



GIANT EGG is held by David Forbes left, while twin Dougie holds a regular size one for comparison. The extraordinary egg measured six inches around, compared to a regular five inches, and almost eight inches around, lengthwise, compared to six inches. The egg was laid by an ordinary chicken belonging to the three-year-olds' parents Janice and Peter Forbes of R.R.1, Acton. When the egg was cracked, it had inside what appeared to be two complete eggs with two yolks and two whites.

Councillors victims of their own policy

Halton Regional Councillors will have to reduce projected salary increases or reduce their numbers, if they are to stay within their own guidelines for the 1979 budget.

Several years ago councillors agreed to peg increases for councillors to the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index.

On that basis councillors are entitled to an increase of 10 per cent. That would bump salaries from \$9,481 to \$10,429.

However council has ordered staff to bring in budget estimates within three per cent of last year's budget.

That means the councillors' maximum salary would be \$9,765.

The budget allows for a 7.5 per cent increase for staff salaries and it would be difficult for councillors to justify a 10 per cent increase after sending out orders for staff to follow strict spending restraints.

If council accepts the 10 per cent increase the councillors' budget would be overspent by \$17,000.

Other departmental budgets still in excess of the guidelines include the Chief Administrative Officers', the personnel department and

Halton taxpayers may pay for 'botchup'

Halton residents may find themselves digging into their pockets to come up with half a million dollars to correct a "botch-up" that is now being blamed on Regional Treasurer Don Farmer.

Members on the council's Administration Committee lined up to take their turn heaping verbal abuse at the chief money man in the regional treasury.

The controversy centres around Farmer's handling of interest earned on water accounts in the region.

Councillors have been under the impression for the past five years that Farmer was allocating interest on water reserve funds to the various areas in the region.

Only recently they learned he has been taking the interest into a general fund and using it to control increases in the mill rate.

What that means is people all through the region have benefitted by use of the funds, although only urban people have contributed to water systems. Councillors are now saying only those people who contributed to the system should reap benefits from the water surplus. They claim it just isn't fair to continually increase water rates and take money from that fund to offset increased taxes for rural residents who don't pay water rates.

The administration committee sees Farmer's action as a blatant violation of the wishes of council. While there is no resolution or written policy, councillors on the committee insist that Farmer violated the spirit that had been expressed by council time and time again.

Asked how much interest would be involved in total, Farmer said it would run between \$400,000 and \$600,000. Burlington Mayor Mary Munro was furious.

"I find it appalling and absolutely astounding that this could happen. I can't believe we could go along for five years and then find this happening."

"There is somewhere in the area of \$500,000 moving around without being accounted for. The money has been charged against water users and then used to subsidize the general accounts of the region."

"This kind of thing has been questioned time and time again over the years," Munro said.

Farmer was told during the Wednesday morning meeting that even without the benefit of a by-law or a written

policy, that he must have understood council's wishes.

But Milton Mayor Don Gordon defended Farmer. "The treasurer has done the proper thing. If the committee didn't like the way he was doing things, they should have picked it up over the past four years," Gordon said.

Because Oakville has the greatest surplus in its water account, it stands to have lost the most money in interest and the situation didn't sit easily with Councillor Carl Eriksen.

"Oakville has subsidized each and every other area in Halton. Where is the fairness in this? Oakville has been penalized by \$160,000. If we don't get the money it won't be because of the principle, but because it has reached the height of selfishness," he scoffed.

Eriksen was angry because Farmer couldn't give a specific estimate of the amount of money involved. "If this is the best a CA can do, then I guess that says something in itself."

Farmer insisted that what he had done was considered a sound practice by auditors and the provincial treasury representatives.

Milton Councillor Jim Watson suggested Farmer would do well to think of what council and the citizens think is right, instead of what auditors and Queen's Park think.

The committee will ask the council to invite in auditors, in an effort to straighten out the mess.

The committee generally agreed that Oakville is out money and should be repaid, but it hasn't been determined by how much.

Board, teacher talks off

Halton Board of Education has broken off contract talks with its elementary teachers who have been working without a 1978-79 agreement since their old pact expired August 31.

Milton Trustee Bill Lawson, a member of the board's negotiating committee said Tuesday morning talks broke off with elementary teachers at the end of Monday evening's bargaining session and won't resume until the provincial Education Relations Commission (E.R.C.) appoints a Fact-Finder to probe negotiations.

The E.R.C. appoints Fact-Finders to review the state of negotiations and examine both side's positions. After examining the situation a Fact-Finder then reports to both parties and makes recommendations.

If after a month talks are still lagging the Fact-Finder's report is made public. In Halton a Fact-Finder's report could be made public while trustees are fighting election battles in November.

Normally when a contract expires and a new school year has started the E.R.C. automatically appoints a Fact-

Finder and the board and teachers have been awaiting such an appointment.

However, Lawson said, this fall there are so many boards which don't have agreements with their teachers the E.R.C. has been appointing Fact-Finders only on request or in cases where talks have broken off. If talks are still "healthy" and progress is being made the E.R.C. has held off appointing Fact-Finders even though they are supposed to.

Lawson said it appeared Monday continued talks without a Fact-Finder being appointed were "fruitless." He said differences between the two parties are "substantial" adding there are "major monetary issues" outstanding. Lawson admitted a lowered pupil teacher ratio is an issue also.

While talks are broken off until a Fact-Finder is appointed bargaining will likely resume once the appointment is made Lawson said. He added he didn't think the two sides will quit meeting while the Fact-Finder is doing his report.

He said the board bargaining team will meet tonight (Wednesday) with the

secondary school teachers' bargainers but wasn't sure if talks with that group will be halted until a Fact-Finder is appointed.

This is the public board's first experience with a Fact-Finder but trustees need only ask their counterparts on the Halton Separate School Board to find out what it's like.

Twice in the last four years a Fact-Finder has been appointed to assist the separate board and its teachers to reach a settlement. In 1975 talks got back on the rails after a Fact-Finder's report was made public and the separate board and its teachers settled not long after. In 1977 however the Fact-Finder's report had little impact and talks limped along for many more months.

A separate teachers' strike in Halton was averted last spring only by a last minute settlement.

It had been expected this fall a Fact-Finder would once again be appointed but talks wrapped up early this month and teachers agreed to a new two year pact.

For Halton's public board this is easily the toughest negotiations ever. This is the first time a settlement on the next school year's contract hasn't been settled before teachers leave for vacation at the end of June. It is also the first time teachers have worked without a contract. There has been no hint or suggestion this year's tough bargaining will result in a strike.

The Acton Free Press,

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 1978 3

The **AL-ANON** FAMILY GROUP meets at **St. Joseph's Church Hall** 64 Church E. Mondays at 8 p.m. Information 853-3310 After Hours 853-2504

Director of Business Development Bill Marshall is requesting an assistant. That would boost his budget to \$117,000, a total of \$26,000 over the guideline. Current estimates reflect an over-expenditure of \$7,000 in the CAO's department and \$1,000 over guidelines in the personnel department.

The committee has made no recommendation on the budget as yet. The exercise Wednesday was simply to show where cuts would have to be made.

the business development department.

That means the councillors' maximum salary would be \$9,765.

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If council accepts the 10 per cent increase the councillors' budget would be overspent by \$17,000.

Other departmental budgets still in excess of the guidelines include the Chief Administrative Officers', the personnel department and

Cement used

A cement block through a bay door window was enough to gain entry by thieves into Toth's Shell Station on Queen Street on the weekend.

Halton Regional Police state \$80.88 was stolen after a search of the station's office turned up a metal box.

After getting inside the building the glass in the door of the office was also broken.

Further east on Highway 7 during the same period Little Motors was broken into. The office was ransacked, but nothing appears to have been stolen, according to police. A window was broken, in order to get inside.

Water for engine

On Saturday a steam train will be going through en route from Toronto to Seaforth via Stratford. It will stop at Main Street North to take on water.

The train is expected at 9 a.m. and will be a good chance for enthusiasts to take pictures of the old steam engine.

Tuesday morning the same engine steamed through, about an hour later than expected.

Autos ding

About \$400 in total property damage resulted from a two-vehicle collision on Church Street Sunday at noon.

Halton Regional Police estimate the damage on the pick-up truck driven by Gerald Disano of 17 Kingham Rd. to be \$200.

An equal amount of damage was taken on the auto driven by Michael Lowrin of R.R. 4, Acton, according to police.

Object to new houses

Objections by Beardmore to Halton Hills council's approval of a semi-detached housing development beside their plant has fallen on deaf ears.

Monday council received a letter from Beardmore secretary-treasurer L.E. Youngblut objecting to the project because there are no storm sewers in the area and surface water could end up flooding Beardmore land and the firm's plant.

Youngblut suggested if the council wants the community progress they should pay more attention to local industry. He said the town should "surely appreciate" the firm's objections since they employ 435 people and pay \$160,000 a year in taxes.

Council's reply to Beardmore's is the land where the semis will be built is zoned to allow them.

building homes so close to industry can only lead to future problems with subsequent owners complaining about noises and odors.

Cemetery

Approximately 15 grave-stones were turned over by vandals on the south side of Fairview Cemetery last week.

Mr. Youngblut warned

Town delays . . . Signs . . .

(Continued from Page 1) act fast if it wants to buy them. Gray warned many communities will be looking at purchasing the used Zambonis. He said he found out Acton's machine will cost so much to fix just recently and heard about the two used machines just last week.

Councillor Walter Biehn said it made little sense to spend \$6,500 on the old Acton machine when the town could get the used one from Double Rinks for \$9,500. He warned if it broke down after being fixed the town could have big problems at the Acton rink.

He was joined by Councillor George Maltby in urging one machine be purchased for Acton.

McKenzie wondered where the money will come from and Mayor Tom Hill offered to have it removed from the town's \$24,000 budget for a master parks plan.

committee will review the Zamboni issue next Monday and if it supports buying them a special council meeting will be called around 9 p.m. to get council endorsement of the purchase.

Council was assured by Gray if the used Zambonis aren't bought and the Acton machine dies machines can be rented so the rink doesn't have to close.

(Continued from Page 1) Georgetown Acton will be removed.

Councillor Walter Biehn lead council in complaining that Halton Hills formerly Georgetown Acton shouldn't be removed on Highway 401. These signs show Halton Hills is made up of Georgetown and Acton and without them some visitors will think Georgetown, Acton, and Halton Hills are all separate towns.

— WANTED —

Mothers wanted to help organize a booster club to support Minor Hockey. Meeting to be held at the Arena, September 25, 8 p.m.

BAKE SALE - September 23, at the Acton Arena between 9 and 12

Acton Legion Minor Hockey

FINAL REGISTRATION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 - 9 a.m. to 12 Noon AT THE ARENA

★ REGISTRATION FEE ★

\$30 per boy; Three (3) or more players per family \$75

Registration Fee Includes Ice Time and Sweater which becomes the property of the boy

Extra Rate for REP. TEAM - Up to Bantam \$20 Midget \$25

NOTE: ALL Minor (House League & Rep.) Hockey Players MUST Register With the Legion

THERE WILL BE A PENALTY FOR LATE REGISTRATION Late registration will be accepted only where ice time is available.

What you don't know can turn people off.

Attitudes change. Like the way people feel about electricity. Once, many people used all they could. Until it was discovered that electricity isn't a bottomless well. Now, more and more of us use electricity carefully. Because waste of electricity, like anything everybody really needs, can turn people off. Today, it's better to turn off a light bulb than turn off a friend.

Wasting electricity turns people off.

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