

OUR READERS WRITE:

Concerned with assessment

The following letter, directed to Milton Council, has been filed with this newspaper for publication, since many rural residents will be concerned as is the author.
September 30th, 1976.

Re: The Reform of Property Taxation in Ontario, commencing in 1978, based on market value assessment and the effects thereof to the rural residents of the Regional Municipality of Halton, owning land containing less than 25 acres.

Dear Sir:-
The following paragraphs are listed alphabetically for ease of reference in anticipation of your comments. (A) Present local by-laws and zonings require rural residents to have "larger than normal" amounts of land and residences, e.g. - minimum 350 foot frontage, - minimum 2000 sq. foot house area. This will surely result in excessively high property taxes under the new system. (B) Many of your rural residents occupy land which became available simply because it was not suitable farm land and subsequently was severed and sold for residential purposes, resulting in some fairly large residential properties. There is no possibility of farming these lands to qualify for land tax assistance under the new taxation system. (C) Many of these properties are to-day located in green-belt areas or areas where further severances are not permitted, due to various by-laws and zonings etc. This will prevent rural residents from reducing their present land holdings in order to reduce their land taxes to a reasonable level under the new taxation system. (D) Managed Forest Tax Reduction Programs require that the forest portion comprises 25 acres or more in order to qualify for a 50 per cent tax reduction paid by the government. People with 24 acres or less cannot qualify for this tax reduction under the present or new tax system. (E) Under the new "market value" system of taxation, it is probable that many rural residents will be unable to afford to pay the anticipated drastic land tax increases on these "larger than normal" residential properties. (F) Excessive land taxes with no tax assistance or alternatives available would result in many of your present rural residents being forced to sell their entire holdings. Selling could be very difficult as prospective buyers would not be interested in purchasing these large properties due to the excessive land taxes

under the new system. (G) Market values would then rapidly diminish, thereby affecting the very basis of the new market value taxation system. (H) With regard to the aforementioned points, it is most important that consideration be given to the many rural residents entrapped within this particular set of circumstances. The end result of any successful taxation system must be realistic and fall within a person's ability to pay. With these points in mind, the following questions are listed numerically to facilitate co-ordination of your answers. 1. Due to your past minimum requirements for rural residential land and housing, will there be any consideration given to the fair taxation of rural residents with "larger than normal" properties? If so, how? 2. Will rural residents unable to qualify for farming or reforestation tax assistance be allowed special consideration to at least allow severances of larger properties presently "frozen" by green-belt areas or local by-laws and zonings? 3. When can we hope to receive the results of your "preliminary impact study" of anticipated tax rates based on the new market value taxation system? 4. What would be your estimated yearly total tax in dollars of an average conventional 2000 square foot home located on rural property with a market value on the land of: (a) 50,000, (b) 75,000, (c) 100,000? 5. How and by whom will market values be determined for the new taxation system? 6. Market values will surely fluctuate due to general economic factors and the reactions caused by the new tax reform. It will be difficult to keep in step. Will market values be determined every year? 7. Should market values drop, would taxes drop accordingly? 8. What is being done to co-ordinate the Halton regional plan with the new property taxation system in order to have a truly fair and realistic system?

Please distribute copies of this letter to all members of council for their reference prior to your council meeting of October 18th, 1976.

Looking forward to meeting with you and obtaining your consideration and support on our behalf, I remain.

Yours truly,
J. R. Vassallo,
P.O. Box 148,
Campbellville Ont,
L0P 1B0
el. (519) 822-9527.



ROSEMARY AVENUE children are backing the newly arrived red and white Block Parent signs which are appearing in town windows. Block Parent applicants are holding a meeting in Robert Little School on October 26 starting at 7.30 p.m. Holding signs are, from the left: Janeen Robinson, Brad Harkins, Matthew Fleet, David Harkins, Wendy Norton, Gareth Marks, Nancy Norton, Steve Harkins, Heath Norton and Blake Norton.

Booth runs for regional post

Councillor Roy Booth officially announced his intention to run for re-election to council. He will seek the position of regional councillor for Ward Three.

Booth has served as councillor for Ward Three for the past three years, and previously as councillor for Ward One in Georgetown prior to regional government. During that time Booth was vice chairman of the legislation committee, and member of the consulting committee to form the Region of Halton—and chairman of the general administration and planning committee.

He is presently a council representative on Georgetown Hospital Board, a member of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, and is a director of the Highland Games Committee.

Booth is a member of Georgetown Optimists Club, and Royal Canadian Legion, having served in the Royal Canadian Navy in the early 1950's.

Booth is most concerned about the formation of the Official plans for the Town of Halton Hills and the Region of Halton, local town planning, revitalization of the downtown core area, and Recreation, "with a capital R", says Booth.

Roy was not originally in favor of regional government. His feelings now are

northern portion of the region both rural and urban".

Booth is very much opposed to the building of the "Million dollar municipal employees complex". He said he will continue to be until such time as it can be proven that the housing of all the town's department heads in one building will be a benefit to the town; the cost of such a building can be justified by increased efficiency and a possible reduction of staff; there will be no increase in staff which usually accompanies any move by executives into lavish more spacious quarters; and the costs will not seriously alter the existing precarious structure.

Booth resides in Ward Three with his family and owns and operates a family business consisting of two retail stores both in Ward Three.

—Harness racing gets underway at Mohawk, Campbellville on Friday evening.

Hallowe'en on Oct. 30 if council gives okay

Youngsters in Halton Hills could be trick or treating on October 30 instead of the traditional October 31.

Halton Hills Finance and Personnel committee last evening (Tuesday) received a letter from the Rev. R. C. Lohnes of Maple Ave. Baptist Church, Georgetown, requesting council to change the date. He asked the committee to please observe the Lord's Day, and pointed out

the last time Hallowe'en fell on a Sunday evening, the date was changed.

Committee members agreed with Rev. Lohnes' letter and sent the request on to council.

Grounds at Ontario Hydro's Pickering generating station, east of Toronto, are being developed to provide recreational areas for district residents. A storage compound used during initial station construction has been transformed into a 28-acre hilly parkland and material excavated during the present expansion program is being piled into a hill designed for skiing.

22,227 voters in town

There are 22,227 voters on the new voters' list, for Halton Hills compared to a previous total of 20,000 according to Doug Pritchard, clerk administrator.

An advertisement will appear in local newspapers on October 20, with a posting of the preliminary list of voters and steps to be taken to revise it. The final date for revision, Mr. Pritchard said is November 20.

The lists will be posted in the Clerk Administrator's office and a copy in each polling subdivision.

—It was a fine fall day for Monday's Thanksgiving holiday.

Fall Values
Ladies' HIGH BOOTS
\$4.00 pr.
VARIOUS STYLES and COLOURS
ELISSA SHOES
(FORMERLY ACTON SHOE)
38 Mill St. E. • Acton • 853-1716

Garbage or children?

(Editor's Note—A copy of this letter, addressed, to NDP leader Stephen Lewis and Liberal leader Dr. Stuart Smith, was filed with this newspaper for publication. Honorable Sirs:

As a supporter of the Tremaine-Britannia Citizens' Group in their opposition to site F as a regional garbage dump, I welcome the support you have offered our environmental concerns.

At the same time I find your priorities in selecting this cause as deserving of your earnest attention to be peculiar if not perverse in view of your refusal to provide the slightest backing to the concerns of a parent-ratepayer committee in Halton in their two-year quest to improve our public education system. In fact you have both been quoted in the press as ridiculing the anguished concerns of a majority of parents expressed in their behalf by the Renaissance briefs to the Board and to the Minister of Education.

As a non-sectarian, non-partisan citizens committee "seeking to exert the civilizing influences of parent-power in public education", Renaissance has, at enormous sacrifice to its nearly 1,000 members, pleaded with the leaders of all parties in Ontario, to consider the plight of the majority of parents in this region, (as reflected in the results of an every-householder opinion survey), who would prefer to have their children educated in schools committed to the traditional Judeo-Christian educational philosophy, rather than under the destructive influences of the permissive secularism dominant now in the public schools.

Renaissance contends that in its 2½ year intensive quest for improvement to the public schools there are no problems encountered that would not be resolved by allowing schools committed to such traditional values to compete on equal economic terms with the secular alternatives which now have a government monopoly in public education in Ontario. Premier Davis and Education Minister Wells have demonstrated a willingness to

consider the validity of the basic human rights of these parents which are now being grossly violated in the present system. There are signs that the Davis government is beginning to respond to these concerns and we are hopeful that Ontario parents will be permitted alternatives in an open educational system which is compatible with the character of our pluralistic society.

As leaders of the opposition parties, your studied avoidance of parental concerns in education coupled with your enthusiasm for the environmental issue raised by our Tremaine-Britannia group suggests that in your priorities, our garbage is more important to you than our children!

Sincerely,
Ken Campbell
Renaissance Ontario
Box 100, Milton

Nielsen's
YOUR HEADQUARTERS FOR
GWG
★ JEANS ★ CORDS ★ SHIRTS
★ VESTS
NIELSEN'S
DOWNTOWN ACTON • 853-2280

LOVELL BROS. MEAT MARKET
Meats
• RED BRAND BEEF •
SIRLOIN T-BONE \$1.89 Lb.
WING
Lean
SHOULDER ROASTS 95¢ Lb.
Tender
BLADE & SHORT RIB ROASTS 99¢ Lb.
Choice
RUMP ROAST \$1.49 Lb.
Choice
PRIME RIB ROAST \$1.29 Lb.
Lean
GROUND BEEF \$1.10 Lb.
Fresh
SMALL LINK SAUSAGE 95¢ Lb.
For Your Freezer
GROUND BEEF \$9.95
10 lb. Freezer Pac
Maple Leaf Sliced 1 lb. Pkg.
SIDE BACON \$1.59
LOVELL BROS. MODERN MEAT MARKET
77 Mill St. E. 853-2240

Introducing the greatest aid to litter prevention since the refillable pop bottle.

The refillable pop bottle.

Remember the days when all pop bottles were returnable and refillable? Your Ontario Ministry of the Environment wants to bring those days back, because there were a lot of advantages to the returnables.

Their re-use saved energy and raw materials involved in bottle manufacture. And, more important, people returned refillable bottles. So they didn't become the litter and garbage disposal problem that throwaway bottles and cans are causing today.

On October 1, 1976 a new law went into effect. It says that within six months, retail vendors will be required to stock and display in refillable bottles any size, flavour and brand of soft drink they offer in non-refillable bottles.

In other words they have to offer you a choice. It also requires that retailers selling soft drinks in refillable bottles must now accept and refund cash deposits of at least 10¢ on small sizes and 20¢ on large sizes. And the amounts of these deposits must be shown separately from the actual price of the pop.

Your Ministry of the Environment thinks that a return to refillable bottles will save energy, help alleviate garbage disposal problems, and reduce the number of landfill sites. It will be a step toward a clean, uncluttered Ontario.



Ministry of the Environment
Ontario
Hon. George A. Kerr, Q.C., Minister
Everett Biggs, Deputy Minister

Notice to Ontario Retailers

Effective October 1, 1976, you will be required to accept deposits on refillable soft drink containers of 10¢ on small sizes and 20¢ on large sizes. You will also be required to refund deposits in these amounts on all reasonably clean,

intact, refillable soft drink containers which you normally handle.

This information is covered in a notice which must be displayed by soft drink retail vendors. These signs are provided by the Ministry of the Environment and are available at our offices in these locations: Barrie, Belleville, Cambridge, Cornwall,

Don Mills, Gravenhurst, Kanora, Kingston, London, North Bay, Oakville, Owen Sound, Ottawa, Pembroke, Peterborough, Sarnia, Sault Ste. Marie, Stoney Creek, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Timmins, Welland and Windsor or by writing or phoning: Environment Ontario 135 St. Clair Ave., West Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5 Telephone: (416) 955-1658

DEPOSIT REFUND FOR REFILLABLE SOFT DRINK BOTTLES

Regulations of the Province of Ontario under the Environmental Protection Act provide that a cash refund of the full deposit will be paid for up to 48 intact and reasonably clean refillable containers in any 24-hour period of a brand and flavour of carbonated soft drink sold here in containers of the same size within the preceding six months.