

Regional levy down 12.7 per cent in Acton

Halton Region's Administration Committee will recommend acceptance of a regional budget of \$35,946,000, an increase of 4.1 per cent in spending over the 1977 actual spending.

Because of the chargeback system calling for each community to pay for work in the community, the impact of the budget varies dramatically from one urban area to another.

Acton will see a 12.7 per

cent reduction in the regional levy while Georgetown faces a whopping 38.7 per cent increase in the urban part of town.

In Milton the increase is 8.7 per cent, Burlington 2.7 per cent and Oakville 4.9 per cent.

After noting that Acton is the only municipality in the region to enjoy a decrease this year, Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett blasted treasurer Don Farmer.

"You mean you had the

nerve to tell us that we should go to equalized water rates to bail Acton out, and now Acton is the only one to receive a decrease?" Barrett asked.

Farmer pointed out the heavy increase in Georgetown this year is due largely to debentures coming on stream for the sewage plant.

He suggested that Acton paid a large share of its sewer and water needs through a surcharge that doesn't show on the mill rate. "Their plant

comes on stream next year and then look out," Farmer said.

He claimed that while there was a decrease in Acton this year, a heavy increase could be anticipated once the sewage plant debentures come on stream.

The committee members were pleased with the final budget estimates. At one point the budget called for a 10 per cent overall increase. The committee sent the

budget back to the respective standing committees for reconsideration and, in some areas, direction to make substantial cuts.

In the last round substantial cuts were made in the areas of public works, Social and Community Services and the Board of Health. In all, the budget was trimmed by \$787,000 in the last round.

Councillor Carl Eriksen, one of the chief proponents of slashing the budget, con-

gratulated the committees for taking a severe look at the estimates and making reductions.

While he congratulated the groups which did make cuts, he blasted the police commission for reducing the \$9,000,000 by a mere \$10,000.

Eriksen noted that budget had skyrocketed from \$4,000,000 in 1974 to \$9,063,000 in 1978.

Oakville Mayor and Police Commissioner Harry Barrett

defended the commission's effort to hold the line but Eriksen wasn't satisfied. "I'm so fed up with the sacred cow. To come back and say 'sorry' is just not good enough. I've heard about taking services over in the north and all the rest of it. But I'm led to believe the level of service, the level of protection and crime reduction is falling in spite of big budget increases. The police budget is completely out of whack," he said.

Barrett said he wouldn't refute the contention that police service is costly but noted the high cost of policing is in line with the high cost of regional government.

Burlington Councillor David Coons said the commission had gone over the budget line by line and he indicated they may even have to add dollars to the budget because they fear they have under-budgeted in overtime.

Coons said the commission was urging changes that would see fewer remands, take less police time in court and allow police to be out in the street more of the time.

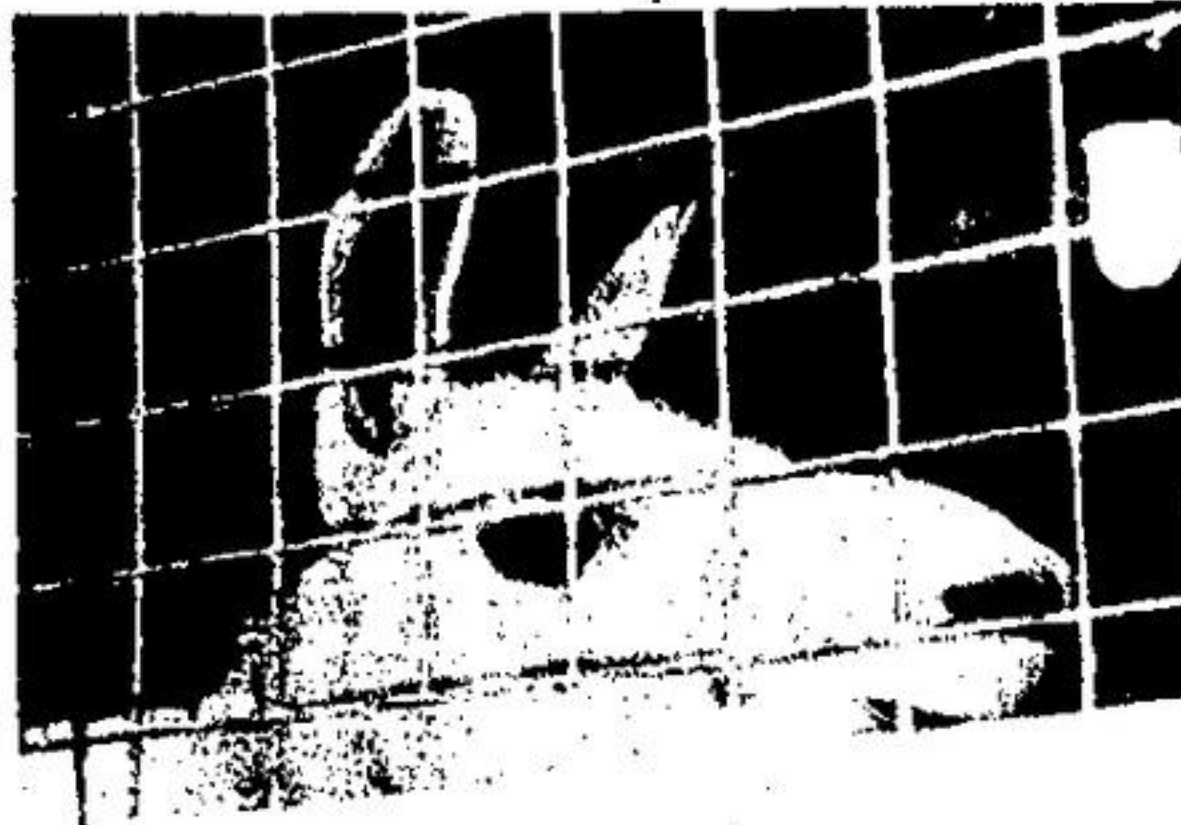
Of the \$35,946,250 that will be levied back to the area municipalities and the balance will come from grants and subsidies from the province and revenues generated in the region.

The Acton Free Press

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ACTON, ONTARIO
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1978.
One Hundred and Third Year.—No. 42.



MAMA LLAMA at Klahanie Wildlife Game Preserve heralds spring. See Page 10.

Fund-raising projects planned for town hall

The Town Hall Restoration committee Monday decided on a series of money-raising projects, including a campaign for pledges.

A campaign organization is being set up to line up donations for the project. Meetings have already been held.

Anyone wishing to assist with this would be welcome. Back to Acton Days will be

the focus of most of their enthusiastic plans.

There will be a 50-50 draw, with ticket sales starting before long. The prize money will be half of the total raised in the draw. Souvenir plates are being ordered, and souvenir T-shirts will be printed. These will both be on sale at the Back to Acton Days. Both will of course display a picture of the old

town hall.

A series of short stories will be prepared to appear in the Free Press. These Town Hall Tales will recount experiences and memories of older residents. Any people with anecdotes to share are asked to contact any member of the town hall restoration committee.

A bake sale will be held in front of the town hall itself on May 27. It is hoped some of the souvenir plates will be here to be sold that day.

For the Back to Acton days dance on Willow St., committee members are thinking of going inside the hall and arranging to have it filled with light. There is adequate wiring both downstairs and upstairs for this.

Dr. George Elliott, the chairman of the committee, says the group is also pursuing the matter of grants.

The hoped-for grant from the Ontario Heritage Foundation was withheld until the town council showed more involvement in the project, as the owners of the property.



GLEAMING PLAQUE lists all the firefighters' names as well as that of Chief Mick Holmes. Making the presentation at the Citizen of the Year dinner (right) is Chamber of Commerce

president Jake Kuiken. Chief Holmes and district chief Bern Van Fleet accept the plaque, surrounded by fellow firefighters. More inside today's Free Press.

Town Hall set as theme for Back to Acton

Support of the town hall will once again be the theme for the Business Association sponsored Back to Acton Days festivities, it was agreed at an organizational meeting last Thursday. About 20 people gathered with ideas for the event, which is being held July 1 weekend.

Community spirit and activities were stressed over the business end of the activities. Business Association president Ed Wood remarked at the opening of the meeting "If this is to be a community project, it would be better if we each worked for one thing instead of each lining his own pocket."

There was some question as to whether the stores should be open for the Saturday activities. The point was made that if the stores were closed, the Back to Acton committee would be saying to customers "come on down but we don't want your business."

Because the Saturday of Back To Acton Days will be July 1, a legal holiday, stores will have to get permission to

open. It was decided the committee will leave the decision up to the individual merchants, with the recommendation they open.

At the start of the meeting Mr. Wood outlined several ideas for community-oriented activities which could be held, and many more followed at the meeting.

Only two of the plans are definite now. The Lions Club will be running a bingo in the centre of the street, and guides and brownies will be making name tags for people, to promote community friendship.

In addition to the bingo, the Lions are looking into the possibility of making photo buttons on the spot. This would depend on whether they could get the equipment or not.

Terry Grubbe has proposed a Calithumpian parade all through town to start off the weekend, basing her idea on similar parades which were staged traditionally in Acton for the Dominion Day weekend. A Calithumpian parade (Continued on Page 2)

Second chance for Citizens' Band grant

Acton Citizens' Band will have a chance to present their case to Halton Hills finance committee, in an attempt to keep their grant at \$4,860.

Last week the committee asked them to reduce it to \$3,360.

At council meeting, Monday night, Councillor Peter Marks asked it be referred back to committee to give the band a chance to explain their views.

Councillor Russ Miller emphasized the committee had only made a request to reduce the grant.

Eventually the whole item, including the Acton Agricultural Society cutback to \$700 from the \$1,200 asked, and the Georgetown Agricultural Society grant which had been dropped entirely, were sent back to committee for further discussion.

Commission to clarify police office deal

Halton Regional Police Commission scanned a draft agreement for rental of the new Acton offices in the Murray Memorial Y.M.C.A. Building.

The commission will go into detail concerning payment of taxes, hydro and heat. Also to be clarified is the town's office employees right to go to the washroom when they need to.

Commissioner Glenn Magnuson said office workers could be given a key to the outside door in the summer. The draft agreement permits town staff access to use the washroom and storage

facilities in the basement.

The commission thought the agreement gave access during office hours only.

Commissioner Harry Barrett of Oakville, indicated agreement with the town concerning parking stations in front of the Mill Street building. If the town puts up posts, we will pay to paint them, Barrett said.

The commission was not sure if it would be paying taxes on 61 per cent of the entire Y.M.C.A. building or a percentage of the space Halton Hills rents from the Y.

The commission was also unsure of the metering for

hydro and water services.

Chief Ken Skerrett said he was sure there was room at the back of the building to park three cars. He added, however, access to the lot is by a narrow driveway.

Discussion also touched on the parking of the private cars of police officers. Halton Regional Police Association President Al Ruelens told commissioners two cars were damaged at Acton recently.

"That's a wild spot, that Acton," Oakville mayor Barrett commented.

14 estate homes plan

A plan to build 14 estate homes, with all lots over two acres, on Highway 25, south of Acton, was explained to Halton Hills planning board, Wednesday night.

The 39.7 acre parcel of land on Lot 24 is zoned rural at present and would require an amendment to the Official Plan and zoning bylaw.

William Long, representing Michael Mitchell Properties, explained there is 609 feet of frontage on Highway 25, with 65 per cent of it covered with mature trees. He said the land doesn't appear to have been actively farmed for some years. He said there would be an internal road 66 feet wide.

Mr. Long said two blocks of land on Highway 25 would be held with any designation the town desires. He suggested it might be commercial sometime in the future. The development would have private wells and septic tanks.

Councillor George Malby asked if the land was near the nursing home.

Mr. Long replied he believed the nursing home was south of the property.

The plan was turned over to the planning department.

Chief and firefighters: 1978 Citizens of Year

Names of 34 members of Acton fire brigade and Chief Mick Holmes are all engraved on the large plaque which honors this year's Citizens of the Year. Chief Holmes and the firefighters were the 1978 choice of the Chamber of Commerce, and the dinner and dance Saturday in the Music Centre was in their honor.

The record-sized plaque was presented to the chief by Chamber president Jake Kuiken. Councillor Les Duby read the formal citation, and presented them with it as a memento.

A standing ovation greeted the introduction of the men. All 34 were called by name to stand. Those with the longest service—over 30 years each—are Chief Holmes and Sam Tennant. Specially mentioned were district chief Bern Van Fleet and district deputy chief Alf Duby, captains Herb Dodds, Will Duval and Brent Marshall.

All the men spontaneously thronged to the head table to shake Chief Holmes' hand.

All were in full dress uniform for the occasion, with boutonieres presented by the Chamber. There were corsages for their wives and a huge bouquet of spring

blooms for Chief Holmes' mother, Ethel Holmes.

In appreciation of Chief Mick Holmes' assistance, Pinwheel Productions gave the firefighters a complete set of their training film strips and cassettes. Through him, Peter Saxon had learned of the lack of Canadian training material for firefighters. His company prepared the first of the set and now they are being ordered widely. The first 11 of the set are done and the remaining 14 will also be delivered to the Acton brigade when they are finished.

Les Duby made the presentation on behalf of Pinwheel Productions.

Kevin Conroy introduced the program, starting with the traditional request for Fred Wright to say Grace.

Euro-Can caterers provided the hot dinner.

Past Citizens of the Year Mr. Wright, Dave Dilla, Les Duby and Dr. Frank Oakes were welcomed.

Chamber secretary Janet Fleming presented the flowers to Mrs. Holmes and thanked all the firefighters' wives.

Dr. Frank Philbrook M.P. congratulated the Chamber on their fine choice and read a citation from Prime Minister Trudeau.

M.P.P. Julian Reed spoke, stressing the word "volunteer" in relation to the fire department.

Chief Holmes spoke on behalf of the recipients of the award, thanking everyone for the honor bestowed on them. He said they were glad to be able to give the service required.

Dancing followed to Discus, with a friendly crowd enjoying the evening together.

Sour note: while the group was inside, hub caps were taken from cars parked outside, and gas siphoned from tanks of cars. Most of the hub caps were located and returned to their owners, although Dr. Philbrook left without realizing his were gone. He had two other (Continued on Page 2)



ACTON MAJOR ATOMS GOT a tour through town on the old 1927 Studebaker firetruck Saturday. They drove all over town, shouting "We're number one" as they went. Members of the OMHA zone champion team are Tim Garton, Scott Nolan, Steven Taillefer, Tony VanDam,

Grant Smith, Les Berry, Mike Hudson, Robbie Porte, Terry Danagher, Jamie Lawson, Bruce Raine, David Thomas and Sandy Waites. Coaches are Bob Faseruk and Andy Berry. Bob Raine is manager. Herb Dodds is driving the truck.



MCKENZIE-SMITH Students fill the stage in preparation for the grand finale of Gilbert and Sullivan's H.M.S. Pinafore Monday in a performance before schoolmates which was

designed to get the cast ready for their public performances tonight and tomorrow. There are two complete casts for the show, one going on stage tonight and the other tomorrow.