

Council sets upper limit

In an hour long discussion that left some councillors disgusted, Halton Regional Council approved expenditures on regional roads that amount to \$1,984,000.

The resolution coming out of the Public Works committee was a standard one but was approved only after bantering and bickering that would have to qualify the council as one of the most unruly in Ontario.

Before the debate was over councillors had squarred off and lambasted others verbally. There were charges and counter charges.

Burlington Mayor George Harrington triggered the first volley when he suggested the region should cut its budget by \$500,000 and disperse that money among the area municipalities on an equitable basis.

Hard pressed He said the area municipalities were hard pressed for funds because their budgets had been cut and the region's increased.

Oakville Harry Barrett agreed with Harrington's suggestion but said the increase in grants at the regional level and the corresponding decrease in grants at the area level was Queen's Park's way of forcing municipal councils to spend more at the regional level and less on the area council's road program.

Several councillors protested against voting on an upper limit until they had an opportunity to study the list of priorities.

Public Works chairman Jack Raffits told the two southern mayors that their quarrel wasn't with the region but with Jim Snow Minister of Transportation and Communications who had delved out the grants.

Defeat cut In time the mayor's resolution was defeated and Councillor Vern Connell suggested the spending limit should be dropped from \$1,984,000 to \$1,594,000. He said it was incumbent on the region to take that action in order to back its commitment to a restraint program on spending. He suggested the staff had lumped unnecessary projects in the budget just to use up the subsidy. His motion was defeated.

At the conclusion of a long drawn out hassle the motion as it stood passed. All that means is that the committee is now free to bring before council a detailed list of projects estimated to cost \$1,984,000. Inevitably the priorities will be questioned and those decisions made by the committee will be challenged by councillors who feel their own municipality isn't getting a fair share of the work done.



DRUMMER JIM SAXON sets the pace for the Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Cubs, Venturers and Rangers who took part in the church parade Sunday afternoon. Awards were presented during the impressive service. Scout and Guide-Week is coming up soon.

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Hassle over road to new high school

Cobblehill Developments will have to have an agreement with the town or else stop building Cedar Road

Request \$250 for crests

A grant for \$250 has been held over for budget discussion by the Halton Hills Finance and Personnel Committee.

The Acton Minor Hockey Association had requested a grant for that amount for 1976 tournament crests. At Monday's meeting of the committee, councillor Harry Levy pointed out a grant for \$200 was given to them last year. He said due to rising costs, the club was forced to ask for more money this year.

Mr. Levy explained that it was a matter of public relations for the teams to have the crests.

Hosts seminar

Halton Region's Works Committee will host its second employee information seminar May 26 at 3:30 p.m. Committee Chairman Jack Raffits said the meeting was an effort to improve communications between the elected officials, senior staff and the outside workers.

"All the region ever gets is bad publicity. You've got that guy up north, what's his name, Reed, (Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed) mouthin' off and now we've got Smith (newly elected Liberal Leader Stuart Smith).

In his major speech Mr. Smith told 3,000 Liberals that with the exception of one or two he felt every region in Ontario should be dismantled and put back together again.

which is the new street leading to the site of Acton's new high school.

Town engineer Robert Austin told Halton Hills works committee Monday the first of three lots the road is being built on belongs to the town and the developers have gone ahead with construction without receiving town permission or reaching an agreement with the municipality. Austin says he has approved the road construction plans but no official agreement has been reached concerning the meeting of standards and posting of bonds. He noted the builder started constructing the road on the lot Halton Hills owns.

Need protection Councillor Joe Hurst objected to private firms working on town-owned land with-

out permission or an agreement with the municipality. He added the town needs protection in case the road isn't properly built.

Austin asked he be given permission to go to the town

Collision Monday

Two cars were in collision Monday at 4:30 on 10 Sideroad at 25 Highway. Police report the roadway icy and hazardous at the time.

Drivers involved were David Lawrence, R.R. 5, Milton, and Brian Newell, Milton. Passenger Lawrence Meservy, Milton was injured and taken to Milton hospital by ambulance.

solicitor and have an agreement drawn up.

He explained the deal Halton Board of Education has with the developer calls for water and sewer service for the site prior to construction starting on the new school.

Deputy engineer Ted Ballinger said road construction started about two weeks ago.

Next week Austin said work on the new school is expected to start next week.

The committee decided the town needs protection to make sure the road is up to standard and even though the developer doesn't stand to gain anything from signing an agreement he likely wouldn't be hurt by it either.

If the developer balks at signing the agreement then the firm will be ordered to stop work on the road.

Police contract talks

Negotiations for a 1976 contract between Halton Regional Police Force and Halton Regional Police Association began Thursday.

Both sides presented initial proposals behind closed doors at a meeting of the Halton Region Police Commission.

Police Commissioners Glenn Magnuson, Georgetown, and Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill will negotiate for the police department during future sessions.

Sergeant Richard Hillon was in attendance representing Georgetown detachment officers while Constable Tom Roduck represented Acton policemen. Before the regional force took over Acton last September Roduck was a member of the Georgetown detachment.

Trim region budget forecast

Halton Region's Public Works Committee will have no problem living within subsidy allocation for road work this year.

The committee made dramatic reductions in two major projects to cut \$208,000 from the original \$2,145,600 budget. With the provincial subsidy the region can spend up to \$1,917,000.

Public Works staffers had recommended leaving those two items in the budget but cutting what they felt were less important and relatively minor projects.

One of the two items that won't go ahead is construction of Campbellville Sideroad in the area of what was known as Mahon's quarry pit and the other is Trafalgar Rd. from Ashgrove to Stewarttown.

The Campbellville Rd. job involved realignment and reconstruction and the work was estimated to cost \$176,000. A sum of \$20,000 was left in the budget to cover cost of engineering for that project.

Cut \$52,000

Similar action was taken on the Trafalgar Rd. job. The committee cut the estimate of \$72,000 to cover engineering and property acquisition to \$20,000 leaving only enough to cover costs of engineering. Eventually that road will have to be widened to provide for proper shoulders. Engineer Jack Corbett ex-

pressed concern about the lack of proper shoulders on the road and ditches on either side.

The two major projects that will go ahead are improvements at the Guelph Line and in Burlington and property acquisition and engineering for Upper Middle Rd. in Oakville.

A sum of \$902,000 is set aside for the reconstruction of the Guelph line south to the Queen Elizabeth Highway and \$200,000 is set aside for preliminary work on the Upper Middle Rd. That project is expected to cost \$1,200,000 in all and is tentatively planned for in 1977.

\$50,000 study

A sum of \$50,000 is included in the budget to finance a feasibility study. That study will indicate what will have to be done to make the Guelph Line from Highway Five to the region's northern boundary a major north south artery. The committee was told by staff that the study would be a comprehensive one, and consideration was warranted because of the use the road is put to. That route is now a scenic route but one often used by quarry trucks.

Total spending for the road program amounts to \$1,917,000. Burlington Councillor Vern Connell noted that represented an increase of over \$500,000 compared to last year and said the committee should reduce the expenditure further during the times of restraint.

Halton favors GO

Halton Regional Council went on record Wednesday as favoring extension of the GO Rail Service on the Toronto-Burlington, Toronto-Halton Hills and Toronto-Milton corridors.

That resolution was passed at the request of chairman Allan Masson who had been advised by the Toronto Area Transit Operating Authority that some Metro Toronto officials had opposed any extension of the system and

improvements to Union Station and track and rail facilities in that area.

Masson noted that the current services were inadequate and highways between Halton and Toronto were overcrowded at peak periods.

A letter from C. McNab, Chairman and Chief Executive officer of TATO referred to statements made by Toronto officials in a letter

to Mr. Masson. "The projects on which these statements cast doubt are extremely important to this part of the province and particularly to the balance of Metropolitan Toronto and the surrounding regions, who not only desire improved commuter rail services but whose development plans, especially from the standpoint of more commercial and industrial development, require the services."

Flag lowered

The post office flag is missing again, its rope dangling loose.

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