

Acton's sewer, water taxes could double

Taxes for water and sewer services in Acton would more than double if deficiencies in the system are going to be corrected in 1976.

Regional Treasurer Don Farmer said the situation in Acton was critical. "I'm more concerned about the situation in Acton than any other in the region. The deficiencies there represent a major burden when you consider the narrow tax base. The expenditure compared to assessment is far greater there than anywhere else in the region," he told councillors Wednesday.

Under the current system of financing sewer and water works in the region, each urban serviced area is billed for its own projects.

Want new system
For a long time now staff members have encouraged council to drop the charge-back system and move towards an equalized assessment system.

Under the latter method the urban centres in the region would contribute to a common fund with those municipalities with the largest assessments paying most into the fund. All sewer and water

projects would be done on a priority basis and paid for out of the fund.

Public Works officials told the committee that the sanitary sewer system in Acton was subject to heavy infiltration.

Staff officials outlined specific projects under consideration. If all the work is done it would amount to a bill of \$350,000 for Acton area residents.

Not all this year
Halton Hills Councillors

Ernie Sykes and Dick Howitt told the committee that the list of projects represented an idea of the areas that need new sewers or old ones replaced, but they both argued that Halton Hills Council had not considered the list and they assured the committee it wouldn't be Halton Hills Council's wish to complete all of the work this year.

No decisions were made on any projects but the matter is to come up again at the regional level after Halton Hills Council has looked at the various projects and established some priorities.



THE AIR WAS 6 degrees Fahrenheit, the water temperature a warmer 34 degrees Sunday afternoon when three divers of Halton Scuba Trek opted for warmth - underwater. Making the descent down 20 feet were Jim Powell, Jim Mulholland

and Dave Francis with J. D. Hewitt as divemaster. For two it was their second dive under ice, for one his first. They deem it valuable experience and plan to do it again in three weeks.

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HOLDING CHARTER and gavel is Louis Charlebois, new president of Acton Chamber of Commerce. Also in front row, treasurer Doug Dawson, 2nd vice-president Bill Yundt, 1st vice president Jake Kuiken, secretary Betty

Eastwood. Back row, directors Corey von Merckstein, Paul Nielsen, Doreen Mitchell, John McNabb, Ed Bendicks, Dave Swetman. Elections were Monday.

L. Charlebois heads Chamber

Louis Charlebois was unanimously elected president of Acton Chamber of Commerce at their annual general meeting Monday evening in the music centre. Others on the new executive for 1976 are first vice-president Jake Kuiken, second vice-president Bill Yundt, secretary Betty Eastwood, treasurer Doug Dawson, two year term directors Paul Nielsen, Corey von Merckstein, Ed Bendicks, Betty Cole; one year term directors Doreen Mitchell, Bill Anderson, John McNabb and Dave Swetman.

Past president Bert Hinton conducted the formal swearing-in ceremony.

About 65 attended the meeting which began with a hot buffet dinner.

Past president Mike Worthington presided for the meeting and Dave Swetman presented the report on the nominating committee which was accepted unanimously.

Mr. Swetman pointed out the nominee for president, Louis Charlebois, is a relative newcomer to Acton, having lived here a year and a half. His wife operates Toddlers to Teens shop. He is general superintendent for C-I-L in Ontario, has been in Toastmasters, Lions and Rotary.

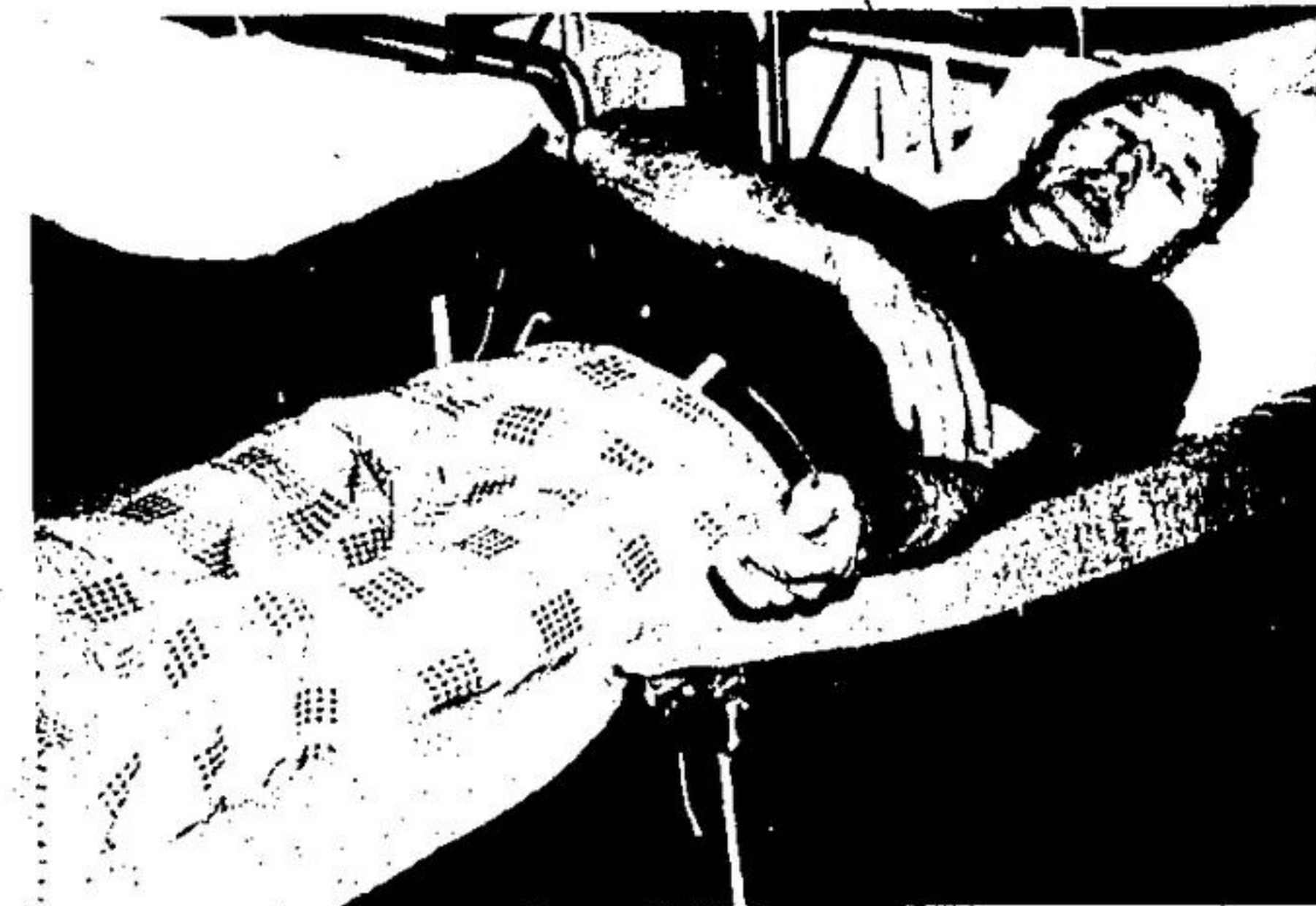
Vice-president Jake Kuiken is owner of Halton Hills furniture; second vice-president Bill Yundt is a pharmacist, secretary Betty Eastwood - "The best secretary Acton Chamber ever had," treasurer Doug Dawson of the Bank of Montreal.

Directors: Paul Nielsen of Nielsen's Clothing; Corey von Merckstein of Canadian Fried Chicken; Ed Bendicks of Acton Delicatessen; Betty Cole, a stenographer at the high school. Doreen Mitchell of Family Pool Sales, Bill Anderson of Surf and Sun Associates, John McNabb of Dills Printing and Dave Swetman of Swetman's Shoes.

Mr. Swetman pointed out that the members of the new executive have all made a real commitment; they are both capable and willing.

There was a hearty round of fond applause for honorary life member Fred Wright, who will be 83 next Sunday. It was he who opened the meeting with the Robbie Burns grace.

Big year
The new president thanked last year's executive, to applause. He predicted 1976 will be a big year for the Chamber, especially with the proposed reconstruction of Mill. The chamber hopes to supply input to council, and is meeting again next Monday. He promised good communications.



RESTING AFTER giving a pint of blood at the Red Cross blood donor clinic at the legion on Monday is Dick Wyga. He was one of 185 acceptable donors, with 36 rejections.

185 pints of blood

Although there were 221 volunteers to give blood at the Red Cross blood donor clinic held in the Legion on Monday, organizer Henry Kroes was disappointed with the turnout.

Out of the people showing up on Monday, only 185 persons were able to give their blood. The 36 rejections were refused for a number of reasons varying from medication in the bloodstream, low blood

count, poor blood, or over the 65 year old age limit.

Mr. Kroes said he had expected at least 250 to 300 willing donors. However, he did admit the figures were a great improvement over the last clinic held in June, which saw 190 applicants with 151 pints of blood taken.

Volunteers
He was very pleased with all the people helping with the event. Mr. Kroes said there were many women who had made telephone calls to previous donors reminding them of Monday's clinic, volunteers helping out at the registration desks and at the beds and providing transportation for those who had no way of getting to the Legion hall.

Corridor study supported

Halton Hills council Monday night went on record as opposing the hydro corridor through Halton Hills, until an independent study of all other alternatives is completed but stalled on offering financial aid. They will forward the motion to Minister of Energy George Kerr and both Halton Members of Parliament. Only Councillor Ern Hyde objected.

The motion was passed after Walter Scott, a Fifth Line resident, representing the interested Citizens Group, addressed the meeting. He said there are approximately 4,000 people directly involved in the Milton to Bradley corridor. He said the group had repeatedly asked for a total study of the route. He said there had never been a study of the whole Milton to Bradley line.

In asking for council's support he said television and radio reception would be adversely affected, and ham operators would be wiped right out. He said while one line is planned immediately, the long range plan is for a multiple line.

Mr. Scott said the television interference shows up as white lines running up and down the screen, and claimed F.M. radio and police radios near the lines would be cut right off. He said a police car would have to drive a few miles away to get reception.

"My experience with Ontario Hydro shows they say there will be no interference, but won't guarantee it. When you do have a problem, it becomes your problem alone."

He said the visual impact of 165 foot high towers marching through the centre of Halton Hills would be tremendous. He claimed the cost to each man, woman and child would be \$3,000 and with interest over the long term would increase to \$10,000. He said Lloyd's of London won't insure a farmer operating under the lines, and committed electrical systems under the lines, such as school bus doors, would not operate.

He said he drove under the lines at Kleinberg, and started to get out of the car. He said his arm was touching the car and he received a severe shock. He said his arm

was numb and sore for some time and his doctor said he could have had serious trouble with a major charge going through his body. He said further, no major industry will locate near the lines since it affects magnetic electrical readings.

In conclusion, he said a limited study in the middle of the line did not satisfy his group. He pointed out the Kleinberg line brings power down from the north, not the other way around.

Councillor Ernie Sykes suggested protesting because it is in "our own backyard", would only move the problem to another area.

"Is there another solution?" he asked.

Mr. Scott said an existing corridor has already disrupted an area, and claimed technological advances had made underground transmission possible. He claimed the lines carried in air-conditioned chambers underground were carrying power in Germany.

Councillor Ern Hyde said the proposal would be undesirable to somebody no matter where it is located. He said the town should not put stumbling blocks in the way of Hydro. "We'll raise hell if we flip a switch and can't get power," he claimed Hydro is the natural energy for this area, when warnings of gas and oil shortages are abundant.

Councillor Pat McKenzie said he had always wondered why Hydro did not have an independent study. "I'm not saying it can't go across Halton Hills, I'm just saying we should have an independent study of alternatives."

Councillor Les Duby said he realized a problem would exist no matter where the line runs, "but we are really asking the Hydro experts to guarantee no harmful effects, and prove their point."

Sykes said Premier Bill Davis had not followed through on his promise to have a study done. "We are now reminding him of his promise."

Mr. Scott said he was also asking for financial help for the interested Citizens Group, to defray legal expenses. He said a large part of the cost has been carried by a few individuals.

McKenzie said council had asked for additional information, when Reford Gardhouse, a member of the group appeared before finance committee.

Mayor Tom Hill said discussion on the financial aid would be held over until the next meeting.

Interim bill up tax rate not set

This year the interim tax bill may give residents a jolt. The bill is not as alarming as it seems, since the billing system has been changed from previous years.

rate is struck, will be 50 percent of each resident's last year's total bill. In other years, the interim bill has been 30 percent of the previous year.

Monday night at Halton Hills council meeting. The aim of the new system is to increase cash flow to the town before the budget is set, and decrease borrowing charges.

Councillor Pat McKenzie pointed out 50 percent is permitted under the bylaw.

This year the interim tax bill, sent out before the mill

The bylaw establishing the interim tax levy was passed

Do something about ducks, says committee

For Pam Sheldon, it came down to a question of whether to do the right thing, or the sentimental and cultural thing when discussing the Fairy Lake ducks.

Mrs. Sheldon, a member of the Acton and Esqueping Recreation Advisory Committee, told the group at the January 13 meeting that she had been in touch with many officials in Toronto and London regarding the proper care and fate of the ducks.

Money has been approved by Halton Hills Council for food for the remainder of this year, but it is next year Mrs.

Sheldon was concerned about.

She sadly admitted "I think if we do the right thing, we should get rid of them. After talking to many experts it broke my heart, (to come to that conclusion)."

Sources
Mrs. Sheldon said she spoke to the Toronto Harbor Police, the High Park Parks Services, the Toronto Humane Society and the Canadian Wildlife Services branch of Environment Canada in London.

She used Toronto's Grenadier Point as an example of

birds in another park causing the same controversy. Mrs. Sheldon also explained that along the Toronto waterfront, there is a serious problem because the great many ducks have eaten beyond the natural resources, and the city has to feed them now.

She pointed out that the Humane Society feeds them a combination of bread and corn. One of the biologists she spoke to told her bread was the worst thing to feed wild birds, but he couldn't say what was the right thing to feed them. She was told by

Approve stop sign

Halton Region's Public Works Committee has recommended establishment of a four-way stop at the intersection of Peet St. and Acton Blvd. in Acton.

That recommendation was forwarded to Regional Council by Halton Hills Council and will go to regional council today

\$200 damage

Thieves Friday night caused \$200 damage to the Ontario Plastics Ltd. plant on the Fifth Line west of Acton.

Milton OPP say a window was broken to gain entry to the building, and \$1.50 was taken from a desk drawer.

OK housing on former dragway

Plans to build 50 estate type dwellings on 145 acres of land north of Highway 7 on what once was the Toronto International Dragway site won approval of Halton Region's Planning Committee Tuesday.

The approval came after the committee rejected a staff recommendation that would have put the plan for a housing development on the shelf, until the Niagara Escarpment Plan and the Region's Official Plan receive adoption.

A report developed by regional planner Brian Kropf indicated the Niagara Escarpment Commission staffers had indicated the introduction of 50 homes may not be compatible with the emerging goals and policies of the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

Kropf said in his report that the residential development would conflict with the region's goal of preserving

agricultural land and removing the potential for the extraction of mineral resources.

He said the proposal was premature. "The consequences of establishing concentrations of non-farm residences in a farm environment or of placing restrictions on types of agricultural operations or management practices have not yet been explored by the region or the NEC. However, as outlined earlier it is the region's intention to address most of these

questions in the Official Plan study. Such issues should also be explored in the Niagara Escarpment Plan, expected to be completed within approximately one year.

Kropf's report came under heavy fire from Halton Hills Councillors Pat McKenzie and Dick Howitt. Mr. McKenzie noted the region had not objected at an earlier date and for council to oppose the plan now would be unfair.

He said the regional plan-

ner had not addressed himself to regional issues. He said there wasn't enough aggregate to make a quarry feasible and there was no way the drag strip could ever be returned to prime agricultural land.

Mr. Howitt said the drag strip operation had been a controversial issue from day one and had disturbed the peace and tranquility in rural Esqueping.

He spoke of the tremendous screech of tires, long hours of

operation, a nuisance caused by noise, lights and traffic generated from the race track. "It has been a real problem. The only thing the people there have been more upset about is the proposal for a dump at Ashgrove."

He said he was delighted to hear about the residential development and expressed a fear that residents in the area might have to still put up with a drag strip operation if the residential proposal is blocked.

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