

Staff told to sharpen pencil

Halton Region's Department heads will have to approach departmental budget estimates with a sharp pencil if the regional budget is to come anywhere near the proposed guideline of a three per cent gross increase over the 1978 estimates.

Chief Administrative Officer Ernie Reid told the region's administration committee that the budget would increase by six per cent even if no new programs or no new staff were included in the estimates.

He said there would have to be substantial cuts in the level of service if the budget was to be held at anything less than a six per cent increase.

Reid said a six per cent increase would mean a hike of \$2,149,900, bringing regional spending from \$35,939,000 to \$38,088,900.

He said the estimates did not allow anything for the new programs being proposed in the different departments. He said both social service and the business development department would be proposing new programs.

Burlington Mayor Mary Munro said she would expect staff to cut dollars from one program if they wanted to add dollars for a new program.

This year the budget estimates came in at 5.4 per cent more than they were for the previous year on the gross estimates. Because of the grant structure the net increase for Halton taxpayers is greater percentage-wise than the gross increase.

During the same meeting the committee was told the region staff had grown by 100 in the last four years and

taxation raised locally for regional purposes jumped from \$9,000,000 to \$20,000,000. The committee was also told the region is anticipating a shortfall of \$197,000 this year.

Reid and treasurer Don Farmer took the budget forecast to the committee last week so the committee could provide guidelines for the staff to follow in budget preparations.

Several councillors expressed reluctance to set a specific limit for spending but all councillors stressed the need to continue a hard line on spending.

The big increase in the budget forecast would be just over a \$1,000,000 in the area of public works. Deputy treasurer John Stuart explained half of that increase was due to debt charges for projects that had been financed through debentures and he said there was no way that spending could be reduced.

As a result of the meeting departmental estimates will be set with a three per cent maximum increase as a guide. The committee noted that it would be impossible for some departments to meet that guideline but in others the increase would have to be less than three per cent.

Staffers have indicated the three per cent guide would be extremely tight and would definitely mean cutbacks in the level of service.

Increases for the salary package are estimated at 7.5 per cent on average and the cost of supplies are expected to jump from two to 10 per cent depending on the particular supply.



DAVID CRAIG rode his tricycle in the M.Z. Bennett playground parade on Friday. The playground is run every afternoon and designed for children aged five to seven years old.

Farmer hires Jamaicans

Try Jamaican farm workers, you'll like them, according to an Oakville retail-wholesale produce businessman.

Bill Cudmore says the Jamaicans are big, strong, good-natured and happy. Up until five years ago Cudmore employed 350 students who turned his cherry picking operation into an "absolute shambles".

Since then Cudmore has hired Jamaicans through an agreement between Ottawa and Kingston. Cudmore hired 11 Jamaicans this year, he may add another seven. They range in age from 20 to 45 years. According to one of the Jamaicans he earns \$2.65 an hour—the minimum wage. Cudmore pays the air fare for all workers contracted by him. The cost works out to be about \$6,300 for 18 workers.

Cut 10,000 each year

Hydro objects to replacement of trees

S. T. Griffiths received little sympathy from Halton Region's Public Works Committee when he appeared before the committee last week on behalf of Ontario Hydro. Mr. Griffiths said he wanted to have hydro exempted from a regional policy which would compel Ontario Hydro to replace trees it cut in the area of the hydro lines.

He said it would be necessary to remove 15 to 20 trees on Regional Rd. 20 near the Fourth Line in Halton Hills. Griffiths told the committee the trees had to go in order that the line could be extended and new customers served. He said he could see no reason why the region should expect the Hydro to plant new trees elsewhere.

Griffiths argued that the trees in question were grown from seed, not planted there. Committee Chairman Jack Rattis told Griffiths that he must have been acting on some bad advice if he went to the region expecting to get out of replacing the trees.

Griffiths said hydro cut down an average of 10,000 trees a year in the central region, which takes in five regions or counties. He claimed the policy of the region would cost Ontario Hydro hundreds of thousands of dollars each year if it were enforced in all areas.

By the time Griffiths finished his pitch and the committee dealt with the issue he was worse off than before he started.

Now not only does the committee expect compensation and the replacement of trees but they want every tree that has to be cut marked and approved by the Director of Public Works or his designate. When the committee ruled on the matter Griffiths asked "And what if we refuse?"

Later during the same meeting Burlington resident Betty Barhydt appealed to the works committee to hire an arborist and a staff of trained people to plant trees along rural regional roads and to maintain the trees.

She said it was imperative that the proper attention be given to trimming trees and planting new ones to restore the rural landscape and she suggested the region couldn't do the job on the cheap but would have to commit some money to the project.

Regional Chairman Ric Morrow congratulated Mrs. Barhydt for her interest but reminded her and other councillors that earlier in the same day the administration committee had ordered staff to slash budgets to the bone for next year and he said if that were done there wouldn't be any money to hire a staff to plant and prune trees.

After the meeting Mrs. Barhydt said the region could manage to find money to build roads but continued to neglect trees.

She said she had been trying to interest various government departments for several years in tree planting

on rural roadsides but had been continually shifted from one government body to another only to be told that no money is in the budget.

She noted that trees that were planted along the roadside in the rural areas were put there before the turn of the century.

Red tape

Through a case of "bureaucratic bungling" as it was described by Councillor Les Duby, Bill Hunter Jr. may have lost his chance to sever 10 lots on Ontario Street Georgetown.

Hunter told planning board the consent for severance lapsed July 29. He said as far as he knew everything had been completed at the region and at the Credit Valley Conservation Authority. He said he had been told everything would be ready at the local level for July 25 planning board meeting. He said he did not think the land division committee would extend the consent. He said the decision was given nearly two years ago, but he only received a letter June 27 telling him that he had only until the end of July to put everything in order.

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Local bull shows top performance

A Simmental bull owned by a Norval company showed top performance at the Arkel Bull Performance Testing Station recently.

The bull gained an average of 4.9 pounds per day over the 140 day test. The gain was indexed at 133 which is 33 percent above the average for the base group.

"The bull is the product of a 'transplant,' and is owned by Modern Ova Trends Ltd.

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LOVELL BROS. MODERN MEAT MARKET

Town seeks changes in NEC proposals

Halton Hills council thinks the escarpment protection area should be limited to a maximum of 1,000 to 2,000 feet on each side of the escarpment, and only this area be regulated by a central provincial authority.

This was one of the many recommendations made to the Niagara Escarpment Commission in a brief commenting on the NEC preliminary proposals.

The brief opposed the expropriation of private property for the Bruce Trail, and claimed it should remain a nature trail.

The town came out against the application of Standard Aggregate to operate a quarry in Speyside, claiming it is a new operation; the area forms a scenic and forested part of the escarpment; is the headwater for 16 Mile Creek; could cause possible water disruption; would increase costs for road maintenance. Ratepayers are strongly opposed.

The brief did recognize the importance of the aggregate industry and urged all existing licensed pits be allowed to continue and expand. It recommended the approval of the expansion of J. C. Duff quarry, Corner's Sandstone Quarries and the Rice-McHarg quarry.

Halton Hills council suggested the 90 day time period be cut to 30 days from the time of receipt of an application for a pit or quarry and a decision made. If the decision must be deferred, a specified date will be set, with

the consent of the applicant. Council also recommended agreements on hours of operation, trucking, noise, dust etc. not be with the town, but with the Ministry of Natural Resources, whom council felt, have the staff and expertise to handle it.

In rural areas council advocated a maximum of three land services be permitted per 100 acres, and urged the deletion of any reference to the Agricultural Code of Practice. Council pointed out the Agricultural Code of Practice is not law and can cause problems for farmers with surrounding land uses.

In primary forest areas, Halton Hills council urged no land severances be allowed. Council disagreed with an NEC proposal to eliminate

domestic grazing in land under forest cover. They said it would discourage expansion of operations, and urged deletion of that clause from the NEC proposals.

Council also opposed an NEC suggestion to have the province encourage private landowners to let the public use their lands through special agreements for recreation purposes.

The town favored a reduction to 25 acres from 50 acres for any parcel of separated land, including the remainder after the separation.

Planning Board chairman Roy Booth thanked Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson and her committee, who reviewed the NEC proposals clause by clause.

Today's recipe

Sweet and Sour Red Cabbage
 1 med. red cabbage—1½-2 lb.
 2 tbsp. vinegar or lemon juice
 4 slices bacon, diced
 ¼ c. brown sugar, packed
 2 tbsp. flour
 ½ c. water
 ¼ c. vinegar
 1 tsp. salt
 1/8 tsp. pepper
 1 small onion, sliced
 Remove outside cabbage leaves and wash cabbage. Shred to measure 5 c. In saucepan heat ½" salted water (½ tsp. salt to 1 c. water) and 2 tbsp. vinegar to boiling. Add cabbage. Cover and heat to boiling-cook about 5 min. or until crisp-tender-drain

Fry bacon until crisp-drain. Pour off all but 1 tbsp. bacon drippings. Stir brown sugar and flour with drippings in skillet. Add water, ¼ c. vinegar, salt, pepper, and onion. Cook, stirring often, until mixture thickens (5 min.) Add bacon and sauce mixture to cabbage. Stir together and heat through.
 Elizabeth Cooper

Neat

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