

Farmer warns budget cuts necessary

Members of Halton's Public Works committee were faced with the high cost of growth Wednesday when Treasurer Don Farmer presented a five year capital forecast to the committee. The first draft of the budget calls for an estimated spending of \$27,000,000 over the next five years.

Farmer warned both the administration committee Wednesday morning and the works committee in the afternoon that the region shouldn't budget for more than \$85,000,000. He noted substantial cutting would have to be done to bring the proposed spending in line with his suggested ceilings.

"This is a very heavy budget and I'd suggest you examine those projects which are not essential. Some of the amenities may have to go by the board," he said.

Some non-essentials questioned on what he considered essential service, Farmer suggested things of a recreation nature or theatres would be considered non-essentials.

"Recognizing the fact that many of the projects included in the capital budget must be considered essential if we are going to provide reasonable growth within Halton Region, but also recognizing the fact that the impact of this capital budget is quite considerable, and although within the capability of the regional municipality to finance might result in curtailment of our capital needs budget for the following five years, I am recommending that the entire capital budget for the five years not exceed \$85,000,000. I feel that a budget in this amount is a reasonable program, and would represent a suitable compromise between the needs of the Region and the burden on the taxpayers for carrying this level of debt," he said.

In his budget presentation Mr. Farmer noted that growth brings with it needs for new services and new needs. He pointed out a need for an expenditure of \$26,500,000 over the next two years in sewage requirements and \$3,000,000 in landfill sites.

Leave it to works
Mr. Farmer suggested the administration and finance committee should set some sort of general guideline or ceiling on spendings but the review of actual projects of a works nature should be left to the public works committee. The budget was referred to area councils by the administration committee for review and comment. Both committees considered the overall impact of the budget but neither has yet delved into the nitty gritty.

The list of projects for 1975 calls for spending of \$28,182,000, of that over \$6,000,000 will be paid in grants and \$1,000,000 is recoverable.

For regional projects alone the treasurer is forecasting debentures of \$57,863,510. The region will be required to debenture an additional \$40,000,000 for the municipalities unless budgets are cut.

By April 20
Mr. Farmer said he hopes to have both the budget and operating budget completed by April 20.

During the discussion Burlington Councillor Vern Connell expressed concern for some of the ratepayers in his ward.

"It's getting beyond the ability of some homeowners in my ward to pay taxes and keep their home. Consider the people on fixed incomes," Connell said.

Who says so?
"Yes, and municipalities are building arenas, art centres and theatres. Who will tell them they can't have the art centre, the arena or the theatre? People demand it," Regional Chairman Allan Masson pointed out.

Committee chairman Jack Rafitis said the budget clearly pointed out the need for the municipalities to have control over growth. He pointed out that the budget shows that the cost of growth is rising far more rapidly than the number of people being brought into the area. He looked at proposed increases in debenture debt and wondered what services taxpayers would receive.



IT ISN'T EASY to get a flag flying out over Mill St. to advertise the current heart fund campaign. Chairman Vic Bristow leans perilously out over the edge of the Bank of Montreal roof to secure

the banner. He took a different approach with the Canadian flag for the other flagpole and put it up from the hydro bucket.

Interlinked trail discussed for district snowmobile clubs

Government grants to snowmobile clubs have softened the blow somewhat on new regulations and by-laws recently passed for policing the vehicles.

According to Bill Wilson, snowmobile coordinator for the Ministry of Natural Resources, Cambridge district, much of the grant money is being given to northern areas as land in that area of the province lends itself to recreation whereas in southern Ontario most large tracts are valuable farm land.

Mr. Wilson spoke at Rockwood Centennial school Monday night. He was invited to speak at a group meeting of zone club representatives. When the provincial government presented new policies regarding snowmobiles in Ontario last December, it divided each section into zones. According to Mr. Wilson, the zone which he represents stretches from the Luther Marsh in the Fergus-Arthur area, runs in angle of

Woodstock, across bottom of Lake Ontario to skirt St. Catharines, on to Milton and Halton-Georgetown, north by Georgetown with Hillsburgh the cut off area.

Fourth meeting
Monday's meeting was not the first for the zone snowmobilers. It was the fourth organizational get-together of club representatives. They are trying to establish a series of organized trails which could provide more continuous trails but alleviate road travel and trespassing. Hope of the group is to have interlinked trails leading from one club territory to another which would adhere to all vehicle by-laws.

Although not completely established as a legal organization, the group meets with the sanction of the Provincial Association of Snowmobilers. First meeting was held in December, called by members of the Hillsburgh club. Others have been held in Milton and Guelph, with representatives attending

from Milton, Georgetown, Dundas, Guelph, Orangeville, Fergus and Kitchener.

At the moment, approximately 24 clubs belong to the association. They call themselves the Snowmobile Zone Association and have a mailing list which includes all clubs in the zone.

Views
Mr. Wilson was invited to attend Monday's meeting to give the club his view on what they can expect from the government as far as snowmobile trails are concerned. \$2,000,000 is set aside for the clubs, mainly for setting up organized trails, but very few trails in southern Ontario had been established. He said the ministry would not be doing too much this year in that line but, by next year, trails would be established in many areas of southern Ontario. They could be multi-purpose ones for hikers, skiers, snowshoers and snow vehicles. Members of the group attending wondered if hikers and snowmobile machines could go together on such a trail.

Radial line
Important matter of interest to those present was whether the old electric radial line which used to run from Guelph to Toronto could be made available to snowmobilers. It was felt that it would be feasible to use grants from the government to put gates on the property as a summer protection. The group agreed it would be an ideal way to travel to the city or as far as Georgetown, to pick up the Georgetown to Collingwood line.

The group discussed use of the line. They were told by

Five collisions one man hurt

Five accidents in town during the past week were investigated by Acton police. There was one injury, and damage to the cars totalled hundreds of dollars.

Three of the collisions occurred last Saturday. At 7 p.m., at Queen and

Meadvale Saturday an accident happened when a car had to stop because of a pedestrian on the crosswalk, police report. Drivers of the two cars involved were Linda May Wright, Oakville, whose car had \$40 damage, and William Forrest, 119 Poplar Ave., whose car had \$220 damage.

About 10 p.m. James Janson, R' 4, Rockwood, apparently drove into a snowbank which caused him to skid across the street. He sideswiped a highway sign and hit a garden fence on Queen St. Police estimated damage to the car at \$50, to the sign at \$30, and to the fence at \$50.

Injured
At 7 p.m. two cars were in collision at the corner of Main and Cobblehill. Driver Fred Larkin, 15 Storey Dr., Acton,

Two fires on Sunday

Acton volunteer firefighters were called to a chimney fire at the home of Gus Stahlmann of R. R. 2, Acton on Sunday.

Mr. Stahlmann had the fire was injured and damage to his car was set at about \$250. The other driver was David Glen, 247 McDonald Blvd. and his car had estimated \$250 damage as well.

On Friday two cars connected on Tyler Ave. There was about \$500 damage estimated to the car driven by Nancy Skuce, 115 Elizabeth Dr. The other driver was Anna Arnold, 161 Tyler.

Last Thursday the drivers involved in a collision were James Hurley, 109 Elizabeth Dr., and Lorena Mitchell, 27 Mill E. Damage to the Hurley car was estimated at \$400 and to the Mitchell car at \$300.

under control when the firefighters arrived at the scene. There was no damage to the house or chimney.

Another fire on Sunday behind Halton Hills Furniture was discovered and put out before the flames spread.

Packing straw caught on fire and was spotted by a neighbour. Owner of the store, Jake Kuiken was called, and put the fire out with snow and called the fire department. No alarm was turned in.

Education . . .

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include any construction programs.

Instruction: 70 per cent instructional costs generally account for about 70 per cent of the total budget. Negotiations with teachers got underway Monday.

There has been some concern expressed by board staffers and trustees about expensive settlements some cities and the provincial government have made in recent months. Those settlements could influence dealings the Halton Board will have with union employees.

The first draft of the budget allocates \$1,403,251 for transportation, \$86,200 for tuition fees, \$31,800 for capital expenses not allocated elsewhere, \$5,599,144 for debt charges, \$365,040 for non operating expenses, \$406,780 for schools for the trainable retarded and \$885,110 for business administration.

Toyota Community Calendar

What's doing in the North Halton Area!

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Friday, Feb. 21, 8:00 p.m. at the Robert Little Public School. Sponsored by the Acton Auxiliary for the Mentally Retarded.

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Trees for rural areas

Residents of the rural areas in Halton Hills will have a chance to have trees in front of their homes, the same as residents of the urban areas, Halton Hills council decided, Monday night.

Councillor Harry Levy claimed it would be easier to plant trees consecutively along the streets, than spread out anywhere they are wanted. He stated trees at all different stages of growth, were not as attractive on a street.

Councillor Joe Hurst said if the town ordered 100 trees, and received only 50 applications, the remaining 50 would be spread over the town.

Councillor Ric Morrow said Georgetown ran into problems some years ago, when trees were given on request. He said they decided to plant trees in areas where trees were scarce, with the town doing the work. He pointed out the town happened to have two skilled nurserymen working for them, and they knew how new trees should be looked after.

Levy agreed with the availability of trees to rural residents but said he disagreed with the method

The world record for eating bananas is by Stephen Nel of South Africa. He consumed 50 1/2 in ten minutes.

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