

# Where taxes go!

The town of Halton Hills has held their tax increase to a modest \$9 in Georgetown and Acton, and \$10 in Esquering for the average homeowner, with a Georgetown assessment of \$7,500, an Acton assessment of \$5,984 and an Esquering average assessment of \$6,170.

Georgetown mill rate for town purposes increased from 28.49 to 29.70, up 1.21 mills. Acton's mill rate rose from 35.76 to 37.24, up 1.48 mills, and Esquering's went from 26.28 to 27.79, up 1.51 mills.

In the hamlets, where street lighting is billed against only these areas, the mill rate dropped from 2.04 to 1.80 in Glen Williams, from 3.21 to 1.62 in Ballinacraig, and rose from 1.40 to 1.32 in Norval and from .71 to .82 in Stewarttown.

The total Halton Hills budget, under town control, amounts to \$4,500,245.

The fire budget totalling \$269,017 is up from \$224,841 actually spent last year. The Acton fire area budget is

\$79,766 and the Georgetown area is \$189,251.

Councillor Ern Hyde vehemently opposed the inclusion of full time paid fire inspectors in the Georgetown Fire Area in the budget, and termed it "the thin edge of the wedge." He claimed Fire Chief Ken Buikema had a main goal of creating a full time paid department since first coming to Georgetown.

"I'll do everything in my power to keep the volunteer force," he maintained. He said the man was not needed and would add one paid man, and predicted this would only be the beginning. He warned there would be a vehicle and probably a secretary and furniture needed for a fire inspector. He claimed the volunteer force had not been consulted.

Continuing he said a pick-up truck included in the fire budget was not necessary, and should also be deleted from the budget.

Councillors Hoy Booth, Russell Miller, Pat McKenzie and Hyde voted to delete a

paid fire inspector from the budget.

Councillor Pat McKenzie said he saw no desperate need for the truck, and pointed out Fire Area 1 does not have any. He said three volunteers in the Acton department are trained to do inspections. "Private homes cannot be inspected without the consent of the owners anyway."

The total roads budget including street maintenance, snow removal, storm sewers etc., amounts to \$1,597,369, up \$95,000 from last year.

Road construction is slated for Rexway Drive, Normandy Boulevard, Allen Road, McIntyre Crescent and Draper Street in Georgetown, the Ninth Line between Steeles Avenue and Five Sideroad in Esquering, and Churchill Road North and Mill Street in Acton.

This year's severe weather sent the winter maintenance budget over the top. The budget figure was \$126,000 but \$174,933 was spent.

Recreation and community services, including parks, recreation, libraries and cemeteries amounted to \$1,211,727 compared to \$956,814 actually spent last year.

The parks budget went from \$96,101 spent last year to \$163,555, recreation rose from \$724,887 to \$892,693, libraries from \$96,996 to \$111,979, and cemeteries from \$38,921 to \$43,500.

The total budget for libraries in Acton, Georgetown and Limehouse amounts to \$175,275, including a \$56,296 per capita grant from the province, and \$7,000 from fines and rentals. The town's share is \$71,710 for Acton and \$117,350 for Georgetown and Limehouse.

General administration of the town is listed at \$899,571. Last year the town actually spent \$129,595 less than the budgeted figure of \$811,660.

The collection and disposal of garbage has a \$134,500 price tag in this year's budget, compared to \$125,521 actually spent last year.

The expected town revenue from sources other than taxes, such as government grants, permits, penalties etc., will be down this year from \$2,154,483 last year to \$1,802,976 this year.

Provincial transitional grants dropped this year from \$131,856 to \$98,891.

Hyde claimed \$18,000 for landscaping around Gordon Alcott arena was irresponsible. He pointed out that figure had been pared down from \$28,000. He said it "was a helluva lot of grass."

He put forward a motion that the amount be left in the budget but could not be spent without council approval.

Council passed this motion after members made it clear they had spent night after night on the budget, and refused to delay the passing of the final budget any longer.

The final approval was given to the \$4,500,245 budget with only Hyde and Miller voting against it.



ART TEACHER Jim Goring and student George DeHaan work on the Oxfam banner at the high school last week. The banner is hanging across Mill St., advertising the coming Oxfam trade fair.

## Board budget

# Halton Hills forks over \$3.8 million

With average education tax increases ranging from \$68 to \$75 Halton Hills ratepayers will have to fork over \$3.8 million this year to support the school system.

Halton Board of Education passed its \$73 million 1976 budget which is up about \$10 million from last year despite a number of drastic cutbacks.

Schools will cost Georgetown residents \$1,876,444 this year and the average ratepayer's tax will go up \$68. The mill rate has jumped 9.06 mills.

Acton taxpayers will face the same kind of tax hike as Georgetown and will pay

\$739,733 in taxes. Ward one of Halton Hills (Acton) faces an 11.41 mill rate increase.

The mill rate has gone up 12.18 mills in Ward two (Esquering) and the average tax bill will be up \$75. Esquering residents will pay \$1,180,959 to support the school system.

Halton Hills residents who live in what used to be part of Oakville will fork over \$22,959 in taxes this year.

Provincial grant support this year is the cause of the tax hike for local ratepayers, the board said.

Grants from Queen's Park

have decreased from 59.61 per cent of the board revenue to 54.49 per cent, even though the board expects to receive \$1.7 million more in grants this year than in 1975.

The municipal tax portion of the board's revenues is up \$6,559,807 and the municipal levy has gone from supporting 37.87 per cent of the budget last year to 42.03 per cent.

The mill rate averaged across the region has gone up 9.70 mills.

Frustrated

During debate on the budget Trustee Tony Goodyear said he had been

frustrated throughout the process, especially when his suggested cuts were defeated.

"There have been some restraints but they are really just window dressing. We have to cut public spending," he declared.

Finance chairman Trustee Bill Lawson said the administration had done a good job in finding areas where cuts could be made.

"It was hard to come up with these drastic reductions and still maintain the quality of education," Lawson said.

Trustee Richard Goodin said the board during its budget discussions seemed to

have adopted the attitude, "what was \$1 million anyway?"

Big burden

He deplored the way the budget has swelled from \$28 million in 1969 to \$73 million this year and noted the taxpayers are bearing a tremendous burden.

Goodin said the size of the budget was away out of proportion to the increase in the number of pupils over the years and the improved quality of education.

He blamed high wages for board employees for the economic woes facing the board.

Goodin said he has asked repeatedly for a 25 per cent wage reduction and has continually been ignored.

"This budget is out of balance. We have sacrificed supplies and services for wages," he said.

Blame province

Superintendent of Finance, Bruce Lindsey, said six of the nine mills average increase was caused by decreased provincial support.

Goodyear said it wasn't right to blame Queen's Park because the budget was still financed by taxes and it didn't matter if the money came from local or provincial coffers.

For the past two months the board has been presenting various parts of the budget outlining its various expenses, the largest part of which over 70 per cent, is used to pay employees' wages.

## Want subsidy on garbage

Nassagaweya area councillors Jim Watson and Russ Powadiuk feel Ward Three ratepayers should receive a subsidy on the collection of garbage.

Councillor Powadiuk told council that historically Ward Three ratepayers had a dump in the area and could take their own refuse to it.

"That dump will close soon and the ratepayers will have

to take garbage to Georgetown. Councillor Watson claimed that Ward Two (urban Milton) is currently receiving a subsidy on its collection charges.

Council had earlier considered providing municipal pickup in the rural area but learned it would be far more expensive than the cost of doing it privately.

## Hydro withdraws road request

Ontario Hydro has withdrawn its request to Halton Hills and Milton to close part of the road allowance between Concessions 4 and 5. The road allowance forms part of the boundary line between the two towns.

Hydro had been asked to send a representative to the town to discuss the road closing and transfer of ownership to Hydro.

The road allowance will be part of the new hydro corridor.

Hydro has withdrawn its request and will bring it forward again, likely this summer. Hydro has not acquired land on either side of the road allowance.

Halton Hills works committee has been dealing with Hydro's request.

Unsure

No one at the meeting was able to say for sure how much the subsidy was, or on what basis it was being calculated. Council agreed to check into the matter and bring back more factual information.

## Cameron St. residents ask for improvements

Halton Hills works committee asked engineer Robert Austin to report to the committee cost estimates for various means of improving drainage on Cameron Street.

The engineer will have to get costs on three plans proposed by the committee at its Monday night meeting after the councillors heard complaints from Cameron Street residents.

One of the plans would see storm sewers installed and curbs and gutters built on the street.

Another plan suggested is to have a curbed sidewalk built on the east side of the street to guide water down to the end of the street.

The other proposal calls for curbs and gutters to be built on both sides of the short street.

Mr. MacColl said the street isn't that long and the east side is lower than the west side so if a sidewalk with a curb was built on the east side the drainage problem would likely be solved. He added the road could be tilted to help the water go down the east side.

Mr. MacColl said the idea of curbs wasn't bad but wanted to see curbs built on both sides of the street. He wasn't in favor of a sidewalk being built.

Councillor Mike Armstrong suggested a curb for one side of the street and a sidewalk for the other.

Austin noted it costs the town \$7.50 for each foot of sidewalk built and \$7 for each foot of curb constructed.

Hurst noted the street is less than 800 feet long.

urban road and should be brought up to urban standards.

Mr. MacColl said no one would shovel the sidewalk and warned it wouldn't solve flooding problems on both sides of the street but only on one side.

Wall

He also asked the committee to build a small stone wall at the end of the street to improve its appearance.

A shouting match erupted between Hyde and Mr. MacColl with committee chairman Armstrong trying to mediate.

Mr. MacColl observed he had let the municipality across his property when it was doing sanitary sewer work and what had it gotten him.

## Two hurt in crash

Two men in separate vehicles suffered minor injuries at lunchtime Saturday in a two-car collision on Halton Road 37, just south of Eden Mills.

Milton OPP said a 1974 Ford driven by Henry R. Neave, 64, of R. R. 1 Campbellville, was southbound when it collided with a 1967 Rambler operated by Charles Roadknight, 21, of Rockwood.

Police said Mr. Roadknight was injured, along with Mr. Neave's son Barry, age 35, who was a passenger in his vehicle.

Barry Neave lives at R. R. 1, Moffat.

## Recommend no sewage for plant

Halton Hills planning board last night (Tuesday) recommended to Halton Regional Council that an oil recovery plant, proposed for Wallace Avenue in Acton, be allotted no sewage treatment capacity and that the operation be discouraged from locating in Halton Hills.

Town planner Mario Venditti told the board the plant would only employ three or four people and that its effluent request was for 25,000 gallons of water per day.

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## Volunteer Program

for Acton Community Services Centre

will be discussed at a meeting at The Centre in the "Y"

Wednesday - May 5 - 7:30 p.m.

Volunteers could become involved in a variety of community programs... as drivers, visitors, shut-in phoners, assistants, but not in the professional work of the centre.

ANYONE INTERESTED WELCOME

For further information call: JUDY McLIN, Co-ordinator 853-3310

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