
Macrame & Finger Weaving	Wed.	7:30-9:30 p.m.	10	\$12
Off Loom Weaving	Tue.	7:30-9:30 p.m.	10	\$12
*Yoga - Beginners	Wed.	7:30-9:30 p.m.	10	\$12
*Yoga - Advanced	Thu.	7:30-9:30 p.m.	10	\$12

\*Yoga classes are held at Robert Little Public School, 41 School Lane

**CLASSES BEGIN:**  
Wednesday, January 15, 1975  
Thursday, January 16, 1975  
Monday, January 20, 1975  
Tuesday, January 21, 1975

THINK METRIC! "Canada is Going Metric"—Here is your opportunity to become acquainted with centimetres, kilograms, litres, etc. This three part practical presentation will keep you "up to date" with your school age son or daughter. Classes will operate from 7:30-9:30 p.m. for three successive Tuesdays, beginning on January 28, 1975. There is no fee. Classes will be offered at Acton High School.

**THE HALTON BOARD OF EDUCATION NIGHT SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

NAME: Mr. Mrs. Miss (Circle One) SURNAME (Please Print) FIRST NAME Phone No. (Home) Bus. Phone

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