

Approve 20 per cent hike in region budget

Halton Regional Council approved a \$33,017,440 operating budget Wednesday but only after long and often heated debates that sometimes featured bitter personal attacks.

The approved budget represents an increase of 20.9 per cent over last year's budget. Several councillors went to the meeting armed with resolutions and amendments aimed at reducing the estimates but after almost six hours of debate on the budget, council had pumped in more than they had managed to take out.

The impact is greatest in Burlington ranging from \$20 in the rural areas to \$45 in the urban area for the average homeowner. In Oakville the increases are estimated at \$15 for the average home and in the urban areas of Halton Hills the increases are expected to be minimal while

rural areas could pay an extra \$25 to \$30 according to estimates.

For a house assessed at \$5,000 in Milton the regional levy will increase by about \$30 in the old Esquesing and Oakville portions of the town. Increases in the parts of Milton that were formerly north Burlington and Nassagaweya will be minimal and there'll be a slight decrease in urban Milton.

Council approved the inclusion of two public works staff members, the inclusion of \$200,000 to be left in the reserve for working funds, and the inclusion of \$211,000 in planning studies for the official plan. All but \$20,000 of the money for the studies is expected to come from the federal government.

All of those items were recommended for deletion by the Administration Com-

mittee during a budget review last week.

A motion to draw money from interest on the building fund to offset the mill rate increase was defeated. That would have provided \$131,000 and more important would have given encouragement to councillors who have tried to cancel plans for a new headquarters.

Many motions were presented and disposed of during the course of the meeting but the only motion that would have had a real impact on the tax bills was one presented by Oakville Councillor Carl Eriksen.

Eriksen urged council to send the whole budget back to staff and tell them to come back with estimates that don't exceed 12 per cent.

"We face a 20.9 per cent increase and I don't think that in all conscience we can approve it. We've taken on no new responsibility and the increase far exceeds our rate of growth. The increase should reflect the rate of inflation and the growth rates more closely," he said.

Councillor Eriksen later tabled that motion in favor of trying to cut the budget at the council table instead of leaving it to staff.

After councillors had haggled for hours without cutting the budget Mr. Eriksen introduced his resolution again.

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett supported Eriksen's motion. "I was against it before because I thought we would cut it but we took all day to put in what the Administration Committee had spent all day to take out."

Burlington Councillor Ben Ciprietti said the maximum

of 12 per cent should have been a directive and the first thing staff is told.

Halton Hills Councillor Roy Booth said the council should forget attempts at further cuts and approve the budget. "This is utter nonsense. How many times do we go around the mulberry bush. If we send this back we'll be doing the same thing weeks from now."

Oakville Councillor Mac Anderson said that at times during the five hour session he felt his colleagues thought they had been playing with Monopoly money but he claimed a reduction to 12 per cent just wasn't possible.

"No it isn't possible," Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill said, echoing Anderson's comments.

On the final vote to approve the budget all of the northern councillors at the meeting supported the budget. Milton Councillor Jim Watson was absent from the meeting.



YOUNGEST PERSON at the town hall council meeting was Marissa, nine months, held by mother Janis Fread.

License service

On Monday, Ed Watson was no longer the issuer of vehicle licenses for Acton. He resigned the position, and it has not yet been filled.

Although all his materials were packed up and taken to Georgetown, it is expected another office will be opened here soon. Applications have been received.

Asked by concerned people if they would have to go to Georgetown for licenses,

M.P.P. Julian Reed reports he was assured by the Ministry that there was no intention of leaving Acton without the service.

Police transfer

Cpl. Bob Arbour of Milton, notice that he will be temporarily in charge of the Acton O.P.P., has received to Crystal Beach detachment

of the O.P.P., effective May 19 until Sept. 8, 1977. There Cpl. Arbour will be policing the busy beach resort with two other Cpl.'s and 12 constables.

You Could Win This!!



One of our weekly customers will win a brand new '2,400⁰⁰ John Deere Snowmobile

DROP IN TODAY FOR DETAILS



15 Mountainview Rd. N.

Study Bower part one-way

The town engineer will study the possibility of making Bower Avenue a west-bound one-way street between Mill and Wilbur Streets.

Monday Halton Hills works committee asked for the study after hearing a request from Nikola Kekic, owner of the Station Hotel, to allow him to have an exit onto Bower Avenue.

Mr. Kekic told the committee Mill Street is too busy and congested and pointed out his parking lot is only 200 feet from the railway tracks. He said there have been numerous accidents on Mill Street and visibility is poor.

He admitted visibility is poor on Bower Avenue too but the turn is so bad people can't drive faster than 10 miles an hour anyway which is considerably slower than on Mill Street. Mr. Kekic said he would pay for any signs which are required.

Rejected before

Councillor Les Duby noted the same request has been rejected in the past but thought it should be considered again agreeing Mill Street is dangerous in that area because of heavy congestion.

Councillor Peter Marks said some problems might be solved if there were exits from the hotel parking lot onto Bower and Mill so the traffic would be split.

Engineer Robert Austin said Bower was used as an exit during construction and

some people still use it but he would have to advise against it since Bower is just too dangerous.

Councillor George Maltby said Bower is dangerous between Mill and Wilbur regardless of a hotel exit and suggested the best solution would be to make it a one way street.

"Elimination of two way traffic on the corner would make the street much safer," Maltby declared.

Mr. Austin said the idea has been examined in the past but still has a lot of merit.

"Fashions for the Total Woman"

MARILYN'S

Village Boutique

124 Mill St. E.

Acton

AUCTION SALE

* TONIGHT *

(WEDNESDAY, MAY 11th)

AT THE

ACTON ARENA

Starting at 6:00 p.m.

ALL MERCHANDISE IS BRAND NEW FROM "HALTON HILLS FURNITURE and APPLIANCES" OVERSTOCKED WAREHOUSE

All merchandise for Auction was listed in the Chris A. Shouten classified advertisement last week plus 6 dinette suites, 3 sofa beds, 3 Panasonic stereo components (excluded from listing are the stereo fireplace and the sewing machines).

FOR ALL YOUR FURNITURE AND APPLIANCE NEEDS VISIT 'HALTON HILLS FURNITURE and APPLIANCES' AT 352 QUEEN STREET EAST, HWY. NO. 7, ACTON, 853-0211.

Crossing guard

Monday Halton Hills works committee decided a crossing guard should be posted at the intersection of Highway 7 and Acton Boulevard replacing the existing student safety patrol.

The committee received a letter from M. Z. Bennett principal Doug Magwood expressing concern about heavy traffic flows and the danger to children crossing the highway as evidenced by a recent accident.

Councillor George Maltby urged the committee to hire a crossing guard as soon as possible and said the intersection had long been one of his concerns.

Councillor Les Duby said it has long been a problem spot and sometimes there have been guards, sometimes town employees and sometimes police at the intersection. He said he has always viewed the safety patrol as "better than nothing" but has always thought a full time guard was the best answer.

"I can't imagine a student patrol being used on a highway," Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson said.

Precedent

Deputy engineer Ted Ballinger cautioned the committee against hiring a guard without getting a comment from the police safety officer Raj Swaminathan. He said it would be a dangerous precedent.

THE ACTON FREE PRESS
Authorized as Second Class Mail
Postal Registration Number-0515

Clip'n Save with these

Coupons

CLIP COUPONS TO BE VALID!!!

Valid Fri., May 13 and Sat., May 14 Only

Clip this Kmart Coupon & Save \$1.89

ON A PURCHASE OF ONE 6 x 8" Web

Lawn Chairs AFP

With Coupon \$6.99

Sizes 6 x 8 Web WITHOUT COUPON \$8.88

Coupon Valid Friday & Sat. May 13 & 14

Clip this Kmart Coupon & Save \$9.98

ON A PURCHASE OF ONE

Trailer Pad AFP

With Coupon \$19.99

Size 48 x 72 WITHOUT COUPON \$29.97

Coupon Valid Friday & Sat. May 13 & 14

Clip this Kmart Coupon & Save 98¢

ON A PURCHASE OF ONE

Bubble Pad AFP

With Coupon \$2.99

Size 24 x 72 WITHOUT COUPON \$3.97

Coupon Valid Friday & Sat. May 13 & 14

Clip this Kmart Coupon & Save 80¢

ON PURCHASE OF ONE

Fruit of the Loom—Mens 2-Pack AFP

With Coupon \$2.69

White Only Sizes S—M—L WITHOUT COUPON \$3.49

Coupon Valid Friday & Sat. May 13 & 14

Clip this Kmart Coupon & Save \$1.89

ON PURCHASE OF ONE

Asst. Colours & Patterns of Womens Bra Dresses AFP

With Coupon \$6.99

Sizes 8—18 WITHOUT COUPON \$8.88

Coupon Valid Friday & Sat. May 13 & 14

STONE ROAD MALL GUELPH SHOPPERS WORLD BRAMPTON