

Dollars, staffers scrutinized as region tackles '75 budget

Halton Region's Finance Committee is looking for places to cut \$1,000,000 from the region's \$22,972,330 budget. Chief Administrative Officer Ernie Reid has already lopped off \$1,000,000 from various municipal budgets.

In a report to the finance committee Mr. Reid explained the current budget would represent a 10.9 per cent increase in levy to the area municipalities.

That increase will be dropped substantially due to additional provincial grants. Finance Committee Chairman David Coons points out, an additional million dollar cut would see the region requesting the same number of dollars from the municipalities as last year. Increased assessment will also help to keep the mill rate down.

Nothing major

During the Wednesday morning session the committee chopped away \$500 here and \$1,000 there. No major cuts were made.

Public Works departmental budget will be one of the toughest to deal with.

Acting Director of Public Works Jack Corbett is asking for 18 additional staffers to bring the department up to a proper operational level.

Mr. Corbett told the public works committee the region had three choices; it could hire the men and build the department to what he termed an operational complement, or rely heavily on outside contractors and consultants, or simply not get the work done.

Can't keep up

He indicated employees at the supervisory level and above were incurring a lot of overtime and were still unable to keep up with the workload. He noted there was work not being done because of a shortage of manpower.

Several committee members backed the proposal to increase the department by that size but the committee wasn't prepared to support a motion by Councillor Vern Connell to hire only four of the 18 people requested.

Several committee members argued that staffs at both the local and regional

levels increasing by leaps and bounds—to do the same amount of work as was done by a smaller group prior to regional government.

"City hall is bulging at the seams and we've got another 200 or 300 people here. We're not doing the same work, we are doing less because of inflation," Connell said.

At local level

Councillor Bill Mason, Chairman Allan Masson and Chief Administrative Officer Ernie Reid indicated the duplication was at the local level, not the regional level. "I hope you exercise the same scrutiny at the local level," Mr. Reid told councillors.

Mr. Corbett refuted statements indicating his department had a swollen staff. Looking back a year, Mr. Corbett reminded councillors that the area municipalities and the public utilities commissions has retained some people earmarked for regional employment. It is his contention that the department had worked short-handed since its inception.

The matter of transferring staff and deciding how many

people should be employed at the regional level was the subject of a long and controversial debate at the regional level during the early days of operation.

Deaf ears

Former works director Bob Bailie had issued repeated pleas for additional staffers in order to get on with the job but, for the better part, those pleas fell on deaf ears.

While no councillor was prepared to endorse the bid for 18 individuals, Mr. Corbett won some support from Milton Mayor Anne MacArthur who could see definite merit in having a chief inspector.

Councillor Bill Mason expressed some sympathy with the staff position. He said the staff wasn't an established unit and he felt the council and committee were "putting the shackles on by denying additional staff." He indicated he would like more justification and more information on some positions though. The committee will investigate the matter further.

Centennial library notebook

by Mrs. Isabel Watson

Here at Acton public library we have been busy unpacking and processing new books, quite a large number of them, for the reading public's pleasure and research, too.

The Bermuda Triangle is of great interest to many people with its element of the unknown.

The Ultra Secret by Frederick Winterbotham tells how the German secret code during World War II was solved by the Allies. Helder Skeller is written by Vincent Bugliosi, the prosecuting attorney in the terrible Manson murders.

Stress Without Distress by Hans Selye gives advice on making life more interesting and fulfilling.

Yoga

For those who have an interest in yoga there is Yoga for the Mind by Yogi William Zorn.

In our fiction section The Moneychangers by Arthur

Halley is foremost in popularity.

The Ebony Tower by John Galsworthy is a best seller along with The Candy Factory by Sylvia Frase of Hamilton.

Joseph Heller's Something Happened is also very popular.

We have a fascinating historical trilogy by Nigel Tranter. First of the trilogy is Robert the Bruce Steps to the Empty Throne; second Robert the Bruce the Path of the Hero King and third The Price of the King's Peace.

More

Just to mention a few more fiction which are going out and readers are pleased with.

The Year of the Stranger by Allan Campbell McLean, the theme being placed on the Isle of Skye in the 1870's.

The Judge's Daughter by Helen Marie Pundit is in a lighter vein. American Gothic by Robert Black is a story of suspense. Red Sky at Night

by Hugh McCutcheon is another suspense novel. Jessamyn West's new novel The Massacre at Fall Creek has just been put on the shelves and is proving popular.

The Spell of Time, a story of love in Jerusalem by Meyer Levin, is worthy of mention. Virginia Coffman's Mistress Devon is a historical gothic romance. James Aldridge's A Sporting Proposition is a remarkable story.

We have several reprints of the much-loved author Dorothy Eden and for Dorothy Heyer followers we have several reprints which are new to us, never having graced our shelves previously.

In the juvenile section are new hockey and sports books for the boys as well as some new stories for the girls. And for the smaller children there are beautiful books with lovely illustrations.



TWO HUGE RAINBOW trout were the catch of Steve McLeod, 112 Poplar Avenue, last week during a fishing excursion to Thornbury. Steve landed the larger of the two, a 12 pounder measuring 33 inches in just over 25 minutes while he struggled about 20 minutes with the lighter 9 pound, 29 inch trout. He was fishing with roe or fish eggs.

History invisible

Another remnant of Acton history will soon disappear. But no one will miss it, because it's invisible.

Council has given two readings to a bylaw to close Adams St. The closing will be advertised and then third reading will be given and the bylaw passed.

The road allowance was never used, although the street was laid out and named for the founders of the community, the Adams family. It ran near the cemetery, and close to the lovely old house recently torn down by the developers who own the land. The house was thought to belong to the village pioneers, too.

Slides to music at band concert

The sight-and-sound band concert given a couple of weeks ago by Acton Citizens' Band is being completely repeated this Sunday night at the high school. "By popular demand!" explains bandmaster George Elliott.

Members of the audience were full of praise for the unusual concert last time. The musicians wanted to repeat it, too, after putting so many practice hours into it.

Peter Saxon, a specialist in audio-visual productions, spent about 60 hours preparing the slide presentation that is perfectly coordinated with the band music. He taped the band practices and then set the slides to music.

The band choir sings as well, using their voices as highly specialized instruments.

Police urge car checks

Some odd things can happen to a vehicle that has not been safety-checked for some time, according to Acton O.P.P.

You might decide to turn left, but the car could decide to turn right or continue in a straight line, with disastrous results, should something happen to the radius rods or control arms. Or you might decide you want to stop in a hurry because a big tractor-trailer has just stopped in front of you for a traffic signal, but your car decides to go straight on because you haven't had your brakes checked over lately.

Late one evening, you could be going along the highway with only one headlight, leaving it to oncoming drivers to decide which side of the light you might be on.

During a spring thunder-shower, windshield wipers on which all maintenance has been neglected might decide to retire from active duty, leaving you to guess where

Arena break-in

The arena was apparently left unlocked one night, and entry was made by a person who proceeded to break into the office and booth. Police were informed of the break-in May 5. About \$25 was taken from the till in the booth, with about \$8 or \$9 left behind. A few packages of cigarettes were also missing.



NEW OWNERS of Acton Canadian Fried Chicken on Mill St. are Cory and Elaine Van Merkestein. Shawn Van Merkestein and Bill Ellis will be working with the new management. They are planning extended hours of business but the menu will remain basically the same, with the addition of new salads.

New owners take over Mill St. business

Cory Van Merkestein and wife Elaine are the new owners of the Canadian Fried Chicken take-out restaurant on Mill St. They bought the business from Robert Holmes and started in on April 15.

Sofar things are very much the same, but Elaine Merkestein says she hopes to introduce more salads in the warm weather.

The restaurant will still all be on a take-out basis. There are no tables.

Longer hours

The Merkesteins are considering longer business hours.

They regret having no parking lot with the restaurant

but they are near the corner of Mill and Willow with parking on both streets and many live within walking distance of the main street.

Shawn Van Merkestein and Bill Ellis are on their staff.



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Barn destroyed

A spectacular fire razed the barn at the Valentina Farm, 15 Sideroad, early Thursday morning, destroying feed and farm machinery.

Just after the fire erupted, Vern Picket, manager of the farm, and Bruno Rossetti, one of the owners, evacuated 30 head of pure-bred Holstein heifers which were destined for shipment to Europe. The two men opened the burning barn's doors and chased the cattle out to pasture. The

farm is near Stewarttown. Destroyed in the blaze were 5,000 bales of hay, 1,200 bushels of grain and 200 bales of straw. In addition farm machinery and milking equipment were ruined.

Picket said he spotted the smoke and flames coming out of the gable-end near the silo and added he owned the farm from 1946 to 1972 before selling it to Rossetti and his partners. After selling it he stayed on to manage the farm

as Rossetti splits his time between Canada and Italy. Rossetti owns three farms in Italy. He had been eating breakfast in the farmhouse when he saw the flames near the barn door.

The only cattle on the farm when the fire occurred were the heifers since the entire milking herd had been shipped away. The farm specializes in exporting prize cattle.

Churchill

Graduation, wedding for Erica Stokov

By Mrs. Fred MacArthur

Sunday morning worship service at Churchill community church on May 4 was very well attended. The rainy day and the anniversary service at Ballinacree church gave a reason for some of the usual members being absent. Our pastor Rev. A. W. Fosbury's sermon subject was "Among the thrones". Choir anthem was "Father walk with thee". Organist was Mrs. Donald Anderson.

Churchill community anniversary service is to be held on June 15 with guest speaker Dr. Porter of Annen, with special music.

Mrs. Ken Vincent and wee Christopher of Peterborough

spent a couple of days with her mother Mrs. Mary McEachern and Mr. Angus McEachern. On returning home she persuaded her mother to go down with her for a short holiday. She reports it was a nice change.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Storey and Ray of Orillia visited over Saturday with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Storey, Crewsons Corners.

Wedding

Congratulations to another one of our Churchill Church senior girls, Mr. Ray Cornell (nee Erica Stokov) who completed her three year course at the University of Guelph. On Saturday, May 3, she was joined in holy wedlock to Mr. Ray Cornell. The wedding ceremony and reception were held in Churchill Community Church. Her sister Elizabeth (Mrs. Michael Cooper) was also married

there in April.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Storey and Ray of Orillia and Mrs. Gordon McDonald and Craig of Caledon were Sunday visitors with Mrs. W. J. McDonald.

Some of the Vanatters from Fenelon Falls visited with Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kerr.

Following the rehearsal for the Cornell-Stokov wedding, the wedding party returned to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Anderson on Friday night. They were entertained to a buffet luncheon by hostesses Mrs. Vernon Cornell and Mrs. Don Anderson. Special guests were from Brantford, Troy, Prescott and Guelph.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Eveleigh of Fergus were Sunday guests with Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kerr and children.

R.R. Parker receives praise

"Mr. Parker has made many noticeable contributions to the Authority in the 20 years he served as a member and vice-chairman" Eric M. White, Mono Township, said as he presented Bob Parker with a painting on behalf of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

"He worked very hard to initiate the Orangeville Reservoir project in the 60's, was a charter member of the Foundation and his expertise will be missed on budget preparation and explanation", Mr. White continued.

Charter members Mr. Parker retired at the end of 1974 as a representative of the town of Acton and the province of Ontario for 20 years. Both he and Mr. White are charter members of the Authority.

Credit Valley Conservation Authority Chairman Grant Clarkson concurred with Mr. White's remarks.

The Parkers were moved from Acton to Toronto.

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