



All around the world this weekend, Christians will be celebrating Easter, the Jews celebrating Passover. Special church services will be taking place Sunday, and this week, Acton Trinity United church choir members held a practice to make sure the day goes off without a hitch. Back row, Bob Hart and Barry Buchanan, and front row, Dorothy Simmons and Arlene Bruce ready for the service. Photo by HELEN MURRAY

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One Hundred and Fourth Year - No. 41 ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1979 Twenty Two Pages - Twenty Cents

Taxes up \$74 average home

Acton taxpayers will be forking over an additional \$74 or approximately 12.5 per cent for 1979 if the regional budget is approved today (Wednesday).

This hike brings the average tax bill, on a home assessed at \$4408, to \$657 as compared with \$582 last year. All figures are rounded off.

In spite of a major increase at the regional level, the Halton Board of Education is still taking the largest chunk out of taxpayers' wallets, asking for \$321. This is an increase of \$23 from 1978.

Acton is getting "by far the biggest tax increase" in Halton at the regional level, according to regional treasurer Don Farmer.

Mr. Farmer explained to The Acton Free Press that the general purpose budget for the town, will be getting an increase of \$10 or 17 per cent. This sets the figure at \$69 in 1979, and \$59 in 1978.

The sewers' budget, however, he said, is receiving the brunt of the increase, with a 91 per cent hike. Taxpayers will now be paying \$58 for the service, compared with \$30 last year. He pointed out the recent expansion of the sewage treatment plant is the major reason for such a large increase.

The combined total the region is asking for is \$127, or approximately 40 per cent. The average throughout the region the

treasurer noted, is six per cent.

Halton Hills fathers managed to keep their total increase down to six per cent, thanks to a stabilization of the urban services portion of the budget. Town treasurer Ray King explained this portion, which is made up of garbage pick-up,

street lighting, and school crossing guards stayed the same at \$27. The general purpose budget increased \$13 on the average home, up to \$181 from \$168.

Those with a home assessed at more than \$4498 can expect to pay more for taxes, and those with a lesser assessment can expect to pay less.

Peter Marks has failed in his bid to get the Acton Community Services Centre the full grant they requested from the town of Halton Hills.

The centre had asked council for a grant of \$5980 but when the budget was finally passed, the found they received some \$1900 less than requested.

Mr. Marks, a former councillor, appeared before general committee Monday evening and told the members the cut could have serious repercussions on the centre. I could, he said, mean having the office open only four days a week if the co-ordinator was willing to take a 20 per cent cut in salary. This would also affect the Meals on Wheels program, which would also have to be cut.

Mr. Marks pointed out last year alone, almost 800 people took ad-

vantage of the centre, whether through legal aid, health unit, Meals on Wheels, etc. Over 3200 meals were delivered to elderly people as well. He noted the meals helped senior people stay at home and prolongs their moving to a senior citizen residence.

The representative told committee the centre had set their budget by expecting 30 per cent from the town, 30 per cent from the region, 15 per cent from donation of town residents and the remaining coming from other sources.

"The loss of 15 per cent of the budget," Mr. Marks stated, "is critical."

Mr. Marks pointed out if the various levels of government decided to help out in Acton by having full centres for the services offered by the centre, it would cost a lot

more than what they are asking.

There are 12 agencies using the centre, Mr. Marks said, and if the money is cut back, the room time available for them will be cut back.

Councillor Mike Armstrong suggested Mr. Marks take the matter to the region, which gave them the full amount of money requested. At the level, the councillor said, he would support the group. Councillor Roy Booth agreed with Mr. Armstrong but pointed out a few weeks ago in council the group had agreed to send any requests for grants pertaining to region groups, to the regional council. Chairman Ross Knechtel pointed out that is to commence in 1980.

Councillor Russ Miller recalled the group had originally planned to be supported by service



The unusual April weather made travelling in the downtown area almost impossible Friday morning. The 60 mile an hour winds accompanied by the heavy snowfall caused much havoc.

Centre denied full grant

groups in town once they got on their feet and had planned to phase out the council.

Mr. Marks admitted this was correct but also pointed out small town service groups are called on a lot by everyone in town and that most had given substantially already.

"I'm ashamed to sit here and listen to this council trying to make it hard for the group to do a job for the community," blasted Councillor Ed Wood. "If Acton had a full time health care and other units, it would cost a lot more money and this group would not be needed," he continued. "This group is really worthwhile. You could set up an organization like this for ten times the amount requested."

Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson told committee she was willing to

support the centre by giving them the same grant they got last year.

Councillor Harry Levy pointed out there were 30 requests for grants totalling \$31,000, of which only 12 were approved and seven of these 12 received cuts.

All committee members agreed the centre was doing a good job at providing services for the residents of Acton.

Mr. Wood claimed there was money left in the grant budget out of which the \$1900 could come. Mr. Marks said there is a \$50,000 contingency fund for unforeseen items, and noted this money was vital enough to come out of it.

At least some children enjoyed the return of Old Man Winter. Pupils from Robert Little and St. Joseph's schools frolic in the white stuff Thursday following the first of three late winter blasts. Included in the snow jumping were Sean De Rouese, Kelly Higgins,

Hydro out 37 hours in Rockwood homes

by Barb Wynneck
Rockwood's Gzowski St. was the first to lose power at 1:30 a.m. Friday, and the last to regain service at 2:30 p.m. Saturday after Friday's howling spring snow storm.

An uprooted Main St. N. tree brought down hydro lines causing the service disruption.

Most Rockwood homes experienced hydro failure from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday. Sub stations at Aberfoyle, Everton and Rockwood were affected by trouble on the main line from Fergus, says Rockwood Hydro Secretary Martin Adema.

Falling trees, broken hydro poles and wires banging together caused power problems in all of Eramosa, Erin and Nassagaweya townships, according to Ontario

Hydro.

Rockwood Hardware Store staff Tim and Sandy Kingsbury snowmobiled to work in the swirling snow and reported a booming business—the best sales day they had

all week, according to owner Walter Mitchell. Camp stoves, propane fuel, sterno, candles and lamp oil were hot sellers.

Ke's Grocery Store also reported a steady customer line.

Residents stoked wood stoves and fireplaces throughout the day. "It's the most I've used that wood stove in 20 years, the kitchen temperature was 82 degrees F," explained one local lady.

Urbanites to host polls

There will be 274 polls in Halton riding for the 1979 federal election to be held May 22.

The polls generally are numbered east to west and south to north. Hence, the affluent east Oakville section is numbered one and Acton is numbered 274.

There are 179 polls in urban Oakville, 142 of which are south of the QEW. Polls 143 to 179 are in the Falgairwood subdi-

vision.

Polls 180 to 184 are in rural Oakville north of Upper Middle Road.

Polls 185 to 189 are in rural Milton (Ward One).

Polls 190 to 236 are in urban Milton (more on them later).

Nassagaweya will have polls 237 to 246.

Rural Halton Hills will have polls 247 to 256, while Acton has polls 257 to 274.

Urban Milton can be

divided into four quadrants using Ontario and Main streets as boundaries.

The Timberlea quadrant is poll 190. Halton Manor and the Childs Dr. area have polls 205 to 208.

The southwest quadrant has polls 191 to 204.

The Dorset Park quadrant has polls 209 to 215 and 222 to 233.

The northwest quadrant has polls 216 to 221 and polls 234 and 235.

Mystery caller tips boss about Superior union

by Eric Elstone
The first hint of union organizing activity within Superior Glove Works Ltd. came to management the day before a union meeting late in January.

A telephone call from a young unidentified man speaking with an educated voice tipped management January 30. The caller also fingered one of the company supervisors as the organizer.

That telephone call to Wilma Geng, wife of Superior Glove part owner Frank Geng, triggered off a series of events which led to the Ontario Labor Relations Board hearing which started last week in Toronto, testimony revealed.

Mr. Geng is the first and so far only witness, called concerning a complaint laid against the company by the Canadian Union of United Brewery, Flour, Cereal, Soft Drink and Distillery Workers. The union alleges about 12 workers were laid off because of the unionizing activities.

Superior Glove management contends the lay-offs are a result of business reasons. Also Mr. Geng told the board his decision to lay off some workers was made before he knew about the union in his plant.

About an hour after word of union activities reached Mr. Geng, he said he had confirmation of the report within the company. He had already called in department heads and also confronted supervisor Vi Weaver with the allegation Tuesday. "She was very concerned that someone was trying to blackmail her, a floor lady in the plant," Mr. Geng said on the stand. He continued by saying the notion occurred to him that the telephone caller wanted him to fire the supervisor.

Mr. Geng revealed he talked to between 10 and 15 employees Tuesday afternoon in efforts to discover more about the union. He also said he had someone ask for advice from the Canadian Manufacturers Association (CMA).

Union lawyer John McNamee questioned Mr. Geng closely regarding the CMA and other details of events following the anonymous call.

The union is setting out to show how management allegedly interfered with the formation of the union at Superior Glove. Canadian Brewers wants all the employees who were laid off to be reinstated.

Testimony reveals that soon after word of the union's work broke to management, Mr. Geng started preparing a list of suspected union sympathizers within the company. That list of names ended up in the garbage. The board was presented with a reconstructed list.

No one listed by the company as a suspected union sympathizer was named as a grievor, someone who lost his job, on the union's behalf.

Mr. Geng indicated the task of preparing a list of suspected union sympathizers was easy for him. He also indicated he received help from an anti-union group within Superior Glove. Members of the group called him.

Union lawyer McNamee described the list of suspects as a score card which would help Mr. Geng determine who was in favor of the union and who was in favor of keeping the management-worker arrangements the way they were.

Mother Nature wallops area with snow, wind

Schools were closed, and many businesses short-staffed Friday as winter had what many hoped was its last hurrah, when 60 mile an hour winds coupled with a heavy snowfall made driving impossible.

The storm continued Sunday and Monday, dumping even more snow on the area.

High wind forecast for Wednesday were to be accompanied by rain. Instead, surprised commuters found themselves in the middle of a nightmare. The heavy slushy snow stuck fast on the roads, resulting in slick conditions. Roads in town were almost impassable.

Highway 7 saw commuters crawling along at less than 20 miles an hour, as visibility was poor, winds pushed cars sideways, and roads were slippery. Silver Creek hill was littered with vehicles unable to make the steep incline. Cars were backed up from the top of the hill to east of Park Toyota. Those whose cars would have made the hill did not have the chance as traffic was bumper to bumper at a standstill.

The storm continued on into the night, but by morning, area residents thought the worst was over and Spring must at last be here.

Highway 7 Thursday morning was strewn with abandoned cars, especially on the Silver Creek hill, and vehicles which had slid into the ditches. Owners trudged onward to claim their property, and to dig themselves out.

Thursday evening, the area was hit with a heavy downpour of rain. By morning, the precipitation had turned to snow, compounded by 60 mile an hour winds. Roads were icy, and snow covered. Schools were closed before the day even began, and many businesses found themselves short-staffed.

Hydro and cable tele-

vision wires were downed by the strong winds and crews worked furiously to restore services. Police advised against driving on Highway 7 causing many to miss work.

In Georgetown, Highway 7 was littered with glass, hydro wires and tin sheds as the winds blew out signs, downed wires and tore apart sheds sitting outside Beaver Lumber. Motorists got stuck in the deep snow as they drove along.

By afternoon, the snow subsided, but the high winds persisted. Some driving was possible.

Saturday, the highway

was once again littered with vehicles in ditches. However, the sun was shining and the roads were dry.

A snowfall Sunday continued into the night, laddening the roads with heavy snow once again. Works crews were out all night plowing and sanding, but by morning, roads were once again treacherous.

Schools were open Monday, but buses were not running in the rural areas. By the time of writing (Monday), some eight inches of snow had been dumped on the area since Wednesday, and it was still coming down.



At least some children enjoyed the return of Old Man Winter. Pupils from Robert Little and St. Joseph's schools frolic in the white stuff Thursday following the first of three late winter blasts. Included in the snow jumping were Sean De Rouese, Kelly Higgins, Marty McAfee, Richard Ward, Allan Boyle, Kevin Jackson, Jason Bowers, Mike Belanger, Jason O'Neill, Heather Clayne and Paul McMillan.