

## Councillor McKenzie reports

### ACTON SEWER OPERATION HAS DEFICIT OF \$31,612.00 IN 1975

As I mentioned earlier my letters to the Free Press would be irregular as I only wish to comment when I can provide additional information on matters that concern the taxpayers of Ward 1.

1974 deficit	\$17,425.00
1975 (expenses \$177,877.00 and budget \$163,690.00)	\$14,187.00
Total Deficit	\$31,612.00

What caused the deficit? For those who are interested may I mention:

1. Replaced methane gas with natural gas to heat boilers.
2. Increased sludge haulage.
3. Replaced digester relief valve.
4. Rebuilt two sludge pumps.
5. Purchased a new air blower.
6. Replaced chains, sprockets, and flights in primary and secondary tanks.
7. Rebuilt 52 manholes for Halton Hills Public Works Department.
8. Up-dated sewer flushing program.

At the present time water and sewer costs are on a charge-back basis.

If this deficit is to be financed by the 1976 tax levy it will mean that the Sewer Levy on an average home will increase from \$51.28 in 1975 to \$67.91 in 1976. This concern must be resolved prior to striking the tax rate for 1976.

### CONTRACT TO EXPAND SEWAGE DISPOSAL PLANT IN ACTON TO BE LET IN OCTOBER '76

On April 30, the consulting engineers for the extension to the disposal plant in Acton reported that 35 per cent of the design work had been completed and that final drawings would be ready in August. This would enable the Regional Council to call tenders in October with construction to take approximately 12 months. This will give the plant a capacity of one million gallons per day.

G. W. McKenzie



ACTON VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS were called to Beardmore Thursday morning to extinguish a blaze in a tar pot. Contractors were tarring a roof when the sticky stuff ignited.

### Committee puzzles:

## Should sewer charges in towns be same?

How should sewer charges be distributed?

Treasurer Ray King gave Halton Hills finance and personnel committee three alternatives Monday and at one time had only one sup-

porter on the committee for each alternative. However, councillors Levy and Miller swung the recommendation to his first alternative, continuing to allocate costs separately in Acton and Georgetown areas.

In 1975 Acton sewer operation had a deficit of \$31,612. Method of financing the deficit must be resolved before Halton Hills can strike the tax rate.

Members spent considerable time Monday discussing the proposals and wondering how charges would be assessed in the future. Their recommendation goes to full council.

### Alternative 1

Alternative 1 recommends the continuation of allocating costs separately to Acton and Georgetown areas. This method was used in 1975 and would result in an average charge of \$67.91 per home in Acton and a charge of \$33.37 of the average Georgetown home.

Councillor Levy pointed out Georgetown charges will increase in the next couple of years with the addition to the sewage treatment plant.

The treasurer commented

Acton costs will go up, too, due to repairs and the smaller population.

### Alternative 2

Alternative 2 would recommend a contribution of \$35,000 from existing lot levies toward the debt charges of Acton's portion of the sewer levy. This would result in the following typical charges:

	1975	1976
Acton	\$51.28	\$51.27
Georgetown	\$36.15	\$33.37

The application of the \$35,000 would result in approximately the same charge as 1975.

Councillor Pat McKenzie favored this second alternative at committee. It would correct the deficit problem for this year when we have had increases, he said. The school board did the same thing, and lot levies went toward recreation in wards three and four. Here's a chance to put tax dollars in ward one, he said.

### Alternative 3

Alternative 3 is to assess equal tax levies on residents of Acton and Georgetown.

Treasurer Ray King recommended this alternative, but councillor Russell Miller felt this would be "the

## Let's abolish says committee

The four members of the Acton indoor pool advisory committee who gathered for their meeting May 6 unanimously approved the motion that their committee be abolished. Attending the meeting were area recreation director John Cooper, pool supervisor Anne Pickering, high school principal Dean Fink and recreation advisory chairman Ed Wood. The Lions club representatives have not attended the last two meetings.

and the recreation and parks department.

### All OK

The pool is operating effectively and problems resolved without need for committee meetings, recreation director Glen Gray told councillors. He said the recreation advisory committee "has been serving as an avenue for providing input regarding the pool's operation." He added that the Lions, who initiated the fund raising drive, could provide input at any time.

On Monday the administration committee of Halton Hills approved their decision and it will be forwarded to council.

The committee was initially developed for the purpose of overseeing the aquatic operation. Organizations represented on the committee were the Lions, recreation advisory committee, board of education

coming thing."

Mr. King said as sewers are a regional responsibility, it can be argued there is no need for the town to separate costs, but rather to treat the sewer costs in the same way as street lights and crossing guards.

Then typical home costs would be:

	1975	1976
Acton	\$51.28	\$42.90
Georgetown	\$36.15	\$42.90

Acton charges would decrease by \$8.38 and Georgetown increase by \$6.75.

The principle of equal levies was considered but committee members agreed to send the recommendation to council, where more discussion will inevitably follow.

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3 P.M. At Fairview Cemetery

PARADE FORMS UP AT 2:15 P.M. AND LEAVES FROM FELLOWS STREET

Decoration Day, (sponsored by His Worship, The Mayor and Members of the Council of the Town of Halton Hills, the Canadian Legion Br. 197, Women's Institutes, Legion Ladies' Auxiliary, Acton Fire Fighters, Duke of Devonshire and Lakeside Chapters I.O.D.E., Acton Citizens' Band, L.O.L. 467, Acton Lions Club, The Rotary Club of Acton, The Acton Clergy Association, The Y's Men's Club of Acton, The Golden Age Club and Friends In Deed) is designed to honor those who gave their lives for Queen and Country by placing wreaths and flowers at Fairview Cemetery, St. Joseph's Cemetery and Pioneer Cemetery. Citizens are invited to participate in the ceremony and at the same time decorate the graves of their own loved ones.

Tom Hill—Mayor

## Rural parents want bus service

Halton Board of Education will look into the busing problems some parents in southern Nassagaweya are experiencing in getting children to Milton and Acton High Schools.

Superintendent of Finance Bruce Lindley told the board the parents who have written to both the board and Milton Council all live in the vicinity of 15 Sideroad and are graduates of Brookville Public School.

He said the pupils are supposed to attend Acton High School but wanted to go to Milton High School. Despite the fact they have never made application to attend Milton High School, they have been allowed to attend for the last two years. Lindley added the board wasn't too concerned about the problem, since both Acton and Milton High Schools are crowded.

Must walk  
He explained there are buses going along 15 Sideroad taking students to Acton High School but none bound for Milton High School, so these pupils have been forced to walk down 15 Sideroad to

Highway 25 where they catch a bus to Milton.

Lindley said the parents now want buses to go down 15 Sideroad picking up Milton-bound students. He said it might be possible to reroute buses to permit this in either the fall of 1976 or in 1977.

He noted with a new Acton High School opening in 1977 and a new Milton High School possibly being built for opening in 1978, crowding problems could be relieved and school boundaries changed.

Hour travelling  
"Many pupils who chose to attend the Acton school are required to spend more than an hour, morning and evening, simply travelling between the various pick-up points and the school. For those who chose to attend the Milton school no proper or responsible provision has been made at all. A number of adolescent students, both boys and girls, must either depend upon transportation from parents who may not be able to provide it, or alternatively walk or hitch-hike across several miles of remote township road. The excuse so far given for this state of affairs has been that separate companies provide bus service for these two schools, and as such have separate and independent schedules. Such an arrangement is sim-

ply a managerial decision and can have no legitimate bearing on competent administration," the letter from 13 parents stated.

"During the hour or so immediately before and after the normal school day, township roads are uniformly cluttered with large numbers of school buses of one sort or another. It is completely inconceivable that with such facilities, and the expenditure of such sums, there is nobody with the competence to organize these to provide that minimum service. Buses can meet, and properly scheduled transfer arrangements can be made. All that is required is the recognition that it is public need, not administrative convenience, which must govern the organization and timing of bus routes."

Milton Council has endorsed the parents' stand and trustee Tom Watson suggested some should be complaining to Halton Hills Council since some live in that town. "They don't even know where they live," he declared.

Trustee Tony Goodyear said the board should investigate the problem and try to provide better service for the residents.

Trustee Doug Wood said he would be looking into the situation, since it is in his ward.

## Marked truck

A red pickup truck plainly marked "Civiero Construction" didn't stay missing long. It was stolen from the Civiero home on May 28 and recovered in Guelph a short time afterward.

## Stolen

A roto-tiller and gas lawn mower were stolen from a shed at Tangmere Mushroom farm May 30. Estimated value is about \$230. Police are investigating.

Flags in Acton were flying at half mast on Monday to pay tribute to former Lieutenant-Governor Ross MacDonald who died on the weekend.

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