



UPS AND DOWNS. Vic Bristow, Henry Kroes and Rick Devlin lowered the Heart Fund flag last week, and then Mr. Kroes and Mr. Devlin raised the Red Cross flag. March is Red Cross month.



and Mr. Kroes is in charge of the campaign here with Mr. Devlin treasurer. Vic Bristow headed the Heart Fund drive.

Projects could hike Acton water rates

Water rates in Acton could jump by at least 30 per cent and by as much as 50 per cent, according to a report tabled before regional council Wednesday.

Regional Treasurer Don Farmer said the budget for water services in Acton would have to be increased by about 30 per cent to cover costs already incurred. He explained that the town would have to cover costs for a \$182,720 debt service for a new pump-house and water service from a site near Fairy Lake.

He forecast rate increases of approximately 50 per cent if that work goes ahead. The annual repayment for the project would cost \$23,341 but the entire water budget in 1976 for the Acton area was \$99,792.

Halton Hills Treasurer Ray King said there are no funds

available to pay for the pump house. "If it is decided to proceed, financing by means of debenturing would appear the only feasible method."

Public Works Chairman Jack Raftis told reporters that the report wasn't a push for equalized assessment. "We saw a big bill coming and wanted to know where the bucks were coming from. That's all."

Raftis has predicted on a number of occasions that Acton would be the first area to be unable to meet its financial commitments and Milton would be second.

He advocates all Halton communities share the cost of water and sewer projects over the entire region. He claims that would benefit smaller communities but the small communities have resisted any temptation to follow his lead.

HRP appoint officer

Halton Regional Police moved another millimetre towards metric conversion with the appointment of a liaison officer.

Inspector Alexander Terrell, a training officer, was appointed during the Police Commission's meeting Thursday at Oakville to work with the Ontario Police commission.

The appointment was prompted by a letter from the provincial commission which recommended municipal forces not spend money on new metric equipment until consequences of the change are understood.

Police chief Ken Skerrett told the commission much police work is measured metrically. Identification and drug offences are handled in

the new measure. "It's the street where we have problems, speedometers and such," said the chief.

As far as traffic occurrences are concerned, the chief said: "All we've bought are tape measures for accidents."

Accident

A single truck accident March 3 at 1 a.m. in the village of Rockwood, caused \$4,500 damage and injured the driver.

Daniel Bonus, age 17, driver of the pick-up, was westbound on Main Street in Rockwood when the vehicle left the roadway striking a building at 261 Main Street. Bonus was treated for minor injury at Guelph General Hospital. Two passengers in the vehicle were not injured.

New group seeks role, C. of C. woos

(Continued from Page 1) form a new association, turned, at times into a defence of the Chamber.

Some of the ideas which Mr. Wood said might be taken on by the new association were: a committee to help police actions of members, a committee to gather facts for the B.I.A., a committee to help the B.I.A. make unanimous decisions.

Mr. Nielsen got part way through reading aloud a list of events and meetings undertaken by the Chamber. Mr. Nielsen was a member of the retail section of the Chamber.

Obviously we recognize what the Chamber of Commerce has done, Mr. Wood said from the chair, "But we feel the retail association hasn't served the merchants well."

"In the past year we've had six meetings, and five were sponsored by the retail section of the Chamber of Commerce," Mr. Nielsen said. "If that's not dialogue, I don't know what is."

John Coniglio left the meeting early with the words: "I can't listen to this nonsense." Elsie Syme also took her leave early.

One hundred questionnaires were circulated a couple of weeks before the meeting to get brief information on, among other questions, what people thought the association would do.

According to Mrs. Swetman a "fairly good response" was received. Thirty-nine replies were made, of which two were against the formation of the new association. Some of the people at the meeting, Mrs. Swetman said, hadn't sent in replies.

Fifteen of the questionnaires stated that they'd belong to the Downtown Business Association, but not the Chamber. Mrs. Swetman also told the meeting that more than half of the people interested in forming the new group would still be interested in staying with the Chamber.

T-D bank manager Bumstead said after nearly an hour and three quarters of talk "I think you'll have to cut out the bickering." He asked if the new organization was being formed because the merchants couldn't get along with the Chamber.

"I'm disappointed to have seen so far an argument between the new organization and the Chamber of Commerce," Mr. Cooper, an

accountant, said. Before a vote on establishing the new organization could be completed someone suggested that a group be formed from the meeting to find out what role such an organization might play.

From then on the tone from both sides lightened up, notably with Mrs. Eastwood's invitation to such a smaller group to attend a Chamber meeting to see if the two sides might accommodate each other's interest.

Zoning

Amendment to cost \$300

The cost of seeking a Zoning or Official Plan amendment will go up from \$250 to \$300, if council accepts a Halton Hills planning board recommendation.

The cost at present is \$250 for each amendment to the Official Plan and \$250 for each amendment to the Zoning bylaw.

If the application is refused, the town retains \$50 to cover paper work, and refunds the remainder. On occasions, when the costs exceed \$50, the items are listed and charged to the applicant.

With the increased cost to \$300 per each amendment, the town will retain \$75.

Six hurt

During the past week, 22 motor vehicle accidents were investigated by Guelph O.P.P. resulting in injury to six persons.

If the amendments are approved, the town keeps the full \$300.

Councillor Peter Marks contended claimed the costs were much higher than the town is charging. He claimed five departments have to work almost 200 hours on an amendment.

Chairman Roy Booth said the town is not in a business, and must provide these services. He suggested by upping fees, the town was simply accelerating the cost of property, which would eventually be paid by the consumer.

Marks claimed only about one per cent of the population benefits from the amendments.

Councillor Les Doby said it could be onerous for the individual.

The planner said the Brampton fee is \$125. He pointed out the larger costs, such as a subdivision might entail would be covered in the subdivision agreement.

Dog problem near Speyside

Dogs are causing a problem in the First Line and 17 Side-road area near Speyside according to a letter from Ruth Rippon to Halton Hills Council.

She said dogs are allowed to run at large, while their owners are away at work all day.

She said a dog charged and lunged at her several times, while the owner watched from the front of the house. She said she phoned police and laid a complaint.

Mrs. Rippon also claimed dogs have chased her cattle, and chickens have been killed. She concluded by urging more and better control of dogs running at large.

Council turned the letter over to the finance administration committee for investigation.

Rabid fox shot

Guelph OPP received two complaints in the past week involving rabid animals.

Mrs. Sogoskie of R.R.4, Fergus, reported her dog had been attacked by a rabid fox. The fox was shot by a neighbour. The dog was found to be infected and had to be disposed of. The incident occurred on March 2.

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