



ACTON VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS finish off extinguishing a \$100 blaze in the car owned by Rolland Naught of Toronto Monday at supper-time.

## Mixed reaction to tax inequities here

Reaction to the provincial government's decision to back off from proposed tax reforms and plans for market value assessment have drawn mixed reactions from municipal officials in Halton.

Milton Mayor Don Gordon and Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett are both upset about the proposed reforms being shelved.

But Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill said he felt the province's move to back away from the proposed reforms was the wisest move it has made and something Halton Hills people should be grateful about.

Hill said he didn't think the proposed reforms would have been much good for anyone and he suggested the whole package should be taken back, reworked and the people given a chance to say what they think about it.

"If they bring something back that is fair to everyone, that's fine, but I was pleased to see them back off," Hill said.

"I don't know why they backed off. All reports indicate that inequities do exist in the system. There were a lot of positive things in the proposed reforms," Gordon said.

Market value assessment was part of the many reforms that were to be implemented under the package of reforms. Market value assessment was seen as bad news for Metro Toronto taxpayers but a boon to homeowners in many parts of Ontario.

It was seen as being particularly helpful to owners of new homes such as the Dorset Park subdivision in Milton.

The reforms had other plusses for Milton as well. It would have meant that the province would pay taxes on the provincial institutions in town and even on land taken for hydro lines. Vacant farmland held by developers or speculators would be taxed as development lands instead of agricultural land. Mayor Gordon saw this as an incentive for developers to keep the land in agriculture or to develop the property, rather than waiting for the value of the land to climb.

Pointing out the inequities that do exist now, Gordon said that within the Town of Milton there are similar homes on similar pieces of property in different areas with assessment ranging from \$2,800 on one house to \$5,000 for the same house in a different location.

"That's not right, it isn't fair."

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett, a member of the PMLC (Provincial Municipal Liaison Committee) said the committee had prepared a brief to provincial treasurer Darcy McKeough.

"We realize there are problems in Metro but we said to phase it in over a number of years. There was provision to avoid hurting people. But tax reform is supposed to straighten out inequities. Some of the old homes in Toronto were assessed years

ago. Any relationship between the value of the homes and the assessment is purely coincidental."

Barrett shared Gordon's dismay and went even further. "The province has to look at the broader aspect of tax reform. The province has to be more realistic and accept the idea that the municipalities need a tax base that is broader than the revenue from the homeowner. The province gets a share of tax from liquor taxes and income tax, but the municipality is stuck with the poor house owner."

Barrett complains about McKeough pulling the rug out from underneath the municipal governments when he reneged on financial commitments John White made to municipalities when he was treasurer. White promised the municipalities a certain share of the increase in revenue the province received each year.

Barrett said both the current method of financing municipalities and the current assessment method are archaic.

He said it would be easier to reach a uniform measurement of assessment on a smaller scale than province wide. Morrow said provincial grants wouldn't necessarily have to be based on assessment, but rather population, with allowance for density grants and special circumstances that might exist.

He noted that already the province bases road grants on a formula that takes mileage into account.

## Cyclist hurt in collision

A youngster hurt himself when the bike he was riding and a car came into collision on Cameron Street Saturday afternoon.

The youngster, eight-year old Robert Jennings of 106 Mill St., scratched his left knee. There was no damage to the

## Car battery is stolen

A car battery belonging to a Knox Avenue man was removed by thieves while the car was parked in the driveway last week.

Thieves swiped the mail box off the post of an R.R. 2, Rockwood home last week.

"We shouldn't be made to go hat in hand to the province when we need money for something. We aren't Oliver. 'Please sir.' The municipalities are getting squeezed dollarwise, there is no question about that."

Halton Regional Chairman Ric Morrow said he wasn't terribly upset by the decision of the province to back off.

Morrow suggested the province would probably be wise to turn the matter of assessment over to the regions where the inequities that exist could be tackled on a smaller scale.

Many bake sales and raffles will be taking place all day also.

The Station Hotel will once again offer a roast pork barbecue throughout the day, along with an outdoor beverage garden. A street dance is planned for the evening.

The Chicken and Pizza Spot hopes to have an outdoor cafe in front of their store, and the Brownies will be giving out name tags so everyone will get to know each other.

Before some people will be getting to bed Sunday morning from the street dance, others will be getting their Sunday event underway.

A fishing derby, sponsored by the Acton firefighters, gets underway at Prospect Park at 7 a.m. A nominal entry fee is charged.

At noon, until 6 p.m. there will be industrial softball games.

Everyone is invited to enter the horseshoe pitching contest from two to four.

## Wiring blamed

Acton volunteer firefighters were called out to a car fire Monday afternoon on Mill St.

Electrical wiring is blamed for the \$100 blaze in a car owned by Rolland Naught of Toronto, according to fire chief Mick Holmes.

## Calithumpian parades will lead to opening

Three separate Calithumpian parades will set out a three different parts of town, to converge on the Mill and Main corner for Back to Acton Days opening ceremonies on Saturday morning, July 1.

Wherever the parades go, residents of that area are asked to join in and proceed merrily along downtown.

Calithumpian parades were familiar in town years ago, and they're being revived for the July 1 weekend. It's hoped they'll become an annual event, like the Back to Acton Days program itself.

A map showing the routes of the three lively parades will appear in a special Back to Acton Days flyer in next week's Free Press.

One will start at Becker's Plaza and wind its way through Glenlea subdivision before heading down Mill.

The second will start at Lakeview Centre and head off into Lakeview subdivision.

The third will start on Kingham, and circle through that subdivision, go north on Victoria and along Mill.

Each section will have its own music, some of genuine and some of it probably very zany. The town band is expected.

Everyone is asked to participate and if you feel the urge, to dress up. If you don't mind making a fool of yourself, laugh and shout as you go along.

Already promised to swell the ranks are clowns, animals, and some super costumes.

Since there will be a decorated bike contest in the afternoon, kids on bikes should ride along in the parade. They could also bring their pets. Or wear the Hallow'een costumes, or skating carnival costumes.

Families are being asked to dress up, and prizes are being arranged for the best family and individual costumes.

(Not a big prize—but something.)

What the committee is looking for in the Calithumpian parade is toys, wagons, hay wagons, decorated cars, horses, balloons, musical instruments. And just plain people, gathering in along the route. There will be no floats. This parade will be completely different from the fall fair event. It's aim is to be spontaneous and a lot of noisy fun.

"The parade is a Pled Piper," says chief organizer Terry Grubbe. She wants anybody with good ideas or costumes to lend to phone her at the Community Services Center, 853-3310.

"When you hear the music, be ready!" she says enthusiastically.

The parades will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday morning, July 1, ready for the opening ceremonies at 11 a.m.

## U. of G. graduate



Leonard Bruce Medland, Mr. and Mrs. Horace F. Medland, Acton, are pleased to announce the recent graduation of their son Leonard Bruce from the University of Guelph. Leonard received his Honours B.A. in Philosophy and Economics with high standings.

He is a graduate of White Oaks Secondary School of Oakville.

## Ex-cigar smoker calls for others to butt out

Cigar smokers should butt out, a member of Halton Hills council says.

A bid by former cigar smoker, Councillor Peter Morris to ban cigars from council chambers went up in smoke Monday.

He told council Monday that since there is very poor ventilation in the council meeting room, cigar smoking shouldn't be allowed.

Councillor Roy Booth, in a joking vein, said council shouldn't support the resolution since it was aimed directly at him. Booth observed Morris had been puffing away at meetings for nearly two years and now that he (Booth) has taken up the habit, ward four members want cigars banned.

"You're not going to continue are you?" Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson asked unapologetically to gales of

laughter. She had opened the door several times during the meeting to allow the clouds of smoke to escape.

There was some confusion on the vote and nobody was sure if Morris's resolution lost but Mayor Tom Hill, who spoke with an extremely hoarse voice throughout the proceedings said he was sure it had lost.

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## Countdown on fun . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Publishing will have a display of old photographs taken in and around Acton in years gone by.

The Town Hall Restoration committee has commemorative plates ready to sell, with pictures of the town hall. T-shirts will also be made on the spot. Tickets will be on sale for their 50-50 draw and there will also be some of the pictures of the town hall available for sale.

Many bake sales and raffles will be taking place all day also.

The Station Hotel will once again offer a roast pork barbecue throughout the day, along with an outdoor beverage garden. A street dance is planned for the evening.

Most of the damage—\$300—is estimated on the vehicle driven by Joseph McCarron of R. R. 4 Acton, state police.

The balance of the damage is on the station wagon which had William Campbell of Lot 24, Concession 8 Esquesing, police say.

Before some people will be getting to bed Sunday morning from the street dance, others will be getting their Sunday event underway.

A fishing derby, sponsored by the Acton firefighters, gets underway at Prospect Park at 7 a.m. A nominal entry fee is charged.

At noon, until 6 p.m. there will be industrial softball games.

Everyone is invited to enter the horseshoe pitching contest from two to four.

Again a small entry fee will be charged.

To bring the exciting weekend to a fitting end, the Acton firefighters and the Rotary Club will jointly sponsor a fireworks display. This will take place at dusk.

## Autos collide

Halton Regional Police estimate \$500 damage in total to two autos involved in a Queen Street collision Friday evening.

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## Brothers graduate

Paul Petric graduated from Queen's University Kingston in May, with his Bachelor's degree in History. Paul will be spending the summer in Prince George, B.C. where he will be studying solid timber building techniques and design. He will be taking up a related position in October in the Kingston area.

Joseph Petric completed his Master's degree in Musicology in September, 1977 at the University of Toronto. Following this, he continued studies in performance in Trossingen Germany with Hugo Noth. Performances in Saapburcken and Trossingen Germany. Presently, he is teaching and performing in Toronto. Recently, he completed a tour with the Canadian Opera Company in their production of Seabird Island.

## Car tire is punctured

Vandals punched a hole in the left rear radial tire of a car parked in its owner's Elizabeth Drive driveway.

**Cable 4 this week**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21

- 5:30 The Bible's View
- 6:00 Photography
- 6:30 Ontario Outdoors
- 7:00 Rud Whiting Show
- 7:30 Chamber of Commerce Golf

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**BACK-TO-ACTON DAYS**

June 30, July 1, 2

**Calithumpian Parade**

STARTING FROM Beckers Plaza  
Lakeview Centre  
Kingham Hill & Hwy. 25

(Gathering at 9:30 - Starting at 10:00 a.m.)

Saturday, July 1

**All Are Welcome . . . Feel Free To Join In**

OFFICIAL KICK-OFF TO BACK TO ACTON DAYS CELEBRATIONS  
11 A.M. SATURDAY, JULY 1 . . . SEE NEXT WEEK'S "FREE PRESS" FOR COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF EVENT TIMES AND LOCATION

• ADVANCE REGISTRATION EVENTS •

★ **Horseshoe Pitching Contest**  
SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2-4 PROSPECT PARK

★ **Skate Board Contest**  
SATURDAY, JULY 1, 10 A.M. to 12 NOON  
IN FRONT OF J-T SPORTS

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