

Acton gets break

Region levy is down here

According to a draft of the regional budget, taxes for regional purposes will range from an increase of 34.1 per cent in urban Georgetown to a decrease of 15.7 per cent in the former town of Acton.

The levy for regional services in Milton ranges from an increase of four per cent in urban Milton to 18 per cent in former Nassagaweya.

That part of Milton that was formerly Esquesing will see an increase of 13.1 per cent, while former Oakville jumps 13.4 per cent and former Burlington jumps 16.4 per cent.

In Halton Hills former Esquesing jumps by 7.1 per cent and former Oakville is down by two per cent.

Urban Oakville and urban Burlington will see substantial decreases.

Georgetown taxes go up rather dramatically, reflecting the beginning of debenture payments for the new sewage plant there.

Acton taxes drop because of an overlevy in 1977. Acton's water rates were bumped by 60 per cent to cover work that was necessary. Because the sewer surcharge in Acton is based on water rates, substantial revenue was collected not only from increased water rates but increased sewer surcharge as well.

Regional Treasurer Don Farmer says taxes in Milton are up partially due to an underlevy in 1977. Debentures for new sewage plants won't come on stream in Milton or Acton until next year.

Farmer noted that because the budget shows only 10 per cent of the spending for capital projects to be covered out of the current budget instead of the 15 per cent last year, the impact on the mill rate is less than what it would have been.

Because of mill rate reductions in Acton, Burlington and Oakville, Farmer suggests

the region should increase expenditures on roads by \$214,000 to make full use of the provincial subsidy allocation.

While the overall budget for the region is up by 2.3 per cent gross, Farmer suggests most of the areas of increase are outside of the direct control of council.

General government expenses are up 5.7 per cent, while debt charges go up 15.9 per cent, police spending is up eight per cent, conservation authority is up 4.9 per cent and Children's Aid Society is up seven per cent. The amount taken from current funds for capital projects is down by 30 per cent.

That has the effect of showing a decrease in the mill rate but in fact it reflects a decision to finance projects through debt financing as opposed to cash on the line.

Council meets today to further consider the budget.



DOUGLAS MACPHERSON, OF WESTON, suffered cuts to his chin and leg after the flat bed trailer truck he was driving went off Highway 25 last Thursday morning. MacPherson, 25, was trapped in the cab for more than an



hour. Acton Firefighters freed the driver by using a power saw to cut him from the cab. Guelph OPP put the damage to the truck at \$18,000. The truck's load of plywood and wallboard was scattered in the mishap.

Defer by-law

Third reading of the by-law authorizing the town to buy the former Hotchen property in Acton for off-street parking was deferred, Monday night, but not before Councillor Peter Morris made it clear he was opposed.

He said the town was getting into an area of public expenditure that would set a precedent.

Councillor Roy Booth asked for the deferment because some councillors were absent. He said he would vote against the expenditure of close to \$50,000 because he didn't know where the money was coming from.

Send by-law to O.M.B.

Despite objections from Robert and Maryann Austin, 24 Knox Avenue, Halton Hills council will forward the by-law amending the zoning to permit two semi-detached homes at Knox and Park Avenues, Acton, to the O.M.B.

Letters of support for the semi-detached homes came from William Yundt, and H.H. (Bert) Hinton.

Both letters of support said the homes would be a great improvement, and would be an asset to the neighborhood.

Council termed the Austin objection of "incompatible with the neighborhood" frivolous.

The Acton Free Press

One Hundred and Third Year.—No. 32.

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1978.

Forty Pages.—Fifteen Cents.



DUFF MCGILLIVRAY shows off his new badges to mother Cathy. Duff was among the beavers invested into cubs Monday at the scout hall.

Board cuts French—fear cost

Despite the incentive of generous grants from Queen's Park, Halton Board of Education pulled the rug on an expanded elementary school French program trustees had approved just last September.

Trustees feared grants would be cut in a few years leaving the board running a costly program.

Currently grade six, seven and eight pupils receive 20 minutes of French daily. In September the board approved a program of 40 minutes of French daily for grade four, five, six, seven and eight students beginning next September.

Trustees started having second thoughts about the expanded French program

almost immediately after approving the program as complaints poured in from parents and teachers fearing the addition of French would hamper the progress made in teaching core-curriculum subjects such as mathematics and English. Principals warned if time had to be found for French it would have to come from other courses.

During December and January the subject was discussed frequently by leader of the dump the expanded French program, Trustee Bill Lawson. He presented a report warning it would be costly, hamper extra-curricular activities, class sizes could increase, vice-principals, principals, and

librarians would have to be tied up with more teaching, cause split grades, force more hiring of supply teachers and hurt teacher morale.

The administration responded with generous grants most of Lawson's concerns could be remedied.

Thursday, Lawson urged the board consider running the expanded French program as a pilot project in a few schools to see if it would interfere with math and English. He questioned if the board could really support expanded French when it will have severe effects on schools and class organization.

Trustee Ivan Armstrong said he doesn't feel there is enough slack in the daily

elementary school schedule to allow another course to be added.

Director of Education Em Lavender outlined grant information pertaining to French received from Queen's Park just the day before which showed Halton could expand French at a bargain price.

He explained it would cost the board \$314,837 next year for 35 French teachers but by the 1978-79 school year the cost would drop to \$210,000 for the same number of teachers, because of a 70 per cent grant from the province.

Lavender noted teachers feel the board will need 14 more French teachers in 1978-79 and if trustees agreed, the board cost for 49 teachers

would still be only \$294,000. Provincial costs for staffing Halton's French program would leap from \$335,028 for 35 teachers in 1977-78 to \$686,000 for 49 teachers in 1978-79.

Lavender said French is a priority of the province and is being backed up by generous grants. If the board didn't spend the extra provincial money to increase its French

program it wouldn't get the money at all, he warned.

He admitted the history of grants has been "uneven" and Halton has been encouraged to get into programs by hefty grants in the past and then ended up paying heavily to keep it going after grants were cutback.

Lavender said this is a danger and makes long range (Continued on page 12)

Town-Hydro get together to talk Hydro corridor

Ontario Hydro and Halton Hills council will try to talk out some of the problems of the Bradley to Milton transmission corridor at a council meeting. While the meeting will not be open, the public will not be allowed to participate in the discussion.

David Patriquin, Community Relations Liaison Officer for Ontario Hydro, said the aim of the meeting is to establish a channel of communication on the construction of the line.

He said he had been warned

to wear a red suit when going to Halton Hills council so the blood wouldn't show, "but if Sadat can go to Israel, there's hope for me."

He explained hydro had met with many councils of townships along the way to explain what is going on. A 15 to 20 minute overview by the supervising engineer and construction superintendent and a discussion of property appraisal and acquisition policies have been the pattern in meetings with other councils, the speaker stated.

He invited councillors to tour the Bruce nuclear power development, and the Essa demonstration centre, where studies on the effects of high voltage lines are carried out.

Mr. Patriquin said the line is divided into three sections, with the north section running as far as Colbeck, the centre section from Colbeck to Limehouse, and the south section from Limehouse to Milton. He said the footings for the towers are about 45 per cent completed and 25 (Continued on page 3)

Withhold taxes—new protest

Some citizens who have grown tired of waiting for a response to Acton's request for a review of regional government propose a new approach.

They have prepared forms

for people to send to the treasurer of Ontario, Darcy McKeough, declaring they will withhold their taxes until there's some reaction.

Cory van Merkestein will be distributing copies of the

forms this week and he'll be leaving some in local stores.

"It's probably the only way we'll get any action," comments Alma Swetman, who supports the plan. She comments that the reasoned pre-

sentations of the Actonians for Action committee have brought no results.

Planning dept. wants space

Halton Hills planning department is looking for rental accommodation, because they are cramped in the Seventh Line administration building.

Councillor Walter Biehn suggested the former ambulance building.

Councillor Roy Booth said it is just authorization to look for rental space and to find out costs, and does not mean any commitment.

Place change Land sales go to building

Tonight's public meeting on the draft official plan has been changed from the library to the Parish hall. Same time—7:30 Wednesday, February 8.

Proceeds from the sale of all town-owned land or buildings will go into a fund for the construction of an addition to the municipal building.

council decided this week. Any money from the sale of town land, already earmarked for something else is exempted.

Town hall committee appeals to citizens

A Letter To The Citizens of Acton

The Acton Town Hall Restoration Committee has completed its investigation of possible sources of funds for preservation of Acton's Town Hall. This letter will report findings of the Committee and explain what must be done.

One inescapable conclusion faces us. If the Town Hall is to be saved citizens of Acton must demonstrate they will make sacrifices to save it. Signatures on a petition saved the Town Hall for a moment, but only signatures on pledge cards will save it forever. Other sources of funds can become available if Actonians first show a willingness to make private donations. The Municipal Council is not prepared, at the moment, to make any contribution. The Heritage Foundation will not contribute unless the Municipality does. Wintario will not contribute unless citizens and the Heritage Foundation do. A clear measure of financial support from private donors in Acton may move these other groups to contribute. Without them the restoration becomes almost economically impossible.

The Committee proposes setting up a campaign to see what funds people and organizations of Acton would be willing to donate towards the Town Hall. Before

doing this however the Committee must have some indication a campaign will produce necessary donations. At the moment the Committee owes \$1000 for the Feasibility Study. Its costs were originally to be met by sale of Town Hall prints. If the remaining prints are sold the debt could easily be retired. If we cannot raise one thousand dollars how can we raise many thousands required for the restoration?

As a sign of interest in Acton's Town Hall then, the Committee asks all interested citizens and organizations to purchase a print if they have not done so. This should be done as quickly as possible. These prints will become valuable historical keepsakes as they are a limited edition and no more will be made. When this debt is cleared the Committee will begin organization of the fund raising campaign.

Prints may be secured at T-D Bank, Dawe Real Estate, Toddlers to Teens, Acton's Canadian Fried Chicken & Pizza Spot, or by phoning 853-0365, 853-0915, 853-1854, 853-0112 or 853-0498, for delivery. Volunteers who are interested in serving on the campaign committee should contact Doug Freed at 853-0239.

For the sake of Acton's Town Hall buy a print today.

Acton Town Hall Restoration Committee

Ads, editorials merit O.W.N.A. top awards

The Acton Free Press will receive three plaques at the Ontario Weekly Newspapers convention next month—for best editorial page, best classified advertising and best display advertising. The competition results were announced last week.

The Free Press is entered in the circulation category of from 3,001 to 4,500 weekly. There were 26 weekly newspapers entered in the class. When the individual marks were added up, the Acton paper placed first in three of eight sections, but was not in the top three overall. In first place was the Carleton Place Canadian, second the Elmira Signet and third the Grimsby Independent.

The Midland Times won the front page

plaque, the Prescott Journal for composition and layout and sports, the Carleton Place Canadian for photography and news and features. The Free Press won the remaining three.

Dills Publishing's other two papers also won top awards.

In circulation category from 6,501 to 10,000 the Milton Canadian Champion placed first with the Georgetown Independent second.

The Champion wins plaques for front page, composition and layout, editorial page, sports and classified advertising.

The three papers co-operate closely in news and advertising departments. All the production work is done in the plant at Acton.



SIX YEAR OLD AMANDA DEFOREST took top honors in the balance beam at the North York recreation invitational meet. She started with the Acton gymnastics club and moved to the Halton Hills club so she could get more practice. For more gymnastics pictures see the sports section.