



MATTHEW ROBERTSON and Stephanie Hess model charming outfits from Toddlers to Teens at the spring fashion show Monday evening held at M.Z. Bennett school. Over 400 attended. More pictures and story inside today's paper.

Tannery, union quiet before Thurs. meeting

Both sides on contract negotiations between Beardmore and Co. and the union had little to say heading into this Thursday's meeting at Mohawk.

Talks are still carrying on and "reasonable progress" is being made, John Greifender, the company's chief chemist, said Monday.

Everything is at a standstill, according to union president Bill Spielvogel. I may

have more to say following Thursday's meeting, he said. The union is a member of the Ontario Council of Leather Workers and Canadian Food and Allied Workers.

The approximately 350-member union voted 94.5 per cent in favor of strike action.

Several meetings have been held with conciliation officer R. B. Stevens, of Toronto. The two year contract ran out on January 17.

Disston, union wait for conciliation officer

Disston (Canada) Ltd. and union negotiators are waiting the appointment of a conciliation officer before they get down to bargaining again.

W. I. Dietrich, the company works manager, said Monday: "We're just waiting for the appointment, that's all." he said that there've been no meetings within the last two weeks with the union.

The United Steel Workers asked for a conciliation officer.

The old contract expired February 1 and the union is seeking improved vacation time and bonuses, plus allowance for safety shoes and glasses, a new statutory holiday, pension plan improvements and changes in the wording of job postings and seniority clauses.

Renewal of a cost of living clause is also under discussion. International Brotherhood of Saw Workers represented the Disston workers until January 26.



TWO NOVICES RECEIVE trophies in Saturday house league Champion's Day. Steve Toyota was the most improved novice, receiving the Alex

Region tax increases from \$12 to \$27

If Halton Region's \$34,209,472 budget was to be passed without any cuts the increases in Halton Hills would range from a low of \$12.34 in Georgetown to a high of \$27.83 in former Esquesing. Calculated on an average assessment of \$5,984 in Acton, the levy for regional services would increase from \$133.79 to \$147.80, an increase of \$14.01.

In Georgetown on an average assessment of \$7,500 the increase would be \$12.34, moving the taxes for regional purposes up from \$99.33 to \$111.67.

On a house with an average

assessment of \$6,170 in former Esquesing the increase would be \$27.83, jumping from \$50.34 to \$78.17.

In the part of Halton Hills that was formerly part of Oakville, an average house assessed at \$7,420 would carry with it regional taxes of \$88, up from \$66, or an increase of \$22.

Halton Hills Treasurer Ray King said the increase in Georgetown isn't as great as the rural areas because the urban levy for sewers is down from last year.

Acton's increase is curtailed because of a surplus that area had in its sewer

budget. In the urban section of Burlington a house assessed at \$7,500 would carry with it taxes for regional purposes of \$193.65, up by \$60.18 over last year's taxes of \$123.83.

Taxes for regional services in urban Milton would go up by \$95 on a house with an average assessment of \$5,000, according to Milton Treasurer Don Lougheed.

In that part of Milton that was formerly Burlington, a house with an average \$3,000 assessment would go up \$72, in former Oakville \$144 and in former Nassagaweya \$90. Former Oakville residents

would be hardest hit because there has been no growth in assessment in that part of the town, he pointed out.

Those are the prospects as the budget stands now but both Regional Chairman Ric Morrow and Milton Mayor Don Gordon are confident that substantial cuts can be made in the budget.

The first draft of Halton Region's operating budget is up an average 31.9 per cent. The proposed budget being recommended by staff to committee and council calls for an expenditure of \$34,209,472, up from an actual expenditure of \$26,463,011 in

1976. According to figures made available to reporters Monday afternoon the city of Burlington will shoulder the largest increase.

Burlington faces a 56.4 per cent increase while the increase is 16.8 per cent in Halton Hills, 29.4 per cent in Milton, and 26.6 per cent in Oakville.

The increases in Burlington are due, in part, to an under-levy in 1976 and heavy expenditures for the work on the Burlington Pollution Control Plant.

Assuming that the budget was approved in the amount

of \$34,209,472 the region would have to levy \$16,374,824 from the municipalities as the region's share of the budget.

Halton Hills would have to pay \$1,460,162, Milton \$1,294,120; Burlington \$7,851,260 and Oakville's share would be \$5,595,376.

The budget reflects the region's trend towards a pay as you go plan and a move away from the dependence on debentures as a means of financing the region.

Regional treasurer Don Farmer said Monday that the shift away from debentures would put the stress on the current budget. Taxpayers

will feel the pinch sooner but according to Farmer the move represents a tremendous saving in interest charges.

"It controls the debt level from getting too high and prevents us from choking ourselves in debt charges," Mr. Farmer said.

Both Regional Chairman Ric Morrow and Mr. Farmer pointed out that a large portion of the 31.9 per cent increase was in new programs which are subject to cuts that council is almost certain to make.

Mr. Morrow suggested (Continued on Page 3)

The Acton Free Press

One Hundred and Second Year - No. 39

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1977

Forty-Two Pages—Fifteen Cents

Water rates up 60% blame faults in system

Halton Regional Treasurer Don Farmer is recommending increases of 60 per cent in the water rates for people in the Acton urban service area. But even those increases won't be enough to cover all of the work that is being done and needs to be done on the Acton water system, Mr. Farmer told a press conference Monday afternoon.

The water rates have not been increased since 1964, a period of 13 years. Most municipalities have increased their rates every two or three years.

Mr. Farmer noted that water rates would be increased by 30 per cent in Georgetown and 30 per cent in Burlington.

While actual rates weren't readily available Mr. Farmer did say that even though it has been 13 years since the Acton rates were revised, they are currently slightly higher than the Burlington rates.

The treasurer is not forecasting rate increases for Milton or Oakville this year but indicated Milton rates may have to be increased next year. None of the rates

have been adjusted since regional government took over in 1974.

In 1975 regional staff recommended uniform water rates across the region. The recommendation was rejected by regional council because council felt it wanted each area to pay for its own water and sewer service.

Regional Chairman Ric Morrow said the need for such drastic increases might be grounds to reconsider council's earlier decision to have each area pay for its own services. He said there are some

advantages in the equalized rates because that would even out the bumps that anyone area would experience.

"The Acton system has a lot of faults and requires a lot of maintenance. There are repairs we didn't even know about."

As if the 60 per cent increase in 1977 wasn't bad enough, Mr. Farmer said another substantial increase in 1978 will be required to avoid a continuing deficit.

He said there was about \$500,000 worth of work either in progress or about to be

done on the system. Those debentures will come on stream next year or the year after.

Farmer said the Acton situation is a "drastic one."

"The basic plant is inadequate, built on the cheap and parts of it need replacement. The soil conditions in Acton are difficult to work with. You have a number of strikes against you if you are in Acton and only limited reserves to draw from. As long as each area pays its own way one of the advantages of regional government (spreading the cost) doesn't exist," Mr. Farmer said.

Mr. Morrow said the only relief in store for Acton would be equalized water rates. He noted that there would be no provincial assistance for the problem unless Halton did go to the uniform water rates.

What makes the water rates situation even worse is the fact that 1976 was a wet summer and decreased the revenues the region would ordinarily receive and the (Continued on Page 2)



Skatin' isn't my bag

HI, I'M NOT QUITE ready for the skates yet, but I can hardly wait." Julie Robinson has just turned one year old, and was in the audience at the Parent and Tot skating on Thursday.

Vandalism rampant at Acton indoor pool

"This report is a disgrace", commented Councillor Pat Patterson, when a long list of vandalism at Acton indoor pool, was included in the minutes of the Acton Pool Advisory Committee.

Karen King, Recreation Coordinator said "kids are pouring water into the hair dryers."

Reading the list Chairman Russ Miller commented, "It makes you wonder if it's worthwhile".

"I'd close it," retorted Patterson. Councillor Peter Marks commented, "Everyone is not hilly white in Georgetown either." He pointed out the ceiling problem had been rectified, water had been taken out of the sauna so it now is a dry unit and an attendant has been hired to cut

down the vandahism. In addition another type of hair dryer that is locked in place is being investigated, said Marks.

Miller said he wasn't just picking on Acton pool, he said there was vandalism at all the town facilities "and it sickens me."

Marks contended it is usually the same few everywhere who damage property, and everyone should be tarred with the same brush.

The list from September

until the end of February included damage to ceiling tiles, shower heads, sauna, regulator valves on the shower, ceiling T bars torn down, chunks cut out of water hose, toilet paper dispensers damaged, life guard pole broken, drinking fountain handle off, pieces of plastic and wood in pool, outside lights stolen, door closers vandalized, and Crazy Glue used on locks of classrooms. Many items had been repaired and damaged again.



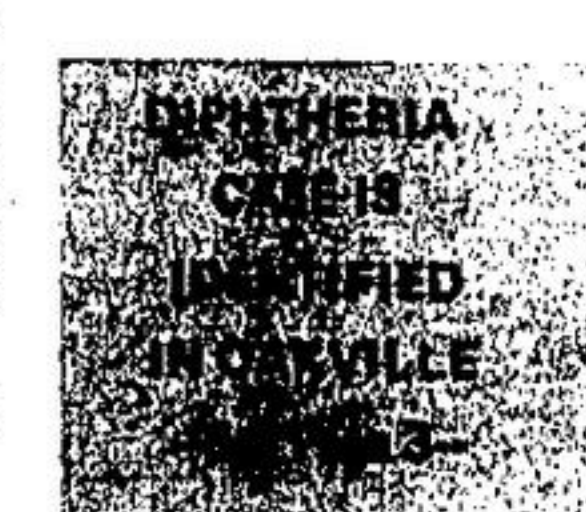
CONSTABLE VINCE BURNETT was honored as Policeman of the Month Tuesday at Oakville.

Honor police

Constable Vince Burnett, who is stationed here, was honored by Oakville's Kiwanis Club as Policeman of the Month Tuesday.

The 28-year-old officer Burnett received a citation from the club plus comments from Superintendent Floyd Schwartz, in an after dinner ceremony.

The honor is for February. Officer Burnett, who has an honors bachelor of science degree, joined Halton Regional Police Force in May of last year.



Applications come rolling in

Halton Housing Authority has received over a dozen applications for senior citizen housing in Acton the past couple of weeks, with more coming regularly. Home visits will begin next week.

Another meeting of concerned people will be held in a couple of weeks, to make sure progress is being made and recommendation followed.

The application for rezoning will be made soon. A group of concerned people met a couple of weeks ago with housing officials, to protest the filling of senior citizen units in Georgetown before considering the building of Acton units. More applicants would have to be sought to again prove the need, officials said. This is presently being done.

Forms are available from Lorna Clark in the town office.

Subjects in the speeches ranged from How to Keep Canada Together, Miss Rodriguez' choice, How to Beat Pollution to How to Stop Racism, Stephen Saxon's selection.

Miss Rodriguez learned

The other speakers were Gwyneth Gibb, 13, who attends Robert Little, Monica Kirchmayr, 12, who goes to St. Francis Separate School, Jo-Anne Jeffrey, 12, of Holy Cross and Ewan Siddall, 11, of St. Francis.

M.Z. students tops

Two M.Z. Bennett pupils swept top honors in the sixth annual Georgetown Optimists public speaking contest at Georgetown last night.

Adela Rodriguez and Stephen Saxon, both 12 years old, talked their way ahead of four other contestants. The pair, who are neighbors on Churchill Road South, will represent the Optimist Club in the zone finals next week at Milton.

Among the qualities the panel of three judges—Julian Reed, Mike Furlong and Graham Goebelle—look for were the use of language and on how the subject "lived".

About 40 people listened to the speeches in the school's library.

Speech subjects

Subjects in the speeches ranged from How to Keep Canada Together, Miss Rodriguez' choice, How to Beat Pollution to How to Stop Racism, Stephen Saxon's selection.

Miss Rodriguez learned

just Monday morning that she was in the contest so she had to make a choice, write about the subject and rehearse in about a day. She was unable to start work on the topic until Monday night. She rehearsed once before making her main delivery. Her speech was firm and packed with finely-restrained emotion.

Stephen Saxon, on the other hand, said that he had about a week to prepare. His speech, which received chuckles from the audience, was smoothly delivered with obvious polish.

Other speakers

Last year Stephen went all the way to the Optimist finals. All speakers were applauded for their efforts and given certificates of appreciation by Larry Ciglen.

The other speakers were Gwyneth Gibb, 13, who attends Robert Little, Monica Kirchmayr, 12, who goes to St. Francis Separate School, Jo-Anne Jeffrey, 12, of Holy Cross and Ewan Siddall, 11, of St. Francis.

Successful contestants may go all the way to the May 14 finals at Toronto where a \$500 scholarship is at stake. In between steps are the Milton speeches April 7 and the district semi-finals at Kitchener April 30.

In her speech on How to Keep Canada Together Miss Rodriguez encouraged children to give their views on the topic to their parents and to shame other adults who fail to vote. "Politics can get boring or frustrating, but if we look at it, it's interesting," she told listeners. "It'd be plain selfish to break up the country," she said.

On his subject, How to Stop Racism Stephen attacked race jokes as being symptomatic of an unresponsive society. "Gradually each new culture blended in," he said and stressed the slowness of the process. "Vicious jokes and violent attacks won't help New Canadians blend in," he said.

Sewage plant tenders \$167,543 over budget

The low tender for the extension of the Acton Pollution Control plant is \$167,543 over estimate, according to a report going before the Regional Public Works Committee today.

The low tender was submitted by Varamae Construction at \$97,000. Including an allowance of \$169,543 for engineering and contingencies the work will cost \$1,167,543.

The project had been estimated to cost \$1,000,000. Of that Ministry of the Environ-

ment and CMHC financing would cover \$369,725 and \$681,333 would be debentured. Because of the tenders coming in higher than anticipated the amount to be debentured will be \$114,865 higher.

In a report going to the Public Works Committee, Director of Public Works Bob Moore explained the position and the impact on Acton.

"The debt charges required to repay the cost of this construction will represent a very considerable increase to the ratepayers in Acton. We have other expensive projects

in the same sewer area, and a report will be prepared in the near future setting out the impact of this and other costs within this sewer area. Higher costs are also factoring us in the Acton water area, and these will be noted in our review of the five year Capital Budget and the Operating Budget for the year 1977.

"It appears to me that we may be compelled to recommend other financing arrangements to cover a substantial portion of the increase in the sewer and water cost in the Acton Urban Area."

7% tax hike goal for town

A tax jump of no more than seven per cent in the Georgetown and Acton areas for town purposes, is the aim of the finance, administration committee.

Monday night, after a closed door session discussing the budget, the com-

mittee came up with a recommendation that the seven per cent increase be the guideline in the final budget preparation.

This figure covers only town purposes, and does not include the school board or regional budgets.

Jackson Trophy from Norm Merrin. Troy Nolan was presented with the Post Memorial Trophy by Mrs. Gary Post for his performance.