

Education taxes up here by \$22

The average Acton ratepayer will fork over \$22 more in education taxes than last year following Halton Board of Education's ratification Thursday of an \$81.9 million budget. Average assessment in Acton is estimated at \$6,170.

Ratepayers in Esqueping will pay an average \$23 more this year to support the education system. Average assessment in Ward 2 of Halton Hills is \$6,170.

The mill rate will go up about 3.75 mills this year, for an eight per cent increase in taxes.

Once again Halton taxpayers must pick up a bigger chunk of the cost of education. Last year local ratepayers forked over \$29.9 million but this year will pay \$35.8 million.

The municipal levy will account for 43.79 per cent of the board's revenues compared to 41.04 last year and just 37.87 per cent in 1975.

Grants from Queen's Park will be up \$3.2 million this year but the province's share of the budget burden is down to 53.16 per cent of total costs, compared to 55.20 last year and 59.61 in 1975.

During the past three weeks the board was able to shave \$24,450 from the original budget of \$81,968,666. The final budget of \$81,944,216 is up \$9,563,647 over last year.

The budget is up 12.29 per cent while enrolment is expected to drop by 394 pupils this year.

Cost of educating each elementary pupil has gone up \$165 to a total of \$1,345 a year while the cost per pupil at high schools is up \$203 for a total of \$2,012.

Finance committee chairman Noel Cooper noted nobody enjoys seeing taxes go up and it would be nice to keep the lid on but that is impossible when costs are going up and the board is committed to providing quality education.

He said the budget didn't contain any frills.

Cooper said the committee was disappointed with the almost complete lack of public and trustee input during the past three weeks when the committee was entertaining changes in the budget. He noted the committee received presentations from one trustee, Bill Lawson, and two members of the public.

Cooper wondered if the lack of public input once again was attributable to apathy or was a vote of confidence for the job the board is doing. He said he preferred to think it was the latter.

A number of trustees protested plans to take \$1.1 million in expected revenue from the sale of surplus buildings and school sites and spend it on the purchase of more school sites. They claimed the new sites could easily end up being sold in another five years.

Trustee Bert Hinton was the only board member to vote against ratification of the budget.

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SHERRY McNABB, employee of the Bank of Montreal, (left) and Leonore Stewart of the Canadian Heart Foundation surround a happy Vic Bristow on Monday in the bank. Mr. Bristow had just presented Mrs. Stewart with a cheque

for \$3,200, money raised in a door-to-door campaign last month. Mrs. Stewart in the meantime presented Mr. Bristow with a plaque recognizing his hard work.

Council to probe drainage woes

Halton Hills works committee and engineer Robert Austin will probe drainage problems plaguing 63 townhouse units in Kingham Hills—which the over-100 ratepayers claim is being caused by construction of semi-detached homes in Kingham phase three.

Solicitor Ron Henry, representing residents of Halton Condominium Corporation number 24, many of whom were in attendance, told Halton Hills council Monday night the problems have materialized over the last nine months.

Mr. Henry said repeated efforts by the residents to get the developer of the semi-detached homes to correct the drainage problem which is flooding its base-ments have been ignored.

Altered drainage
Six homes have been built beside the condominium, Henry said, and their construction has "altered the natural drainage patterns and contours."

Anticipating problems the developer was contacted some time ago and asked for action but nothing was done.

Mr. Henry said when flooding started Mr. Austin was contacted and he said the developer's consulting engineer would solve the problem but that hasn't happened either.

The severe winter and thaw runoffs have caused "severe damage" to the townhouses.

Want action
He said the residents want action from the town and suggested the municipality can exercise control over the developer through the subdivision agreement.

Mr. Henry said drainage and erosion control falls under the public-services clause of the agreement. He noted with the town's controls if the developer doesn't remedy the situation himself Halton Hills can go in and fix things up and then bill the developer.

Mr. Henry said everyone is looking for closer liaison between the condominium corporation, town and developer.

He called for the town to make the developer live up to the "letter and spirit of the agreement."

Disappointed
Mayor Tom Hill said he had discussed the subject with Austin who was disappointed the people went to council. They should have gone to works committee and saved

themselves one trip to the municipal buildings, he said. He added in Mr. Austin's opinion the problem is a civil matter.

Councillor Roy Booth asked if Mr. Henry was suggesting the town was liable for any damages and the residents' solicitor said no.

"We don't think there is any liability on the part of the town but do think the town can control the developer."

Councillor Peter Marks said he, like Councillors Les Doby and Pat McKenzie, has viewed the problem and believes the town has a responsibility in the matter. He said

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C of C wants Halton Hills industry advisory committee

Georgetown and Acton Chamber of Commerce officials are going to put heads together and come up with a group of members to sit on an Industrial Advisory Committee for Halton Hills.

George own Chamber of Commerce president George Gray told Halton Hills council Monday night that chambers of commerce in both Acton and Georgetown are interested in seeing an industrial advisory committee set up quickly.

He noted the region is proceeding to advertise for someone to head up the new Halton Development Department and the second day the

person is on the job "we want to be able to go down there and tell him about the north and what we have to offer."

Gray said there are a lot of good people ready to volunteer for this committee which would include chamber

members, councillors and other members of the public. He said there is a lot of concern about industrial development in Halton Hills and suggested there is a great need for local action since out of a \$12 billion provincial

budget only \$63 million goes to the Ministry of Industry and Tourism. (Continued on page three)

Pay hike

By a one vote margin, the pay raise for the mayor and council squeaked through Monday night, when the by-law was given three readings.

The mayor's salary, retroactive to January 1, will go up \$900 to \$12,100 a year, and councillors pay will go from \$5400 to \$5,950.

Regional councillors and the mayor receive an additional \$8,955, a year.

There was no discussion when the bylaw came up Monday night. On a recorded vote on both raises, councillors opposed to the raise Les Doby, Peter Morris, Pat Patterson, Mike Armstrong, Walter Biehn, and Marilyn Serjeantson.

Councillors voting for the raise were Roy Booth, Russ Miller, Peter Marks, Pete Pomeroy, Pat McKenzie, George Maltby and Mayor Hill.

Hinton cut rejected

A bid by Acton-Esqueping Trustee Bert Hinton to lop nearly \$5 million from this year's \$81.9 million Halton Board of Education budget failed Thursday.

Hinton moved an amendment to the motion to ratify the budget calling for a 10 per cent reduction.

He wanted to see \$1.5 million chopped from the portion of the elementary school budget dealing with teachers' wages and \$2 million chopped from high school teachers budgetted wages.

Hinton explained he wasn't calling for a teacher pay cut but thought the board had "over-run" the amount of money needed this year to pay teachers. He also wanted to see \$100,000 cut from the reserves for working funds for Halton elementary and secondary schools. He thought \$1,047,780 could be sliced from elementary and secondary school unallocated capital

funds. Hinton said these monies could be recouped by the board through supplementary taxes and interests funds which weren't included in the revenue portion of this year's budget.

Georgetown board member Don Long supported the cost-cutting move, noting the board just keeps coming up with new programs and adding the cost of them on to the previous year's budget.

He said the board should take Hinton's previous comments about sitting down and setting realistic priorities "to heart". Long said it seems each year the budget just automatically goes up at least 10 per cent. He stated it is time the trustees decided what the system can do without. He added if the board can't cut the budget back from last year's total it should at least hold the line.



A LITTLE BIT OF apprehension clouds the face of Andy Scott as he prepares to embark on an unaccustomed day off from school at the arena. Special public skating hours were scheduled during the winter break from school.



WE FALL DOWN go boom say Andy and Tammy Scott, 5 and 7. The two were taking part in the recreation department's public skating during the break from school.

End sessions in camera—?

The closed door session for half an hour before Halton Hills Planning Board meeting should be abolished according to Councillor Pete Pomeroy.

The half hour "in camera" session was only started a month ago.

"It creates an aura of mystery for no reason," said Pomeroy, as he gave notice he would bring it up at the next council meeting.

He said it was also a waste of time, since the items are discussed fully again when the meeting formally is in session.

"If everybody did their homework there's no reason to keep people waiting sometimes until 8.20 p.m. Chairman Les Doby said it was an attempt to give background information to planning board, but said he wondered if the merits of the information overcame the inconvenience to the public.



Dream vacation

BILL STUCKEY tried his hand at the helm of the sailing ship Polynesian one balmy day, during his winter holiday. Passengers were expected to lend a hand in manning the ship. Besides his time at the wheel Bill helped to rig and set the sails. It takes 10 to 15 men to raise one of the ship's 16 sails. Story and more pictures Page B8.

Ontario Hydro trips on land div. committee

Ontario Hydro's bid for a severance for its proposed Bradley to Georgetown transmission corridor ran into another snag from the Halton Regional Land Division Committee last night.

The committee is asking Halton Hills council to clarify its request for assurances on the use of 91.5 acres in Lots 1 and 2 on Concession 5. The

land is in the name of Frank Ngle. Council wants to be sure that the land will be used as it is for agriculture, and said so in a motion passed Monday night.

The committee met in the former Esqueping Township Building. Council wanted to know from Ontario Hydro through the land division committee if

it could "confirm that the proposed use will be in conformance with the existing requirements of the applicable 'Restricted Area (Zoning) by-law' of the town. We can say that we can't confirm what council asks, said committee member Des Morrow. We should also ask for council's comments and also the reason why council

has asked the question. After the motion to defer the application was passed another committee member, Bill Coats, suggested to Ontario Hydro spokesman Jim Matheson that the provincial utility seek strong indications from council that it is willing to rezone the land.

Hydro wants the land for lower sites for the contro-

versal power line. Hydro's representative, Mr. Matheson, encouraged the committee to decide last night on the application for the severance.

Last night's decision by the committee to turn the question back to council delays again the provincial utility's efforts to assemble lands for the corridor. In the com-

mittee's last meeting the question was deferred until the committee got a report from the planning department. The meeting was in February.

The planning department confirmed that Ontario Hydro would have to apply to the municipality in order to gain permission to come through Halton Hills.

18 estate homes for Sixth Line

Two days before St. Patrick's Day, an 18 estate home plan, with the Irish name of "Vale of Tralee," was presented to Halton Hills Planning Board, last Tuesday night. The proposal is for the Sixth Line, south of Highway 7.

The sentiment was right for the occasion, and the board decided to circulate the plan to all departments for a

report from the planner. John Barden of D. M. Consultants said the project to develop the 100 acre site goes back several years. He said in 1974 no policy had been established on estate homes, but now he understood there was.

He said he needed a motion from planning board to submit to the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

Seniors apply

Town office staff report people picking up application forms for senior citizens' housing almost every day. One noon hour, eight forms

were taken away, they said. An appeal for applications was made. Need must be proved before construction can begin in Acton.