



### Abundant Halton harvest predicted

Threshing and combining of winter wheat have begun in Halton. Crops look good this year but, as usual, could use more rain. This picture was taken on Lor farms in Limehouse. —See Page 3.

# New assessment factor could up taxes by 13%

A new assessment equalization factor established by the provincial government, covering grants to municipalities and school boards could add a whopping \$908,792 to the amount to be raised by Halton Hills taxpayers, next year, or at the latest in 1981.

The factor is intended to even out assessment all over the province but will result in a large increase here and in Milton, and a substantial decrease in Burlington, and have little effect in Oakville.

If the 1980 budget is not increased at all, over last year,

taxes for education and regional costs will rise 13 per cent for those items alone, according to a report from Town Treasurer Ray King.

If the same factor had been in effect this year, the elementary education costs would have increased by \$330,450, secondary school costs by \$299,923 and the regional levy \$278,419.

The treasurer said he was pessimistic, but pointed out there could be a phasing-in grants to lessen the impact on the town for a few years.

Revenue Minister Lorne Maeck in his announcement of the new equalization factor, assured municipalities, no grants in 1980 will be less than last year, because of the factor.

Councillor Harry Levy said it is unfortunate, but true, that homes in Halton Hills have been under-assessed for the past four years. He estimated the factor would add \$60 to a house assessed at \$6,000, about an average assessment in town.

Treasurer Ray King said the factor has been frozen since 1970, and during that time homes in the north of Halton

have increased in value at a greater rate than in the south.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy warned this could seriously affect any projects planned in the next few years.

Councillor Walter Biehn suggested council bombard the provincial government with delegations, in the same way council is bombarded with protesting delegations.

General committee felt they would have to wait for more information before making any move, if there is any move to be made.

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## Hydro Commission looks for rural rep

With provincial legislation dissolving the existing Acton and Georgetown hydro commissions, and establishing one commission for the whole of Halton Hills, applications will be sought for someone to represent the rural area (Esquesing) on the new board.

The five member Halton Hills commission will have two from Georgetown, one from Acton and one from Esquesing, as well as the mayor.

The two existing members of Georgetown commission, Ab Tennant and Bill Smith will continue in their positions, but in Acton one of the three members, Wilf McEachern, Orville Brown, or Bob McArthur will be chosen by the Acton Commission itself, then the recommended name submitted

### Council to pick one from three

Halton Hills council will have to decide who will represent Acton on the Halton Hills Hydro Commission.

Bill 119, effective March 1, restructures the present system of local hydro commissions in both Acton and Georgetown. When the new Bill comes into effect, the two urban areas, as well as Esquesing, will come under one commission.

Council has decided the individual commissions will choose a member to sit on the new group. However, only one person is to be chosen from Acton, and both present chairman Wilf McEachern and treasurer Bob McArthur have shown interest in the position.

Of the local commission, only Orville Brown was present at Thursday morning meeting to cast the deciding vote on who should get the seat. Mr. MacArthur said it was not fair for them (Mr. McEachern and he) to put a friend on the spot like that and suggested they leave the decision to council. Mr. Brown agreed, saying both were his friends and he wanted to keep it that way. He could not choose one over the other.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy, who also sits on the Acton commission was absent from the meeting. With the recent death of commissioner Les Duby, and the death of commissioner Ted Tyler Sr. a few years ago, the commission has been depleted.



At 75 years old Harold "Pop" Main has been around in the baseball world. He has been in Acton for the past 14 years helping the area youngsters develop their skills. "Pop" helped the Acton squirt girls get started this year before deciding to take some time off and relax. He hopes to be back involved next summer. For more about Pop see page B1. Photo by ROBIN INSCOPE.

## Seek twice weekly trash pickup again

A petition signed by 23 residents asking for the reinstatement of twice a week garbage pickup, found no supporters on Halton Hills council, this week.

A letter from M. J. Norris, 10 Chelvin Drive, cited the unpleasantness of stinking garbage, the attraction for animals, and the resulting cleaning up of spilled garbage after the animals.

An report from Town Engineer Bob Austin pointed out the second pickup of the week yielded approximately 50

per cent of the garbage picked up the first day, and said the costs per ton of the second day pickup can be between 84 and 52 per cent more than the first day.

He emphasized the 1979 budget was based on a once a week pickup.

Using the week of June 12 last year as an example, Austin stated the per ton cost for the first day was \$9.79, while for the second day was \$17.57.

The objections mentioned by the petitioners Austin claimed could happen any time.

## Centre to locate jobs for fired Disston employees

Negotiations are currently underway between Disston, United Steel Workers of America, Local 8603, and Canada Manpower to set up a relocation centre for employees of the firm once operations are closed down in September.

Halton Hills councillor George Maltby told the Acton Free Press he will be sitting on the committee as an advisor but so far has not heard word of the committee being formed yet. He said the committee should be formed within the next week or so, which will approach area companies asking them to help the Disston workers with employment. They are concentrating their efforts on the Milton Georgetown, and Brampton areas, so the workers

would not have to relocate their families.

Disston of Canada, a subsidiary of the Sandvik Group, feels responsible, Mr. Maltby said, at helping their employees find work.

Disston, employing about 125 people, announced last month they were closing down all operations in Acton and moving their lines to a present plant in Montreal. No transfers were offered. R. Hoe and Co., an American firm, recently purchased a portion of the Disston plant in Acton, which could save a few of the lost jobs. Mr. Maltby said Mr. Hoe should be in the area next week to discuss just how many jobs are saved. At that time, the councillor said, Mr. Hoe will be appearing before council to discuss his plans.



Miss Acton Fair Victoria Lenizky.

## Victoria Lenizky in CNE contest

It was a close shave, but Miss Acton Fair, Victoria Lenizky is appearing in today's Miss Sweetheart of the Fairs competition at the Canadian National Exhibition.

Victoria, 18, was crowned Miss Acton last September during the fall fair. In January, she left for a six month modelling stint in Paris, France, which ended a few weeks ago. However, individual assignments kept her tied down to Europe, making it impossible to get back to Canada.

However, late Sunday evening, after switching planes in Montreal, Victoria finally arrived home, tired, but relieved.

A winner in the CNE contest is announced shortly after noon today.

Victoria's stay at her parents' R.R. 2, Rockwood home is shortlived however, as she has signed another modelling contract which takes her to Japan for two months. From there she hopes to work in New York City.

Rumors that Victoria was ineligible to enter the Miss CNE contest because of her professional model status have been belayed by Acton Agricultural Secretary John Rowe. Upon hearing the rumors, Mr. Rowe contacted CNE officials and explained the situation. They assured him Victoria was still eligible for the contest as she was a student at the time of the Acton contest, and not a full time professional.

## 'Boat' family sponsored by Operation Lifeline

It will be three to six weeks, but Vietnamese refugees will be coming to live in Acton, under local, private sponsorship.

Arlene Bruce, of Operation Lifeline, Acton group 1 told the Acton Free Press she met with immigration officials Monday and although a particular family has not been chosen, there will definitely be one coming.

Mrs. Bruce represents ten Acton families who are willing to sponsor a needy family. They should know in the next two weeks how many will be in the family to get some idea of the type of accommodation, clothing, furnishings and employment needed.

Mrs. Bruce warned that the family may not be typical family as we know it. She explained the boat people have gone through a lot of suffering and lost many loved ones. Instead of a typical family of parents and children, they could be getting older, grown-brother and

sisters, parents and perhaps even grandparents arriving. In this case, the needs will be entirely different.

The main problem is accommodation. Mrs. Bruce said. Anyone who has an empty house or apartment they are willing to donate for a few months, is asked to call John Kavanagh at 853-1433. Mrs. Bruce said even if someone had an empty room where a few members of the family could stay would be greatly appreciated.

Mill Skippon, at 853-2034 is in charge of finding jobs for the refugees. Mrs. Bruce pointed out the Vietnamese have been accepting the jobs which have been open for months, because Canadians would not fill them. Because of this attitude on behalf of the boat people, they are not expected to be a strain on the Canadian economy.

Anyone with any clothing to donate is asked to call Lonnie and Archie Harkins at 853-1453, and

Don Gregg, 853-0187 is in charge of furnishings. Brendan Aherne, 853-1293 is taking in donations of food, and Joanne Marks, 853-2095 is treasurer, and is accepting any cash donations.

The refugees' language will pose a problem, and anyone who feels they can communicate verbally with the newcomers is asked to call Mrs. Bruce at 853-1257.

Mrs. Bruce feels everyone in Acton can do their part in helping these people. "Even if we just get the vegetables out of the tail end of a garden, it would be most appreciated." The group has already been given a freezer, which they hope to have filled when the family arrives.

The Acton Ministerial Association meets tomorrow evening, (Thursday), to form a similar group and help yet another family come to Acton. Mrs. Bruce emphasized Operation Lifeline is not working in competition to this newly-formed group, but rather it wants to help them in their attempts to bring more people to Acton.

The Christian Reformed church in Acton has joined such churches in the Guelph-Kitchener-Waterloo area to bring a refugee family to Kitchener. With all the red tape cleared, the group should meet their 'adopted' family soon.

## By-election date Oct. 9

A by-election to fill the Ward One Acton council seat left vacant by the death of Les Duby, will be held Tuesday October 9, the day after Thanksgiving day.

At this time only Terry Grubbe, Director of Acton Community Services, and Dave Whiting, a defeated candidate in the last municipal election, have announced plans to contest the seat. Others are considering contesting the seat.

The election date was tentatively set for October 1, but was changed because it would fall on the Jewish high holiday Yom Kippur.

The final date for filing nomination papers will be September 17, and the advance polling date will be September 29.

## Fire loss down fire calls up

Fire loss in Halton Hills is down more than \$100,000 this year.

Inside this week!

Arlo and Elmore White celebrate 50 years of marriage. See Page 3.

International president visits Y's Men. See Page 2.

Confidence the key for Kevin Parker before skating competitions in Europe. See Page B1.

compared to the same period last year, but the number of fires is up. Losses this year totalled \$368,854 and last year \$473,220.

Until the end of June, Fire Chief Mick Holmes reports 142 fire calls this year and 114 last year. In Georgetown Fire Area there were 101 calls this year compared to 71 last year, while in the Acton Fire Area there were 41 this year, and 43 last year. Fire calls include every type of call, not necessarily fires.

June showed a dramatic drop in fire loss this year, with \$42,500, while in the same month in 1978 the total was \$165,400.

During June, this year, there were eight building fires, four open fires, and calls to eight accidents.