

Must pay water bills in Georgetown, banks

Halton region has decided to withdraw the convenience of payment of water bills in Acton, and notices were sent to all customers this week. Water bills which were formerly paid at the town office must, from Sept. 1, be paid at the region's water office in Georgetown or in any of the town's banks—for a charge of 25 cents.

The banks will honor their over-60 policy and those with senior citizen cards would not

be charged the 25 cents for payment of water bills.

Saving

The change would save the region about \$15,000 estimated as their share of office expenses in Acton.

Notices came in the mail Monday and Tuesday, and at least one person was out on the streets with a petition almost immediately.

Councillor Pat McKenzie, who has firmly stated he wants to have a town office

remain open in Acton, Tuesday expressed his concern. "It's very disturbing," he said. "There are so many loose ends." Water and hydro bills are now delivered door to door together. Under the new system there would probably be double delivery. The meter reading has also been a joint job, but the local hydro office has been made aware of the change.

Mr. McKenzie says he's looking into the matter and

will have some more facts by next week.

The notices received in the mail state: "Dear Water Customer:

"Effective September 1, 1976, the Acton water billing will be transferred to the Region's Water Office in Georgetown. This transfer will result in a saving of \$15,000.00 per year and Regional Council has decided that these total net savings be credited to the Acton water area.

"Your account will be payable at the Georgetown Water Office, 9 James Street either in person or by cheque. Alternatively, arrangements have been made with the chartered banks in Acton that your account may be paid up to and including the date for payment shown on the bill, at any chartered bank in Acton, for a nominal service charge by the bank.

"In Acton, there is a Sewer Service Charge added to, and

incorporated in, your water rates. This charge will continue to be included in your water bill, but will be shown separately, with no effect on the amount of your billing.

"The address and phone number of the Georgetown office will appear on all water billings.

"Thank you for your co-operation.

"The Regional Municipality of Halton."



A NEW-FASHIONED girl at an old-fashioned threshing! Farmer's daughter and boutique owner Marilyn Ottaway hefts forkfuls of freshly-harvested grain Saturday when friends and family gathered at the Ken Murray farm for a threshing.

The Acton Free Press

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1976

One Hundred and Second Year—No. 8

Fifty-two Pages—Fifteen Cents

Complex debate forced by Booth

Councillor Roy Booth intends to bring the municipal complex question to a head at the next Halton Hills council meeting.

Monday night at administration committee he forced the issue, when he put forward a motion, passed three to one, to recommend to council that the bylaw to build the complex be reconsidered.

Voting for the motion were Mayor Tom Hill, and Councillors Roy Booth and George Maltby. Councillor Les Duby was opposed. Councillor Iric Morrow was absent.

Quoting from the procedural bylaw, Booth said any member in opposition to an item, can bring the question up at a committee meeting, but not at a council meeting.

"I'm not trying any tricks, or any innovations, I'm simply dealing with the question in a legal manner. The procedural bylaw does not

say any particular committee but administration deals with municipal properties."

Booth said in the last council meeting report, this newspaper did not explain that he was absent because he was the sole delegate from the whole of Halton Region at the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association conference in Cornerbrook, Newfoundland.

Mayor Tom Hill said he had set the next meeting for discussion of the motion whether or not to send the bylaw to the OMB, particularly because Booth was absent and he felt it was unfair not to have his opinion voiced.

Booth contended this motion is completely different. He said under the present procedure without a motion from committee, "they could sit on their duffs for ever and never put a motion to reconsider the bylaw." He said using the committee recommendation it is

a formal recommendation from council that has to be approved or disapproved.

Maltby agreed there are two different subjects, whether to send to the OMB or cancel the bylaw.

Booth said according to the procedural bylaw the reasons for reconsideration must be given. He listed his reasons as the number of letters and ratepayers asking for reconsideration, and the change of heart of at least one member of council.

Duby said a special committee had been set up to deal with new administration and municipal properties. "Are you going to put this committee in the position of dealing with all properties?" he asked.

Booth said he still planned to operate within existing bounds. He said he is not suggesting taking power away from anyone.

Duby said council had made a decision, and forecast a repetition of situations like this.

Maltby said simply voting to send or not to send the bylaw to the OMB leaves the question up in the air. He contended Booth's motion brought the question into the open, and was realistic. "I don't like bowing to the OMB like a bunch of little boys and a principal, let's bow to the people, not the OMB."

The mayor said the OMB wouldn't make a decision; they simply would say there should be a plebiscite.

Booth admitted his first motion not to send the bylaw to the OMB at that time was a holding tactic until the question was decided by council. "Now let's get it out of limbo,

and stop dilly dallying so everybody gets a chance without the restrictions of the procedural bylaw."

"Council made the decision and the dilly dallying began after that, as far as I'm concerned we dealt with it," retorted Duby.

Petitions on rounds again

Petitions are circulating again in Acton, this time protesting the region's decision to transfer the payment of water bills from Acton to Georgetown. Willing signers are adding their names and addresses to petitions placed Tuesday at stores along the main business section including IGA, A-B, the drug stores, Sweetman's and Joeque's.

The woman who became so annoyed when she received notification of the change in billing that she just dropped her housework and started out to talk to people is Mrs. Sandra Marzo. She's a long-time resident and lives on the Crescent.

Others heard about someone going around organizing a petition. "When you find out who she is, send her to me!" people were telling each other Tuesday.

Her petition preambles like this:

Objct

"We the undersigned object to paying our Acton water bill at the Georgetown office, by cheque, money order or at any chartered bank. We request an Acton office be open for this service. We also need this personal contact for our local problems."

Some of the petitions also conclude "Let this be one way to show that we want our town of Acton back again."

Admired

Mrs. Marzo found that some people had read the notices hastily and thrown them out. They figured there was nothing they could do about it.

One woman wouldn't sign, saying "we're Halton Hills now." But she told Mrs. Marzo she admired her for feeling so strongly about her town.

Mrs. Marzo is now contacting councillors to see what she should do with the petitions.

A couple of weeks ago petitions were circulated opposing the building of a municipal complex on the seventh line near Georgetown. Different people started out spontaneously to collect names, and found almost everyone willing to sign. The plan did not proceed.

Also see today's Editorial: A Nail in our Coffin.



SMILING ARENA manager Harold Townsley peels back a protective strip from the community centre's new wrap-around plastic shields. Spectators will be able to see games clearly and safely. Installation work is expected to take another week. A wire screen was removed from around the rink last January.

Six time champ poultry show

Fred Kentner set a record at the C.N.E. poultry show when he won the grand championship for the sixth time. His name will be engraved on the cup for the merits of his white Leghorn cock, which was grand champion standard bird of the whole show.

There were about 7,000 entries in the poultry show this year.

Fred Kentner also placed

first, second and third in the best trio category, won first for his feather-legged bantam, and received other firsts as well as seconds and thirds.

He took about 25 birds down to the Ex from his home at R.R.3.

Ron McLean, also of R.R.3, took down 14 chickens and ducks and all but two of them won ribbons. He received five firsts as well as seconds and thirds.



FIVE SCUBA DIVERS IN A ROW tread water in the indoor pool during an equipment swim class. Paul Bray, 12, (left), Stephen Sojka, 10, Mark

Bray, 10, Chris Conroy, 14, and John Vadeika take lessons from recreation instructor Dave Hannah. For more pictures see inside.

Water rates up?

If the region decides to charge uniform water rates for all of Halton, Georgetown's rates would receive a 60 per cent increase and Acton would be up 30 per cent, according to Halton Hills treasurer Ray King.

Reporting to the Finance and Personnel committee Monday evening, Mr. King explained the joint county treasurers had compiled a report concerning uniform

rates. He explained that it was a political decision, and would be decided at the region.

Clean here

Councillor Ernie Sykes pointed out that Georgetown had not had a substantial increase in a few years, and that 60 per cent may sound like a lot, but it would only be a few dollars. He did, however, say it costs a lot more to treat water in Oakville and

Burlington, and questioned north Halton paying for their clean water.

Doug Pritchard, the clerk administrator, pointed out that now, the average bill in Georgetown is \$5.23, while in Acton it is \$6.93, excluding sewers.

"People are going to see that regional government is not getting any cheaper or better," Mr. Sykes concluded.

Supports two-way streets

Acton Councillor Pat McKenzie wrote to Halton Hills works committee this week voicing his support for an Acton resident's suggestion that Arthur and Mill Street no longer be one way streets.

William Middleton wrote to the town this summer urging the committee to consider making Arthur and Mill Streets two way traffic streets in the area of M. Z. Bennett School since there are now sidewalks in the area for children going to school.

The committee decided to receive and file Mr. McKenzie's letter since the proposal to make Arthur and Mill Streets open to two way traffic is being studied by the town and police.

Wilbur crosswalk

Councillor Joe Hurst thinks another crosswalk is needed across Mill Street.

Mr. Hurst told Halton Hills works committee Monday that the town should start taking a look at the possibility of having a crosswalk installed at Wilbur Street.

He said pedestrian traffic was fairly heavy already in that area and would increase with more commercial development likely to materialize.

New freezing unit for Acton arena

Acton arena will have new refrigeration equipment this season, if Halton Hills council accepts an administration committee recommendation, made Monday night.

The committee recommended Canadian Ice Machine Co. be awarded the contract at a price of \$15,870.

Facility Superintendent Pat Sheehan said Acton would then have a standby refrigeration compressor if anything goes wrong, and would also be able to hold ice if the weather is warm at the start and close of the season.

The committee accepted his recommendation with no discussion.

Mill, parking C. of C. topics

Mill St. will be closed off and reconstructed, beginning early in October, and a special meeting is being called by the Chamber of Commerce to talk over the changes.

The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the fire hall meeting room. As well as Mill

St. reconstruction, off-street parking will again be debated.

Among those expected to be present are Don Garrett, of the Ministry of Industry and Tourism; town engineer Bob Austin and assistant town planner Ron Burnett, and Bob Gougeon of the Halton Hills parking authority.

Can right turn

Engineer Robert Austin told Halton Hills works committee Monday that drivers can now make right turns onto Eastern Avenue from Young Street.

Councillor Joe Hurst brought up the problem of right turns not being allowed at the corner earlier this year.

Austin said he has talked to

the police and they are aware of the problem.

He said there are no signs up now prohibiting right hand turns onto Eastern Avenue from Young so no one can be charged.

He predicted right hand turns would become completely legal once Halton Hills comes up with its comprehensive traffic by-law.

Lost camper found too late

After being missing for six days in a 750-acre park, Charles Pifko, 150 Wynford Place, died Thursday, 14 hours after he was discovered by searchers. He was 75.

Mr. Pifko was camping at a park at Gorham, New Hampshire, with his wife Emily, daughter and son-in-law. He was particularly fond of walking.

Mr. Pifko was missed a week ago Friday, on what was to be the last day of their vacation. The family remained until he was found and taken to hospital.

He was located huddled in thick woods, about a mile and a half from camp, suffering from exposure. He was given attention by a doctor at the scene.

Acton band to compete in three Ex classes

The Acton Citizens' Band will compete at the Canadian National Exhibition this Sunday in three separate competitions.

Performances at 9:30 a.m., 12 noon and 1 p.m. will give any attending Acton residents a chance to see their band in

action. The group of 45 will leave Acton by bus at 8 a.m. and stay on the C.N.E. grounds until after the fireworks at day's end.

Bandmaster George Elliott is taking the entire band to broaden their experience.

Downtown

Litter problem said "horrible"

When he meets with Acton merchants this week engineer Robert Austin is going to bring to their attention Halton Hills works committee's concerns about litter in the downtown area.

In a report to the committee he admitted there is a dust and litter problem in

downtown Acton but noted the town is doing what it can. He pointed out the streets are swept frequently.

Mr. Austin said most of the problem is a result of people just dropping bits and pieces of garbage on the street and in some cases garbage is put out for long periods before

pickup time and so gets scattered about.

Councillor Joe Hurst said he agreed with the substance of a letter sent to the town by Iain Williams, 107 Elizabeth Drive, who complained about the litter in downtown Acton.

Private

Mr. Hurst described the

litter problem as "horrible" and noted the problem is much worse on private property than it is on municipal owned land.

He pointed out some merchants faithfully cleanup around their stores but some don't.

He suggested the town

encourage all merchants and property owners to keep their land clean. Mr. Hurst added the cleanliness standards in downtown Acton are deteriorating.

Mr. Austin said he would bring copies of Mr. Williams' letter to the meeting with the merchants.