

School tax cut by \$6,000

Halton Hills Finance Administration Committee recommended a step that will cut the school levy here, but boost the tax by \$50,000 in Nassagaweya.

The committee turned thumbs down Monday on a request to permit Milton to appeal education taxes to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).

Milton needs permission from a majority of Halton municipalities, plus the region's OK, before it is able to go to the OMB.

Because property values in Nassagaweya, now part of Milton, lagged behind other Halton municipalities, they chip in to balance out the cost.

Halton municipal treasurers last year decided to phase out the adjustment in education taxes for Milton because preliminary assessment figures based on market value show Milton's may rise higher than equalized values of other Halton municipalities.

The treasurers decided to cut in half the adjustment based on last year's educa-

tion apportionment for one year, then make no adjustment in following years.

The effect of Halton Hills Finance Adjustment Committee to stick to its guns will cut about \$6,000 from the school levy.

Milton may still, if other Halton municipalities agree with Halton Hills, try for a divisional court order for the OMB hearing, according to a letter from Milton's lawyer Noel Bates.

According to Bates, Nassagaweya residents will pay "an extra \$50,000" in taxes.

Milton missed its chance to appear before the Board of Arbitrators because the letter of notification went astray, Bates stated in his letter of February 17.

Bates noted Halton Hills did not support Milton's appeal concerning "hardship".

Halton Hills treasurer Ray King, on who's recommendation the committee acted, said there has been additional market information to back up the municipalities' first decision to phase out the equalization.



PARQUET FLOOR upstairs in the fire hall has received a fresh coat of wax. Work should be completed soon on the hall.

Cemeteries used for recreation . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Noting Halton Hills is growing rapidly Lockhart said plans are needed so parks won't be trampled in the development rush.

He said often large scale recreation projects are carried out but small neighbourhood parks are forgotten and frequently developers stick to pieces of land, like swamps.

Lockhart explained if the town doesn't plan ahead it could prove costly providing needed park land in 10 years.

He said studies done so far indicate a lot of residents are spending time and recreation dollars out of town. People leave town for movies, tennis, sports, shopping, visiting friends and relatives and going to bars and taverns.

Brampton is the most popular spot to go although some also travel to Oakville, Burlington, Mississauga, Guelph and Milton for recreation.

Halton Hills recreation department is just "one, small, silver" in the entire recreation pie of this area.

Lockhart said noting there are 150 different groups and organizations involved in recreation throughout the town.

Credit Valley Conservation Authority, Niagara Escarpment Commission and Halton Board of Education all have extensive recreation facilities and programs he observed.

He said co-ordination between all groups involved in recreation is needed so municipal recreation dollars are spent wisely.

Councillors complained about deficiencies in the maps and data done so far, claiming CVCA land which isn't developed and other lands which will be used for recreation weren't included.

Lockhart said the fact the study looked at the outflow of recreation money from Halton Hills didn't mean people aren't going to Georgetown for recreation from Acton and vice-versa.

That wasn't studied because both towns are part of Halton Hills he explained.

He disagreed with Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson who claimed most people are remaining in Halton Hills to play tennis.

Lockhart said Halton Hills residents aren't leaving town just for competition and winter tennis.

He noted 500 people were surveyed regarding recreation and owners of recreation businesses were also contacted indicating many people are spending time and money outside of Halton Hills.

He said Toronto wasn't considered in the study since once a person goes 25 miles away from home he is considered a tourist.

Councillor Pat Patterson said the high incomes of Georgetown were to blame for people leaving for recreation. He said he could see people leaving town for "booze and movies" but not for activities like sports.

Citing the number of privately run activities like squash, golf and curling Patterson said he couldn't support public money being spent on anything which would compete with private business.

Lockhart said private business recreation like bowling, golf and curling were all included in the study.

He said recreation is hard to plan ahead because people's interests change so the best that can be done is ask what people want and include it in 10 year plans.

Discussion between Hill and Recreation Director Glen Gray revealed the study has been supported by an \$8,000 federal government grant to the end of 1977 and the second phase will cost over \$27,000.

Gray said he hopes to get more grants but in the event he doesn't he has included the phase two cost in his 1978 budget.

Hill said talks with the treasurer show \$400,000 must be trimmed from the proposed town budget and he didn't want to see any money spent on the master recreation plan until the budget is set.

Gray said the plan was in a lull now, with no money being spent, and none would be until council gave its approval.

Hill said he would support termination of the study, which he described as "damn foolishness", at least until the budget is set.

Councillor Les Dudy expressed concern about more neighbourhood parks being developed. He claimed they splinter recreation and he thought the town should take money for more large central parks instead of land from developers for recreation.

Lockhart said people react against neighbourhood parks because they are not well developed and the land developers give often isn't the best.

Councillor Russ Miller noted there is lots of land which could be used for recreation, like the ravines, but it would cost the town a fortune to develop.

Finance-administration committee will study costs of phase two of the master plan.

\$300 in collision

A truck-bus collision on 15 Sideroad Monday morning resulted in a total damage figure of \$300.

Damage to the bus driven by Joanne Miller of 11 Storey Dr. is about \$100, according to Halton Regional Police.

Police also estimate damage to the commercial truck driven by Jean Louis Champagne, of 34 Kingham Rd., to be \$200.

The bus was eastbound on the sideroad while the truck was westbound, police state.

Reed pitch

Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed showed a 20-minute film on resource recovery to the Council during the meeting Wednesday.

Reed recently criticized the region for taking a narrow approach to the problem of waste management.

He claims the United States has taken a positive stand and it is determined to end its reliance of landfill by the year 1980.

Plan to cut red tape

The town is going to try and eliminate some of the red tape residents must wade through to put a banner across the street, hold a parade or have a street closed.

Monday Halton Hills works committee decided to ask the region to allow the town to give permission for banners to be placed across regional roads in the future.

It was also decided the regional engineer and town engineer should get together and work out an arrangement so streets can be closed off for neighbourhood parties and events.

It is hoped an arrangement between regional and town engineering departments will permit people to be able to just contact one level of municipal government. Committee members

thought it was time consuming and inconvenient to come to the town regarding temporary use of town streets and go to the region for regional roads when the event or action is the same.

Councillor George Maltby noted banners are put up for charities and community events.

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Citizen of Year dance C.of C. plan

A social evening is being planned by the Chamber of Commerce. Discus will provide music for the dance at the music centre on Saturday, March 11. A midnight buffet is being arranged.

The dance is for Chamber members and their guests, and anyone interested in meeting the Chamber members. Tickets will be available before long.

Also in the works for the Chamber is the annual Citizen of the Year dinner, which is set for April 15. The first ballot asking for suggestions will appear in next week's Free Press. Last year's Citizen of the Year was Dr. Frank Oakes.

Citizens are asked to make suggestions before the committee names their choice for the year.

The event will be in the Music Centre with Discus again engaged to provide the music.

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If withhold taxes must pay interest

The proposal to withhold taxes in protest hasn't proceeded far, with organizer Cory Van Merkesteln in the hospital. The scheme was to draw attention to the fact that Acton's request for a review of regional government was denied by provincial treasurer Darcy McKeough.

Installments were due the end of February.

People who decide to withhold taxes must still pay the interest which amounts to one per cent per month. This accumulated interest could amount to as high as \$50 per year.

It is not an unusual form of protest. While those who have been through the exercise eventually must pay up, they feel by then that they have forcefully made a point.

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Private session to set clerk's job

Councillors on Halton Hills Finance Administration Committee and management consultants put their minds together in private Monday to write guidelines for the new clerk administrator's job.

Russ O'Hearn and Frank Ford, of Stevenson and Kellogg Management Consultants, Toronto, met the committee in an hour and twenty minute in-camera session. Town staff were asked to leave the meeting in the town's office.

A recommendation was passed to let the consultants spend \$500 for out of pocket expenses on top of the \$3,000 fee for helping committee determine final candidates for the clerk's job.

At least 33 applications have been received by the town for the position.

Doug Pritchard, who left the post of clerk administrator on December 31, is city manager in Penticton, British Columbia.

Booth fails to change policy

Georgetown councillor Roy Booth will try again to re-write some of the town's rules of handling by-laws after one of his attempts failed Monday at the Finance Administration Committee (FAC) meeting.

"I will write a letter with my concerns and recommendations", said Booth after his bid to solidify town policies was defeated.

FAC members Walter Blehn, Peter Marks and Peter Morris voted down a Booth suggestion that would have made changes in

council's policies more difficult.

Booth would have replaced a simple majority vote with a two-thirds majority in votes to alter the direction of council's policies.

"You mean, once a thing is passed, it takes two-thirds majority to reverse the decision later," asked Blehn. "I'm not too sure I approve," he said.

Booth floated his idea before committee under the flag of establishing a policy concerning the publishing of proclamations upon request.

Women bowlers Ont. Champions

The Junior Farmers' women's bowling team won the provincial championship at Newmarket on the weekend. On the team are Judy and Nancy Townsend, Heather Thompson and Beverly Leitch.

The Halton men's team placed third.

Halton bowlers have a good record in provincial competitions. The men won last year and the women the year before that.

Members of the winning team all received medallions with the Junior Farmer crest.

Says he'll repay

Following the publication of Arthur Meunier's letter in the Free Press last week, both the Toronto Star and Hamilton Spectator carried articles on him.

Mr. Meunier, who has been out of jail for almost a year, lived in Acton for eight months. He was in and out of jails for the previous 42 years.

He repeated his intention to repay his creditors and says that he is still hoping to found Boys Town in Canada.

Money remains in a trust fund here at Halton Hills Credit Union.

While Mr. Meunier lived here on John St., several youths lived with him.

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