



BRAD BUCHANAN AND Martin Osso watch as Ron Van De Kamp gets the rebound for Bayridge in the game which knocked Acton from the championship round of the All-Ontario Saturday afternoon. Story and more pictures in sports section.

Sewage capacity halts growth

The province and Halton Hills have agreed the huge Acton East residential and commercial development east of Churchill Road will have to be put on hold.

Recently Minister of Environment George McCague met with town officials to discuss sewage treatment plant facilities and development in Halton Hills.

He said in a letter received by Halton Hills council Monday that until there is a re-

evaluation Acton's sewage plant won't be expanded beyond a capacity of one million gallons a day. He added there won't be any re-evaluation until the plant is up to capacity.

All this means that there is very little room for growth in Acton.

The province also agrees with region consulting firm which says sewage from

Beardmore shouldn't go directly into the sewage plant.

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of the town running the spray system for the industry rather than permitting re-direction of waste waters to the Acton sewage plant.

McCague said a brief report was issued by the province two years ago at which time the expansion of the Acton plant was

allowed.

He said Acton East should be placed in a holding category pending a "re-evaluation of the receiving stream and plant at a later date".

Up to now the province says the capacity of the receiving stream, the Black Creek, is one million gallons a day despite the fact some consultants say the capacity could be as high as 1.5 million gallons a day.

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Town's average tax is up \$15.68

The town's share of taxes is up \$15.66 in Georgetown, \$15.68 in Acton, and \$15.61 in Esquesing, on an average home.

But that's not the total tax hike, education and regional tax boosts have to be added to that figure.

The average assessment used is: \$4,616 in Georgetown, \$4,480 in Acton, and \$4,619 in Esquesing.

The increase in mills is: 2.79 in Georgetown, 3.50 in Acton, and 3.38 in Esquesing.

The total budget is \$3.1 million, up 3.4 per cent over last year's expenditures.

Council aimed for no more than an eight per cent increase in taxes and hit that figure almost exactly.

Last minute cuts to get down to the eight per cent amounted to \$364,400, including an increase in revenue to the town of \$24,000 based on upping ice rates at the arenas by \$2 an hour, and upping fees to the pools, public skating, and swimming registrations and other adjustments. None of these increases have been approved by council as yet.

Roads
Roads to be reconstructed in Georgetown this year are Henry, Mary, and James Street, Cleaveland and Prince Charles Drives.

In Esquesing, 27 Sideroad, between the Seventh and Eighth Line, the Tenth Line, and part of the Sixth Line are to be repaired, Sargent Road storm sewer will be built.

Ravines
Included is \$2,800 for a study of slope stabilization on Armstrong Avenue, \$55,000 for work on the Metcalfe ravine, and \$11,000 for the Regan Crescent ravine.

In the Acton area \$60,000 is allocated to the Lakeview storm sewers. One of the biggest cuts in the

roads budget is \$117,000 for the reconstruction of Main Street South, Georgetown. This work will not be done this year. Main Street South in Acton was cut \$25,000.

The total roads and affiliated services budget is the highest at \$2,048,448.

Recreation
Next highest budget is recreation totalling \$1,309,219. The largest cuts were made in the recreation budget to get it down to that figure. Libraries are included in this budget. The library board has been asked to cut \$20,000 from their budget.

The \$54,000 soccer pitch at Alcott is out for this year, but the much debated master plan for parks at \$27,000 is still in. A new roadway and bridge at Cedarvale estimated at \$57,000 is also scrapped. Council felt library plans should be known before this expenditure is considered.

Also cut to stay within the overall eight per cent tax hike, is a \$19,800 sprinkler system at Georgetown Memorial Arena, dressing room alterations.

Fire
Cuts totalling \$25,500 were made in the fire budget after consultation with Fire Chief Mick Holmes.

In the Acton area equipment for the rescue van amounting to \$10,000 is out, as is a base station, a radio for the van, and rescue tools.

Libraries
Halton Hills Library Board budget totalled \$291,116, but the town has asked for a \$20,000 cut. The town's share of the budget would then be \$203,116. The province contri-

butes \$66,000 in per capita grants, and fines and rental of films records etc. accounts for an estimated \$8,000.

Grants
The grants budget remains at \$23,000, with cuts contemplated last week decided against. This leaves Acton Citizens' Band, Acton Agricultural Society, Halton Helping Hands, and North Hills Contact Centre still in the list

to be considered at the amount requested. Finance Chairman Russ Miller said no increase in staff is allowed for in the budget. He pointed out there are no debentured items, so there would be no increased debt charges. Treasurer Ray King described it as one of the tightest budgets he has ever worked on.

Tax Score to date

Acton house assessed at \$4,480:	
For town purposes tax	up \$15.68
Education tax	up \$15.28
Acton increase so far	up \$30.96

And the bad news—
The regional tax has yet to be added.

Esquesing house assessed at \$4,619:	
Town purposes only	up \$15.61
Education	up 17.87
Total so far	up \$33.48

Georgetown house assessed at \$5,615:	
Town purposes	up \$15.66
Education	up 14.37
Total so far	up \$30.03

Town agrees to pay taxes on Acton Y

An agreement to sublet Halton Regional Police part of the town of Halton Hills' space in Acton's YMCA building called through council with ease Monday night, but the dickering about the town's lease of the Y building took more than an hour.

In the agreement with the police, the police will pay a portion of the town's \$360 rent, pay a share of all utilities, will pay for any alterations they need, and will pay for a portion of taxes if any. The police detachment will have three parking spaces designated for their use, and the subletting agreement will run for five years, the same length as the town's lease with the Y, with the police paying half the legal costs of drawing up the lease.

The hour-long hassle developed on the last clause which says the agreement with the police is subject to the Y board signing the lease with the town.

Councillor Russ Miller said the Y has not signed the lease. He explained the town has been paying \$1200 insurance on the building, and said the Y is worried they would have to pay taxes on the building if the new provincial legislation is enacted.

Mayor Tom Hill said the Y had upped the rent \$200 a month. He said the town shouldn't be expected to pay the insurance, since they don't own the building.

David Hunter of the Acton Y board said it is mostly the

taxes the board is worried about. He said they are aware they will have to pay the insurance.

Councillor Pat Patterson pointed out the police agreed to pay a share of any taxes at the morning meeting to negotiate the lease.

Clerk Delmar French contended the Y board wanted the town to pay any taxes on the whole building, including the apartment upstairs.

Councillor Les Dudy explained the building was left to the town provided it is used as a Y. He said there had been co-operation for many years.

"If we knock this around we'll simply open up an old can of worms," he said the building is useful to the town and useful to the Y. He warned if the council is not careful they could lose the building for the Y and the Public Trustee could sell it for any purpose. He said the Y has been trying

to keep and maintain the building and provide programs for the youth, and described the building as one of the finest on Mill Street.

Patterson stated the police said if the rental is not handled properly they would pull out of Acton and Georgetown and move the whole division to Milton.

Mr. Hunter said only the upstairs apartment is taxable, unless the provincial legislation is enacted, taxing all Y buildings.

Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson said paying the taxes on the whole building would be a bargain if it keeps the police in Acton and Georgetown.

Councillor Mike Armstrong claimed the Y was only asking for an escalation clause in the event the building became taxable. He said as full time tenants the town should pay and pro-rate it with the police if the town

wants. "We're talking small potatoes."

Councillor Peter Morris claimed the rent should include taxes. He warned if the provincial tax law goes through, the town could be setting a precedent for other such buildings.

Councillor George Maltby Duby emphasized this is a unique situation, where the building was left to the town with certain conditions. He said the building could revert back to the town and the town would have to operate it as a Y and pay all the costs.

Councillor George Maltby pointed out the town has never collected taxes on the building since the day it was built, so "we're not giving anything away."

Morris claimed the town was locking itself into supporting the Y in Acton.

Biehn contended the Y is doing the town a favor by providing space on Mill Street for the police and the town. He said he didn't want to see the police kept teetering, and suggested the town forego the taxes on the apartment as well as the rest of the building.

Mr. Hunter of the Y board said the board was not arguing about the apartment, but just the possible taxes on the rest of the building.

"You've screwed up our town hall, now you're going to screw up our Y," commented Dudy.

"We didn't screw up the town hall," retorted the mayor.

4 men charged in street fights

Halton Region Police charged four men in connection with a fight that started on Mill Street and finished at the intersection of Longfield and Churchill Roads last Tuesday, March 14.

A two-man fight on Mill Street in the evening was

continued shortly after on Churchill Road South when four men fought.

One of the men charged is from R.R. 2 Rockwood. Addresses for the others were not made available by police.

Police state that a baseball bat was used to damage one suspect's car.

Seniors out on street

Halton Regional Police are not the only ones who have found themselves "homeless" with recent claims the old town hall is "unsafe".

Acton's senior citizens who frequented the drop in centre in the building now must go elsewhere to enjoy an afternoon.

Golden Age Club president R.L. Davidson said his club members decided not to go into the hall after receiving a letter from the town of Halton Hills exonerating themselves from liability. Mr. Davidson said that the most seniors have not been going to the hall as often in the past few months, but will still miss a regular place to go and visit friends. They are currently

looking for a new home for the drop-in centre, he said, but hopes the town will have the old building fixed up.

Jeanette Fernandes, owner of Jeanettes Home for Senior Citizens, said at least six of her residents now have nowhere to go spend an afternoon. She said these people went to the hall every afternoon for a few hours to play cards and get together with two residents from Acton Senior Residence. Mrs. Fernandes said she thinks the residents will have to stay in the Home for their daily card games.

The general public is also left out in the cold with the building closure. The old town hall housed the only public

washroom in town where shoppers could go when home was too far away.

What's inside today

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Happy Easter!

Police refuse to enter "unsafe" town hall

Since the posting of an "unsafe" sign on Acton town hall door, some of the police officers of No. 10 detachment have refused to go into their office there. They are working out of the Georgetown office instead.

The decision was left up to the individual officers.

Doris Townsley continues to work in the office and Cons. Phil Hotte was there Tuesday. Staff Sergeant Barrett says he comes in each morning before going to

Georgetown, as he regularly does.

The refusals came after the Department of Labour sent a report which went to Halton Hills finance and administration committee last week. It said the town hall is not safe. A copy of the report was put on the town hall door by a member of the town engineering staff.

Confusion and concern resulted for the police and senior citizens who use the building.

Some of the police officers took belongings from their division last week, deciding not to enter the building.

On Monday council passed a resolution absolving the town of any liability for occupants in the building.

Superintendent Floyd Schwartz confirms that some Acton officers are reporting to work in Georgetown.

Staff Sergeant Barrett says the change makes no difference to the service the people in Acton and district

are getting. "We've got 13 men assigned to No. 10 division and there is absolutely no effect on the public." He said he did not know exactly which officers have decided not to go in to the town hall. Police were told they do not have to go into the building if they do not want to.

Some police officers say they should not be expected to work in a building marked "unsafe" while others point out the precinct has been

there for almost three years and nothing has happened. They doubt if anything will happen in the next two weeks.

Tuesday afternoon Chief Kenneth Skerrett said the work of preparing new police offices in the Y will proceed as soon as possible. Partitions will be erected and the present equipment in use in the offices in the town hall will be moved to the Y.

The police will be located to the right in the offices. On the



EVA WILKE leads the way for the Easter parade at M.Z. Bennett school on Friday, March 17. It was also St. Patrick's day so the grade one students held a combined occasion parade.

Acton youth K-W hospital

Tim Ross Daigle, of R.R. 3, Acton, is in satisfactory condition in the Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital following a traffic accident on Highway 25 Saturday night.

Mr. Daigle, age 18 years, is in the intensive care unit, K-W Hospital spokesman Carol Beadle said Tuesday.

Mr. Daigle was transferred to Kitchener from Guelph General Hospital early Sunday morning after he was examined in the Guelph hospital's emergency room.

A hospital spokesman there said the transfer was made because no brain surgeon was at Guelph.

According to Milton OPP Mr. Daigle was walking on the road against the traffic. OPP also state no charges have been laid against the driver of the auto involved.



SIGN POSTED on town hall door is keeping some police, senior citizens and members of the general public outside the old town hall. The Department of Labour notice says the hall should not be occupied until directions have been complied with. Consulting engineer Alan Zeegen had pointed out wood rot and deflections in the roof area, observed when the fire hall addition cut through the town hall.