

Don't throw out your water bills!

Halton Hills residents should not throw out their 1979 water bills, says Don Farmer, Halton regional treasurer. They may be worth some money at income tax time in 1980.

Farmer said that in 1978 Peel region secured a ruling from Ontario Ministry of Revenue that those costs related to debt charges on a portion of sewer and water schemes would be considered the same as taxes for the purpose of calculating Ontario

Property Tax Credit.

In Peel the amount worked out to about 37 per cent of the total water bill including sewer surcharge, although what it could be in Halton Hills has not yet been determined, Farmer said.

Unlike Peel, Halton has no similar provincial scheme and "for this reason we were not eligible for any property tax credit on water bills or sewer surcharge in 1978," he said.

"I have asked provincial people to review the matter and am hopeful that sewer surcharge may qualify for a property tax credit on the 1979 income tax return," he said.

"For this reason I am recommending that Halton Hills residents retain their 1979 water bills which have sewer surcharge added to them in the hope that some of these amounts may be eligible for the Property Tax Credit on tax returns which will be filed early in

1980."

Halton Hills is the only one of the four municipalities in Halton to have sewer surcharge, although it is believed that the system will be implemented across the region by Jan. 1, 1980.

Farmer estimated it may be "several months" before the province delivers a ruling because it is "a fairly complex issue" involving policy across the entire province.

Comparison of councillors' pay

Ever wondered what the mayor and councillors are paid and how it compares with other areas? Here is the answer.

Remember the mayor and regional councillors receive another \$9,974 for their attendance at Halton regional council.

Municipality	Population	Mayor	Councillors
Milton	24,000	\$10,000	\$4,600
Halton Hills	34,000	\$12,100	\$5,940
Waterloo	51,000	\$15,875	\$4,726

The figures were compiled by Arthur A. Bishop, Director of Personnel for Oakville for a report to Oakville council.

Dr. Frank Oakes dies suddenly Sun.

A chapter of Acton's past was closed Sunday when Dr. Frank Oakes died suddenly in his Jeffrey Ave. home.

Dr. Oakes is a former mayor, reeve and deputy reeve of Acton and was named Citizen of the Year in 1977. He also served on many boards and organizations during his lifetime in Acton.

The well-known veterinarian was born in the Eastern Townships of Quebec in 1912, son of W.J. Oakes and Ida Louise. When he was 11, he and his family moved to Eramosa township, where he attended S.S. 2 Eramosa school. He continued on to Guelph Collegiate. He was in the graduating class of 1934 from the Ontario Veterinary College, Guelph.

The same year, Dr. Oakes married Elizabeth

(Betty) Bingham, and the two moved to Milverton to set up a practice. In 1935, the couple returned to the family farm in Eramosa, where Dr. Oakes combined farming with his vet practice. They remained there for three years, when they moved to their Knox Ave. home.

Over the next several years, Dr. Oakes made a name for himself as a caring, dedicated man. No hour was too late and no problem too small or large for him to handle. More than once a concerned child would take a sick duck from the park to his office.

He kept up his dedication until his full retirement in 1977.

Dr. Oakes kicked off his political career in 1939 when he was elected to the Acton Public

school board. He remained on the board until 1952, when the first addition was officially opened at Robert Little school. During the planning and building of this addition, Dr. Oakes sat as chairman for four years.

In 1953, Dr. Oakes was elected mayor and represented Acton during the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. In 1954 he was elected to the Acton Public Utilities Commission, where he served for seven years, including three as chairman.

He later returned to Acton council and served as councillor, deputy reeve and reeve until he hung up his political hat in 1972. In 1971, he was elected Warden of the county.

Aside from politics, and his veterinarian career, Dr. Oakes was busy joining service groups in town. He was a charter member of the Acton Rotary Club and a supporter of the Anglican church, serving on the advisory board and chairman of the fund raising committee when the Parish Hall was built.

In 1940, he became an active member of the Acton Agricultural Society and was chairman in 1945.

In his address at the Citizen of the Year banquet in 1977, close friend Pat McKenzie stated "Dr. Oakes' success can best be summed up in the words of a successful farmer, Ralph Denny. 'Frank Oakes served this farming community well for almost 40 years. He was dependable, competent, conscientious and



Dr. Frank Oakes

Halton to spend

When regional council holds a special meeting today, it will be asked to approve a \$42,505,339 budget.

Most of this is slated for the regular operating budget amounting to \$36,703,014.

The balance, \$5,802,325, deals with waterworks.

Regional treasurer Don Farmer told this newspaper Monday council may make slight modifications but the budget will remain essentially the way it is.

Of the \$36,703,014, a total of \$17,303,360 will be coming from the four municipalities.

Burlington pays the lion's share. The region has levied to collect \$7,719,218 or 43.8 per cent from it.

Oakville comes second. It will pay \$6,163,937 or 33.8 per cent.

Halton has levied \$1,911,657 or 12.6 per cent on Halton Hills and \$1,508,548 or 9.0 per cent on Milton.

Although the region's overall budget increase is 5.9 per cent, the individual municipalities will pay differing amounts.

At the other end of the scale, Halton Hills which had sewer projects constructed and has a smaller population to face the cost, will be levied with a 27 per cent increase.



Kevin Galloway, left and Michael Bowers watch as Mr. Howitt, of the Georgetown Model Railway club puts together a miniature building Saturday when the club held a demonstration at the Acton Library.

Crews out

Acton Hydro Electric crews were kept busy making minor repairs Friday during the storm, says superintendent Doug Mason.

The superintendent told The Acton Free Press power was out for almost an hour in the town's east end, due to branches interfering with wires on Church Hill Rd. Other minor repairs were fixed up before the men left for Georgetown to help that crew with major repairs. The local men worked for several hours repairing downed wires.



Jason and Kenny Bowers enjoyed the model train show Saturday at Acton library, put on by the Georgetown Model Railroad Club. In the background is one of the club's members complete with engineer's cap.

By 1984

Report calls for nursing home

A 75 to 100 bed nursing home may finally be a reality in Halton Hills, but not until 1984. The nursing home hinges on the acceptance and approval of a report from the Halton District Health Council, now in the hands of the Ministry of Health.

Georgetown Hospital Board has been pushing for a nursing home adjacent to the hospital for the past three years.

The report also calls for a much greater emphasis on care in the home for the chronically ill older citizens, particularly in Halton Hills.

It urges a discharge planner be shared between Georgetown and Milton hospitals. A discharge planner plans where the patient will go after leaving the hospital, if they need a nursing home, a chronic care or visiting nurses at home.

The report also suggests the expansion of visiting nursing and homemaking services and a vacation program

for the elderly in senior citizens' homes.

It calls for a foster home plan for the elderly where they live in a home environment and a transportation system to existing senior citizens' homes.

Patti McLean, research co-ordinator for the study resulting in the report, interviewed people all over Halton on questions of long term care for the elderly, including community support services such as Halton Hills Senior Citizens Club, Red Cross, Contact Centre, Cancer Society, and all church groups.

Terry Baines, chairman of the Health Council, emphasized the working group was unanimous in calling for the nursing home and backing all the recommendations in the report. He said they had reached the point where the report is in the hands of the senior official of the Ministry responsible for the decision has indicated approval. "But this is

Dragstrip land

Developer to pave parts of 5th-6th

Despite a plea by Murray Gruson, of Lyncean Investments Ltd., that a chip and tar road surface was more than adequate for a rural road, Halton Hills general committee insisted on a fully paved road on both the Fifth and Sixth Lines, from Highway 7 to the northern limit of the proposed estate home subdivision.

The 53 lots, with a minimum size of two acres and houses proposed at upwards of \$100,000 will be located on the former dragstrip land.

The draft agreement has been ready for some time but Gruson contends the paving he agreed to because residents feared dust, problems from increased traffic did not mean an asphalt road, but a hard surface, which he claimed would prevent dust. He further asked that the road surfacing extend only to the entrance of the subdivision not to the northerly limits. He pointed out there are no houses above the subdivision on the Sixth Line. He said he was told the cost of a

hard surface would be \$30,000 at that time, but now discovers the cost of asphaltting would be \$105,000.

Asked his opinion, town engineer Bob Austin said the tar and chip road would be quite adequate, and pointed out there are roads in the rural area with that surface which have been in use for 15 years with little maintenance.

Councillor Russ Miller was adamant the agreement remain as is, demanding asphalt roads. He claimed the traffic would be doubled. He claimed houses at these prices would have two or three cars. "We didn't ask you to buy this land", he concluded.

Councillor George Maltby claimed the only other road built for the benefit of a land owner had been constructed entirely by the owner, and cited Indusmin's construction of the diverted road on the Third Line.

Councillor Roy Booth said a third party liability clause protecting any existing land-owners in the area from any damage such as

lowering of well water, should be included in the agreement. He cited Abode One, who went bankrupt at River Run, after which damage to a neighbor's water line was discovered.

The clerk-administrator said he would seek legal advice on it.

Gruson said he was offering to pay for 7000 linear feet of road including the base, and was paying \$75,000 cash in lieu of parkland.

Gruson asked that the lot levies of \$1,452 remain the same on each lot for the next three years, since it would take at least that long to build and sell expensive homes.

The committee agreed, over the opposition of Councillors Walter Bieln, Russ Miller and Les Duby.

This is the base lot levy rate, a certain percentage is added each year according to the rise in the Southam Construction index.

Bieln asked "If the unions won't agree to more than a one year contract because of inflation why should we?"

\$5 million plant

Inland Publishing Co. Limited, this newspaper's parent company, has announced plans for a \$5 million expansion of its main printing plant facilities on Wolfedale Rd. in Mississauga.

A 31,000 square foot plant containing an 11-unit Goss Urbanite press will be constructed this year. It will be next door to the original Inland plant which opened in 1969 with 50,000 square feet of floor space and two printing presses.

The company also owns a printing plant and one six-unit press in Acton — the facility formerly owned by Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd. The Milton, Acton and Georgetown papers which Inland purchased from the Dills firm in November of 1973 are still printed in the Acton plant, while the Mississauga plant handles the other 11 Inland newspapers and advertising flyers.

Taxpayers dig into pockets

Sewage projects and lack of re-assessment are combining to give Halton Hills taxpayers the biggest increases in their regional taxes this year.

Regional treasurer Don Farmer told this newspaper Monday the increase for Halton Hills will be around 27 per cent over last year.

Although the overall regional budget is limited to an overall 5.9 per cent increase, he said the sewage treatment plants and the lack of assessment growth mean the town's ratepayers are going to face a significant increase.

Ray King, treasurer of Halton Hills, said urban ratepayers in Acton and Georgetown face a municipal increase of 6.9 per cent and those in the rural area, former Esquesing Township, a 9.9 per cent increase.

Coupled to these figures is the Board of Education's regional levy, up 8 per cent.


This works out to a total of approximately 42 per cent for Halton Hills taxpayers.

Mr. Farmer said the regional levy increase on the town is "horrendous."

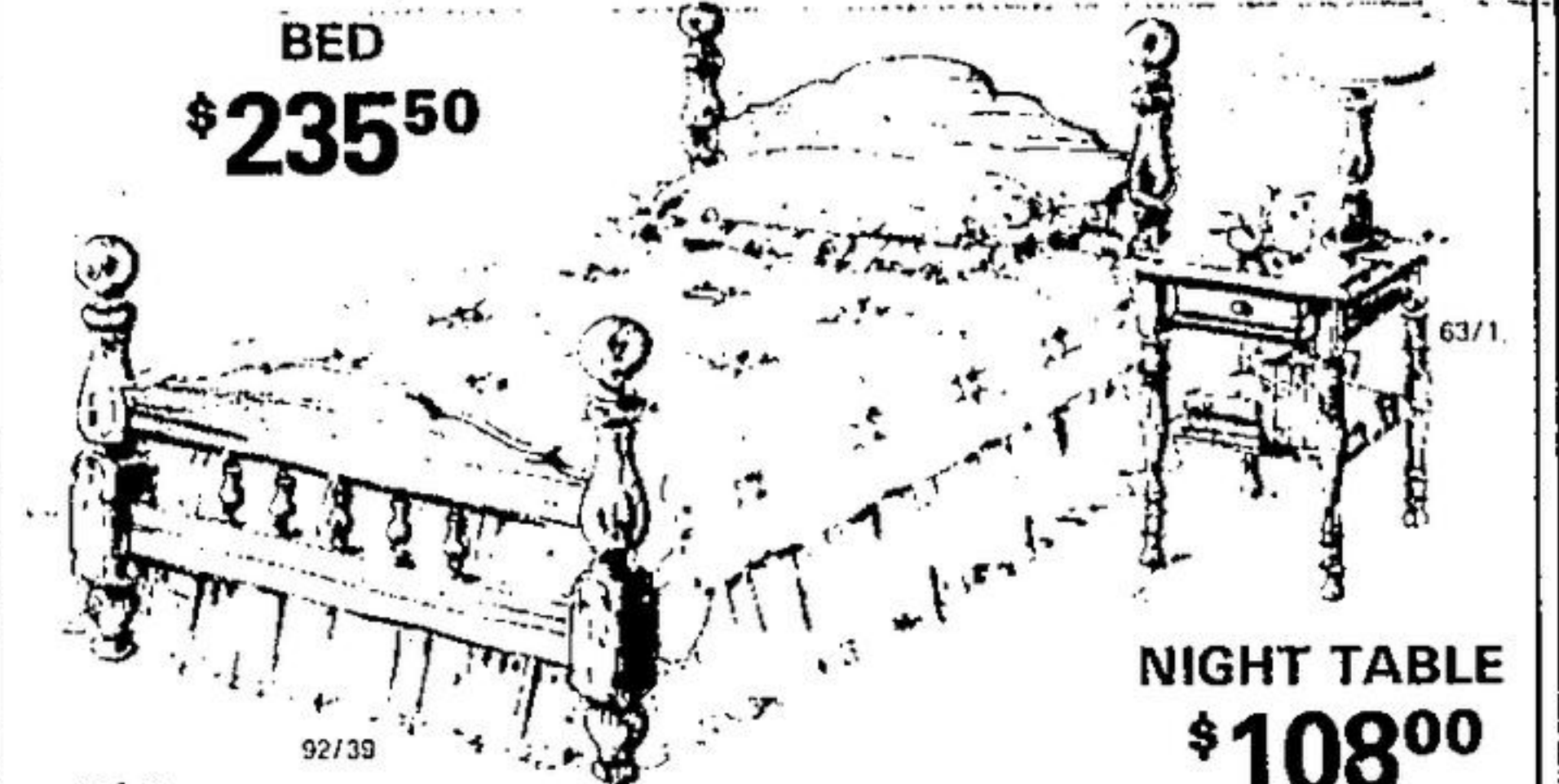
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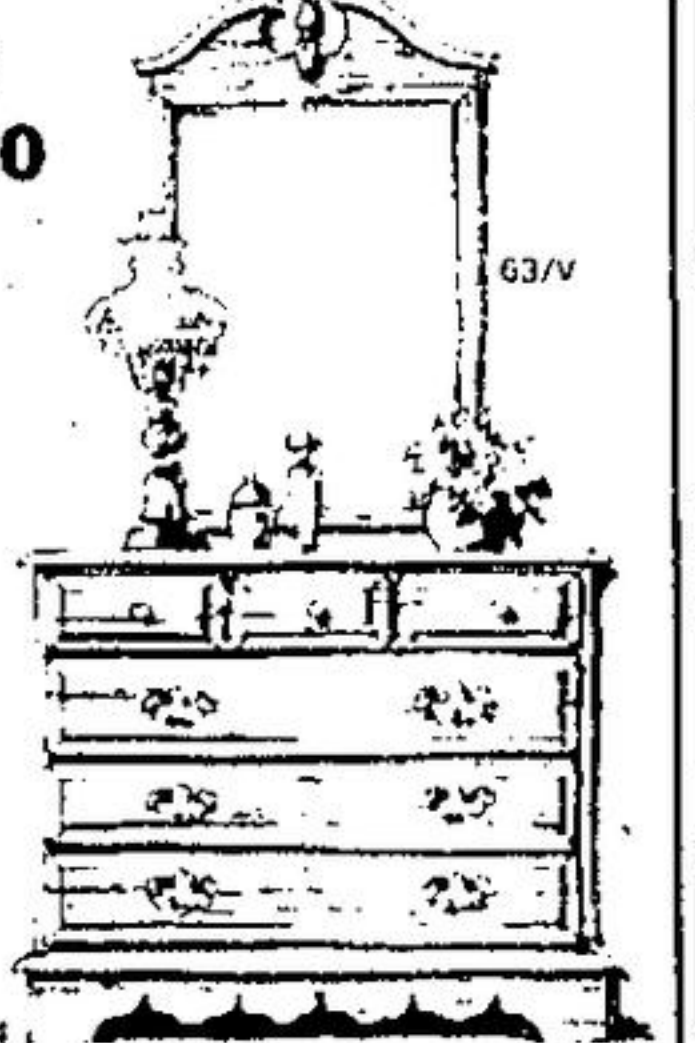
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