

Halton Cable rates up \$1, likely in Sept.

Cable customers in Georgetown, Acton and Milton face a rate hike of \$1 a month next fall.

On January 17, Halton Cable Systems applied to the Canadian Radio and Television Commission (CRTC) for a rate increase, company president Arthur Jamieson revealed in an interview this week.

If the CRTC approves the rate hike, monthly service charges will jump from \$6 to

\$7. In addition, connection of cable charges would rise from \$15 to \$25.

Jamieson said he doesn't expect Halton Cable's application will be heard before April. If approved it likely won't take effect until September.

Increased material and labor costs are to blame for the connection charge increase, Jamieson said. In an effort to attract new sub-

scribers cable has been absorbing rising connection charges but now feel an increase is needed. He pointed out an aerial drop from a pole to home costs \$35, while connection of the home to cable in areas where utilities are buried, costs \$60.

Jamieson said subscriber fees have been partially supporting the high installation costs and cable wants to reverse this trend.

He blamed the monthly rate hike on a number of increased service costs. New channels are being added for both radio and television and improvements for local programming are on the way, including building of studios and purchase of a mobile production van.

The CRTC's request that program substitutions be

made is also costly. This means when a program is being shown on an American station and a Canadian station at the same time cable must take the show off the American station and insert the one from the Canadian show so Canadian commercials will be seen. This also means less of the show will be seen since some time is chopped from American programs being shown in Canada because more commercial time is allowed north of the border.

Jamieson said cable doesn't agree with this practice and has fought it both because it is costly and an irritation to viewers.

Tree trimming costs and pole rentals have also gone up, particularly in Georgetown, which Jamieson said also contributed to the request for an increase.



MORE THAN 30 cars and trucks were towed to Les' B.P., Queen St., last Thursday during the storm. Some were abandoned by drivers who decided to find refuge in nearby homes, and some were in car accidents. The front parking lot of the garage soon filled, and some cars had to be parked at the rear of adjoining Achilles Motors.

Spending one dollar may save region few

Regional Chairman Ric Morrow came up with an idea that just might save the region a few dollars by spending one. And a principle would be saved.

To uphold a policy the regional planning committee recommended the region pursue an appeal over the dedication of 17 feet of land across the front of a half-acre lot for road widening. The road widening was not currently in the works and it was doubtful the road would ever

be widened. The property owner involved does not want to convey the land to the region. Milton Mayor Don Gordon was in favor of dropping the appeal, calling it a "waste of time and money over a chintzy, 17 foot-road allowance." But Oakville Councillor Arch Donaghey argued, "It's not the 17 feet; it's the policy that's in question."

Looking for an alternate solution to the problem Mr. Morrow proposed the region

sign a separation agreement with the land owner to purchase the road allowance for one dollar. If the land owner agrees, the appeal will be dropped. Presumably, the owner could buy back the land if the road isn't widened.

The property involved fronts on Kilbride Rd. A house on the lot sits 35 feet from the existing street line.

The property once encompassed two lots, each having a house and each held by different members of the same family.

Day care budget increased again

The regional day care budget was increased further by the regional committee on community and social services last week.

The increase was requested to accommodate a jump in the demand for subsidized day care. Twenty children, representing 15 families are currently on the waiting list.

In response to a question from Milton Councillor Jim Kerr, Rene Vivian, administrator of social services, estimated 85 per cent of the families would eventually have to go on general welfare assistance if subsidized day care was unavailable to them.

Mr. Kerr said it would cost the region less to provide subsidized day care than to provide welfare payments.

Oakville Councillor Ron Planche questioned the marked difference in average monthly cost per child — \$77 in Halton Hills compared to \$120 in Oakville. But Mr. Vivian explained more day care users in the north were paying either the full amount or almost the full amount of the per diem cost themselves.

At the time the first budget estimates were prepared the private home day care program was operating under budget. However, since that

time admissions have escalated.

The recommendation is for a total increase of \$40,200 over that previously budgeted, bringing the day care budget to \$242,000. This represents an increase of 7.55 per cent in the social services department's total budget over 1977. The municipality's share of the budget would increase from 5.4 per cent to 6.59 per cent.

Church St. collision

Police estimate there is \$2,500 in damage resulting from a two-vehicle mishap on Church Street near John Street Saturday morning.

Damage to the vehicle driven by Don Grein of 19 Church St. W. comes to \$1,500, police say. The Grein car was east bound.

Police state the car owned by Paul Daley of 59 Longfield Rd. was unoccupied at the time of the accident. The Daley vehicle took the balance of the damage, police say.

No meetings

No Council meeting this week. It's the fifth week — an unscheduled one.

The board of Education meeting Thursday was cancelled because of the storm.

Car battery was swiped

A town resident was puzzled why his car, which he parked in the lot in back of Knox Church on Main Street, failed to start.

Upon investigation he discovered someone had taken the auto's battery.

TV Sunday

Actonians were pleased to see some of their friends on television Sunday night, during the tannery sequence in the show A Gift to Last. There will be more Beardmore scenes in the series Feb. 12.

An Esquimes man reported to police that thieves made off with a tool box and more than 15 gallons of gasoline from his pick-up truck Saturday.

Pet of the week



WHEN THE BIBLICAL Samson got his hair cut off, he lost his strength. When Kevin Grubbe's Samson got his hair cut, he lost weight. Kevin is the seven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Grubbe, Queen St., Samson, 3, is a purebred Cocker Spaniel who, according to Kevin's mother, does no tricks, and thinks he's human. Samson was just back from being clipped when the photographer dropped by. He had previously looked like a big ball of fur.

Switch chairman

Claim vote jockeyed

Switching chairmanship got a motion passed at regional community and social services committee meeting last week.

At issue was a proposal authorizing an expenditure of \$100,000 by the region for renovations to Burlington's Joseph Brant Hospital.

Councillor Ron Planche of Oakville, vice-chairman of the committee, took over the chair to permit chairman Walter Mulkewich, who represents Burlington, to speak to the issue. On the subsequent vote the recommendation passed 2 to 1, with Mr. Mulkewich and Halton Hills Councillor Russ Miller voting in favor and Milton Councillor Jim Kerr voting against.

Elections recently

Bern Van Fleet was elected district fire chief at the Acton Fire Department's annual elections recently. Elected as his deputy is Al Daby.

Herb Dodds, Wilf Duval and Brent Marshall are the Three captains, and Phil McCristall is Secretary. Harry Otterbein was treasurer. Jim Thornhill was elected chairman of the firefighters association and vice chairman is Harold Townsley.

There are 35 men in the volunteer brigade under Halton Hills fire chief Mick Holmes.

Trial is delayed

Thursday's snow storm postponed a trial for Thomas Alkerton, 48, charged with several counts of break and enter in Halton Region.

Alkerton will go to court in London Thursday, Feb. 3. He also faces similar charges for break and enter in Peel, York and Durham regions as well as in London.

A parked car owned by Gerald Patey of 18A Main St. S., was struck by another car which failed to remain at the accident sometime Thursday. Police estimate damage to the auto is \$50.

Bill Johnson heads Local at Burlington

William A. (Bill) Johnson, Halton-Burlington NDP candidate in the last provincial election and an avid letter writer, has been elected president of the 300 member Local 09144 Public Service Alliance of Canada. The Local represents employees at the Canadian Centre for Inland Waters, Burlington.

Mr. Johnson was formerly a stationary engineer at the now defunct Domtar plant in Georgetown. Previous to that he worked at Beardmore in Acton as an engineer. He lives at R.R. 2, Rockwood.

ANNUAL MEETING

of the

V.O.N.

Halton Branch

Wednesday, Feb. 15, 1978

Kings Court Banquet Centre

King Road, Burlington

Dinner 6 p.m. Meeting 8 p.m.

Public Welcome

Please order dinner ticket by Feb. 6. Call 878-5773

Year's extension

A year's extension has been given to the Town Hall Restoration Committee, to give the members time to determine what funding might be available. Although the story in last week's Free Press was correct, the headline wrongly said the extension was until Oct. 1.

Ring stolen at pool

A thief has so far gotten away with stealing a diamond engagement ring which was left in the change room of the Acton Lions Club Pool.

The police report states the ring, valued at more than \$200, was in a gym bag.

Guelph couple hurt in crash

A Guelph couple were injured in a two-car collision on the Guelph Line last Thursday morning.

Gino Tersigni, the driver, and Nancy Tersigni were slightly hurt in the rear-end collision. Police estimate damage to the Tersigni vehicle is \$200.

Damage to the auto driven by Janis Penick of R.R. 2, Rockwood climbs to \$1,000, according to police.

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