

## New manager is assigned to bank

Being promoted to the manager's position of the Bank of Nova Scotia here in Acton marks the 11th post in ten years for Rick Devlin. On March 15, Mr. Devlin was sent here to fill Grant Schultz' shoes, who has been transferred to London. Mr. Devlin's last post was that of assistant manager in Chatham. In the past ten years, the

new manager has been everywhere from North Bay to Windsor. He is originally from Welland.

His first week was spent going to the various businesses in town, getting acquainted with people.

He plans to move here in the near future with his wife and two daughters, ages three years and nine months.

## Region gives nod to budget

Haltion Region will apply to the Ontario Municipal Board for debenture quotas in the amount of \$17,802,770. That figure includes all of the borrowing that will be done to cover costs of capital projects for the region and the four area municipalities.

Under the regional government system, all capital borrowing is done through the region both for regional and area projects.

Of the \$17,802,770 applied for, \$13,154,303 is for regional projects \$2,424,000 for the city of Burlington, \$543,500 for the town of Oakville, \$355,000 for the town of Milton and \$1,147,750 for the town of Halton Hills.

Down from '75 The capital budget of close to \$18,000,000 compares with spending last year of close to \$29,000,000. Treasurer Don Farmer noted the five year forecast 1976-1980 calls for spending of \$77,657,586.

If all of that work is actually done, the region's debt compared to assessment will jump from just over four per cent to a point close to six per cent. Ontario Municipal Board guides suggest that that percentage should not exceed 10 per cent.

There are two projects in the 1976 forecast that are in conflict with OMB guidelines issued earlier. An arts and crafts centre at \$480,000 in Burlington and an addition to the municipal centre in Halton Hills at \$660,000 appear to be in conflict with the

earlier guidelines. Those guides urge municipalities to keep spending on "soft" services, and keep all projects that aren't absolutely necessary to a minimum.

Can afford it While Mr. Farmer anticipated there could be some problem with approvals on these projects, he advised the Administration Committee the overall budget was within the ratepayers' ability to pay.

Councillors reviewing the budget reluctantly approved it. Councillor MacLean Anderson of Oakville said he felt the \$17,802,770 was too high.

"The interest is staggering. I agree soft services have been cut and sometimes they are more important than hard services. I think there are some hard services that we could do without," he said.

That seemed to be the general feeling of the committee, but review of the budget chopped only two items from the estimates.

One of the two items was \$40,000 towards land acquisition for the third sewage plant in Oakville. That has been a controversial point for several weeks now and has been repeatedly inserted in the budget to be removed by the Administration Committee or Council.

The second cut was a booster station in Oakville and the budget was approved as amended, by Regional Council at its meeting Wednesday afternoon.

## Delivery problem being looked into

The problem of Acton parcels dropped off by bus at bus depots in either Georgetown or Guelph by the intended recipient not knowing where they are, is being looked into by GO transit spokesman Tom Henry.

When contacted by this newspaper on Monday Mr. Henry said he was not aware of the problem and was going to look into it immediately. Mr. Henry said one place would have to be chosen for parcels to be delivered until

Acton gets its own bus depot. He suggested having everything left at a specific place in Georgetown, rather than Guelph.

The buses are run by Gray Coach by GO transit, Mr. Henry said.

A bus depot in Acton is still being sought by the Gray Coach Lines since Watson's Restaurant stopped selling tickets and taking packages. The bus may be flagged down anywhere along highway No. 7 for those wanting rides.



RICK DEVLIN is the new manager at the Bank of Nova Scotia. He will soon be moving his family from Chatham to make a home here in Acton.

## Rescind motion

Haltion Hills administration committee made it clear, Monday night, they want council to rescind the motion passed the week before which voted down the hiring of a recreation program co-ordinator.

Councillor Roy Booth, who voted against the hiring at council meeting, again emphasized he was not opposing the person, but the position. He suggested additional clerical staff to take the paper work off the present staff. He said the job is being done well now, and said instead of high priced staff, clerical help might fill the bill.

Booth claimed one program co-ordinator for the whole town might prove a unifying force, instead of having two operating in Acton and Georgetown areas separately.

Recreation Director Glen Gray said he and Acton area recreation co-ordinator John Cooper could not do any more, and claimed he was working 50 to 60 hours a week. He said the salaries are not high-priced compared to other areas.

Councillor Ric Morrow termed the actions of council

"irresponsible". He said council approved the position, because they realized one person could not handle the whole town. He claimed the town had not kept with Mr. Gray. "He had not reason to think the vacancy would not be filled, since council approved it."

He said he was "damned mad Wards three and four don't have a recreation director."

Councillor George Maltby said council had passed the motion to hire a recreation program co-ordinator, and had advertised and interviewed applicants, and then had reneged on the obligation.

Chairman Les Doby said he had never been as embarrassed in his life at the council rejection after Glen Gray had been authorized to hire and

interview applicants. He claimed it was impossible for one co-ordinator to cover the whole town.

"I'm sorry you're disgusted," retorted Booth, "but this was a council decision."

Morrow pointed out the decision to hire the recreation co-ordinator was made in December, and suggested there had been ample time to bring it up again, without waiting until all the hiring process had been completed, and the applicant told the position was hers. "It is one of the worst business practices I've ever seen."

The committee passed a recommendation to have council rescind the motion, with only Booth opposing.

## Snow removal

The town will take under consideration concerns expressed in a letter sent to Haltion Hills works committee Monday, by A. Reynolds, 67 Roseford Terrace, about the need for snow removal on the sidewalk leading to M. Z. Bennett School, Acton.

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## Roads challenge works crews

The works department of Haltion Hills and Erin Township report very little trouble at all with roads because of flooding and break up resulting from the sudden thaw Saturday.

However, residents of both townships have different stories to tell, particularly those who reside in the block north of Highway 7 and bounded by Highway 25, Highway 24 and Halton 3.

Fourth Line north of Five Sideroad was barricaded Sunday because of a washout at Ten Sideroad which caused damage to at least one local resident's car while Third Lane, Haltion Hills, south of Churchill was also virtually impassable. Late Tuesday morning road crews were still out bringing roads up to standard.

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