

**Board budget**

**Even with no raises wages cost \$46 million**

Assuming Halton Board of Education doesn't give any of its teachers or employees a raise this year, the board will spend approximately \$46 million for wages and fringe benefits in 1976.

Trustee Bill Priestner presented the third part of the board's three part, 1976, \$72.4 million budget, Thursday. The board will vote on the budget this Thursday.

The third section of the budget, entitled instruction, is worth \$52,734,269 and 90 per cent of that figure is absorbed by wages and fringe benefits Priestner noted.

Instruction costs this year are up \$7,148,769 despite some drastic cuts because of the average 33 per cent raise teachers received last spring. The teacher's contract expires this September and the board has not made any provisions in the 1976 budget for

any raise which would be payable the last four months of this year. The board paid part of the wage hike teachers won last spring between September and December last year.

Priestner pointed out increases in Workmen's Compensation, Unemployment Insurance and Canada Pension Plan contribution increases will cost the board in the neighborhood of \$250,000. He noted the board has protested these increases to other levels of government several times but it hasn't done any good.

He went on to praise the teachers' co-operation during the restraint period for agreeing to drastic reductions in the amount of money spent on in-service programs, professional development, leadership courses, and orientation and induction

programs. Priestner worried about the problems the board might face in the future because it has severely cut-back on capital expenditures and replacement of equipment and furniture.

Noting that only 10 per cent of the over \$52 million allotted for instruction will be spent on items other than wages and fringe benefits.

"Everything in this 10 per cent area has been cut to the bone. As for the other 90 per cent it is hard to cut back when you have already made commitments in contracts. To achieve restraints both sides will have to show restraint," he declared.

The 72.4 million budget the board will be asked to accept this Thursday is up 14.13 per cent over last year's budget of \$63.5 million.



ACTON VOLUNTEER firefighters doused a fire in a pile of scrap wood and straw between the home of George Barnes and a house under construction on Cobblehill Rd. The fire was Easter Sunday.

**Is own solicitor needed?**

Concerned that the town paid out \$24,000 in solicitor's fees during the year 1975, Councillor Pat McKenzie suggested at Monday night's finance and personnel committee meeting that council consider hiring its own solicitor.

Councillor Harry Levy argued that \$24,000 is not reason enough for creating another department, which, he said, would include at least three employees.

Although he admitted he'd like to have a full time sol-

icitor, clerk-administrator Doug Pritchard told the committee that the most expensive part of hiring a town solicitor is purchasing the law library. Pritchard also pointed out that the 1975 fees may have been extraordinarily high, because the town was required to defend itself at four OMB hearings.

Councillor Ernie Sykes thought it might not be a bad idea for council to study the feasibility of having a full time solicitor.

McKenzie explained that

he'd had ratepayers ask whether it would be more economical for the town to hire its own solicitor.

"It's not economical, that's it," argued Levy.

**No publicity for Olympic**

Halton Hills Council's finance and personnel committee is not eager to publicize the Montreal Olympic symbol.

At their meeting last week, the committee decided to file a letter from Postmaster General Bryce Mackasey, asking the town purchase a meter die at a cost of \$150 to imprint town mail with a slogan to support the Montreal Olympic symbol.

"He's only doing this, because he couldn't get enough from businesses," said Councillor Harry Levy.

Clerk administrator Doug Pritchard expressed the opinion that the words "Montreal Olympic symbol" are the truest words ever spoken.

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**PC's to go to meeting**

Eleven local Progressive Conservatives will have a chance to fire questions at Cabinet Ministers and MPP's Saturday April 24 at an all-day policy conference in Grimsby, where 21 P.C. riding associations will meet.

Fran Baines, George Gray, Fred Dawkins, Graeme Goebelle, David Baker, Gail Maltby, Jane Holloway, Stu Cramp, and alternates Gary Dawkins, Wendy Buyles, and Fred Zorge are the representatives from this area. Topics scheduled for discussion are land use and food production, regional government, education and health care.

(On the receiving end of the

bear-pit session will be The Hon. Robert Welch, Minister of Culture and Recreation, Robert Johns, MPP St. Catharines, The Hon. John Smith, Minister Correctional Services, The Hon. George Kerr, Minister of Environment, the Hon. James Snow, Minister of Transportation and Communications, Doug Kennedy MPP Mississauga South, Bud Gregory MPP Mississauga East, and Terry Jones, MPP Mississauga.

All resolutions passed at this conference will be submitted to a Provincial Policy Committee for presentation at the party's annual meeting and policy convention May 13-16.

**Blame on trespassers**

Trespassers have been blamed for a fire in an abandoned farm house Thursday on the Halton Hills townline in Nassagaweya township.

Halton Regional Police put the call in to the Acton Volunteer Firefighters at 9:45 p.m., after investigating a report of trespassers. They noticed a fire on the floor of the house.

Damage was slight, reports fire chief Mick Holmes. The

same structure had been the site of a fire last year when it was damaged beyond repair. It had never been fixed after last year's fire. Jack Friend and his family lived there at the time of the first blaze. The house is owned by Gord McConnell of Oakville.

Mr. Holmes said there was evidence the fire on Thursday was started by the trespassers.



TENNIS COURTS are in full use already. The tennis club is organizing its season and public hours will be decided before long. Lights prolong playing hours this spring.

**No spot rezoning for lot**

A lot on Main Street North, Acton, north of Scene Street, will have to wait to be rezoned from the present industrial designation to residential, until there is a comprehensive report on the whole area.

Planner Mario Venditti explained Acton council in 1973 had approved the residential zoning because the vacant lot was covered with debris and was an eyesore in the area. He explained the establishment of a regional government delayed the processing. He said since the rest of the area was zoned industrial he felt the province would not approve a spot rezoning.

He told planning board he planned to look at the whole industrial area. "We'll have to decide whether it should be left industrial or changed to residential."

"What about someone who has bought land zoned industrial and finds it's going to be

residential?" asked Councillor Dick Howitt.

"There could be factories surrounding one house, if some of the existing houses are bought up, and industry built," replied the planner.

Councillor Les Duby explained there had been an old house trailer on a weed covered lot, which had been bought by a man who wanted to clean it up and build a house. He suggested the homes on Main Street North and the north side of Scene Street should be included in the residential zoning. "Then it would not be spot rezoning."

Councillor Joe Hurst contended the area should never have been zoned industrial. He urged the residential zoning of all existing properties including the vacant lot.

"These people up there have put up with a lot. It was residential for years. They

would get much better buffering from nearby industry if they were zoned residential," claimed Hurst.

The application for the single lot rezoning was withdrawn.

**Dragstrip bleachers**

Of the 4,000 bleachers bought from the Toronto International Dragstrip this year, 1,400 have been distributed to parks throughout Acton and Esquewising with the remaining in Georgetown parks.

Prospect Park now has seats for 950 people. There are 200 bleachers at the high school, 100 in Hornby, 75 at Glen Williams and 75 at the Limehouse conservation park.

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**Mick Holmes attends meeting**

Acton fire chief Mick Holmes attended a general meeting of the Erin township fire department in Hillsburgh Monday evening and had a chance to see Acton's old fire truck. The truck was sold to the Erin fire department last fall when Acton received a new one.

At the meeting were

representatives of Erin township council and Garafax council.

The purpose of the meeting, the chief says, was to explain what they have done in the past year, and to show what the department did to the new truck.

Mr. Holmes was pleased to report that the truck has had a complete new paint job, making it look brand new, and several new pieces of equipment added on it. He said all the work was done by the Erin township fire volunteers.

**Six hurt in crash**

Halton Regional Police investigated a one-car accident on April 11 at 1:05 a.m.

A car driven by William Nicolak, 43 Brock St., received an estimated \$2,000 damage, police say, after it was in collision with a tree on Knox.

Mary Nicolak received cuts and bruises, Alvey Gordon received fractures, Lois Gordon received cuts and bruises, Jessie and Norman Price received cuts and bruises. All were passengers in the car.

**Accident on Peel**

Halton Regional Police investigated a motor vehicle accident between cars driven by Berend Venema, 40 Agnes St. and Winnifred Roszell, R. 1, Limehouse on April 18.

The incident occurred at 6:30 p.m. on Peel St. The Venema vehicle sustained \$500 in damages, the police estimate, and the Roszell vehicle had \$200.

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