

Equalized water rates pass region

Halt Regional Council has agreed to commence equalized water and sewer billing Jan. 1, 1980.

This was accomplished after some four hours' debate, a tie vote broken by chairman Jack Raftis, and pleas from several councillors for unity among the council.

It is also going to be borne out in Mr. Farmer's figures as introduced to council last Wednesday at a special meeting to discuss equalization.

Using Milton as an example, the present rate to a homeowner with a one-inch water pipe is \$3.75 for 1,000 gallons.

In 1980 this will decrease to \$3.59/1,000 gallons with the grant money and will rise to \$4.10/1,000 gallons although the special funding will still be in effect.

In 1982 that grant runs out. The average Milton ratepayer will then be paying \$5.90/1,000 gallons and in 1983 that will rise

again to \$6.41/1,000 gallons.

Milton will get a break in terms of special assistance grants to supplement sewer charges although the charge to the consumer will increase yearly.

Using a Milton homeowner on a one-inch pipe as an example, the 1980 and 1981 impact will be lessened by use of the provincial grant.

In 1982 there will be a 15 per cent increase expected but Milton and Burlington will continue to receive special assistance grant aid.

In 1980 for Milton, the sewer rate will be \$6.30/1,000 gallons; 1981, \$6.67/1,000 gallons; 1982 (with increase cut by grant) \$8.15/1,000 gallons; and 1983, \$8.52/1,000 gallons.

Regional councillors agreed with Mr. Farmer to institute a public relations campaign to let

ratepayers know about what equalization means and the costs.

They have also recognized that some sectors of the water and sewer users in the region are going to be disadvantaged financially under the equalization system.

A consultant will be brought in to help identify the problem areas for councillors in hopes the problems can be ironed out before the Jan. 1, 1980, implementation date. His report is to be submitted Nov. 15.

One of the problem areas is condominiums where it is difficult to say who uses the water and sewers more than others. Another is homeowners with septic tanks from sewer system local improvements.

Milton Mayor Don Gordon said he is critical of the system of sewer charge equalization because it could mean Milton will be paying substantially more for development in other parts of the region.

"I have no problem with equal water rates," he said. "We've been doing it anyway so today was just official approval."

"But I think we shouldn't be paying for development across the rest of the region."

"We've said we've got the population in Milton just about where we like and we don't want any more."

"But if Oakville wants to go and build a subdivision, we're going to have to pay for it," he said.

Mr. Gordon said the current system of sewer surcharging may not be the best but it is better for Milton than equalized sewer billing.

Burlington Councillor

Joan Allingham said without the special assistance grant from the province, the increase for water could have been much higher than ratepayers would stand.

Saying she considered herself an "average" user of regional water, she said her water bill for this year is \$100. Without the grant, she estimated the cost next year would be about \$142 and \$176 in 1982.

She said it was this increase without the grant assistance which prompted her to vote against equalized billing.

Mr. Farmer said in his opening address the plan presented to council was the culmination of five years of working on the problem.

He also pointed out the Halton equalization was based on the plan adopted by most other Ontario municipalities.

As for the cost to be borne by ratepayers, he said without the special assistance grant, costs would inevitably be rising.

Among the factors he noted were a 6.5 per cent per year increase in operation; administration costs based on property taxes; and recovered costs showing a "modest increase year by year."

He based his administrative costs as increasing eight per cent and property taxes increasing 10 per cent.

Mr. Farmer said the sewer rate system is the "user-pay" principle, used "by the region for years in water rates."

The region meters the flow of water into a home for its billing purposes and can thus estimate how much of that is returned into the sewer system.

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This week is Fire Prevention Week, but the idea carries on throughout the entire month of October. The Halton Hills fire department offers tours for all ages through the fire hall, and children from Honey Pot Nursery took advantage of the opportunity. Left to right, Gloria Tomlinson, owner of the school, Cindy Carter, Darla Date, Matthew Smith, and fire prevention officer Larry Brassard. Photo by HELEN MURRAY.

The Acton Free Press

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Terry Grubbe wins ward one by-election

Terry Grubbe is the new Acton representative on Halton Hills council, beating out opponent Dave Whiting by only 88 votes.

Yesterday's by-election to fill the seat left vacant by the death of councillor Les Duby in the spring, brought out only 738 voters, or just over 15 per cent, according to clerk administrator Ken Richardson. There are 4832 eligible voters in the ward, he said.

Mrs. Grubbe polled 412 votes, with Mr.

Whiting getting 324.

The polls closed at eight p.m., and by 8.20, a winner had been named.

"I couldn't be happier," Mrs. Grubbe said with tears in her eyes. "I think it was a good campaign," she said. "I respect Dave Whiting, he ran a good campaign and was an honorable opponent. I am sorry he lost, but I'm happy I won."

Mrs. Grubbe took all but three polls.

Following is a list of how each candidate did, poll by poll:

	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	TOTAL	
GRUBBE, Terry	15	36	20	37	38	30	18	28	26	23	53	16	11	14	19	36	412
WHITING, Dave	12	41	19	25	25	26	18	15	14	27	14	16	12	16	22		324



New Halton Hills councillor Terry Grubbe receives a congratulatory embrace from mayor Pete Pomeroy last night as word came she had beat opponent Dave Whiting by 88 votes.

Jelinek named special assistant

Halt MP Otto Jelinek has been appointed Parliamentary Secretary to Transport Minister Don Mazankowski.

The announcement was made on the weekend by Prime Minister Joe Clark. Mr. Jelinek was one of 22 Progressive Conservative members named to secretarial posts.

In the House of Commons, the Parliamentary Secretary is empowered

to answer questions if his minister is away on business. The PS is also allowed to make speeches for the Minister.

The post brings a \$5,600 salary increase to the \$41,300 Mr. Jelinek already makes as MP. Mr. Jelinek took his seat in the House of Commons yesterday as Parliament came back into session after an absence of more than six months.



Halt MP Otto Jelinek has been appointed a Parliamentary Secretary by Prime Minister Joe Clark.

Body is identified

A decomposed body found in an abandoned car near Ospringe a few weeks ago has been identified.

Guelph Ontario Provincial Police have discovered the body to be that of Andre Pronovost, 34, from Mississauga.

According to police, the body had been in the car hidden from view for about a month before being found by two girls walking in a field near Highway 25 and Sideroad 5 in Erin township.

Halt Regional Council has officially set the wheels in motion to consider Site A as a regional landfill-resource recovery site.

There was no council discussion on the move to approve a study of the National Sewer Pipe lands in Burlington Oct. 3.

The firm has been told a study of the site will go ahead on the understanding it is to be in conjunction with a study on the region's landfill and solid waste disposal programs being prepared by Kilborn Limited, a consulting firm.

Regional staff mem-

bers have been told they are to co-operate in the study of the site; while National Sewer Pipe has been instructed to work with Kilborn on how it can fit into the solid waste management system.

Council also approved Dr. John Cherry to be retained as an independent

hydrogeologist to determine whether the National Sewer Pipe land is safe for sanitary landfilling.

The approval comes five days after a meeting of the Halton Solid Waste Management Committee where National Sewer Pipe executive vice-president Bud Christian

Conciliator on the job

Halt's new Family Court Conciliator Mrs. Betty Hill is on the job and has started to come in contact with youngsters and families in conflict with the law.

Health and social services administrator, Rennie Vivian, has reported that the conciliator started work on July 17.

The conciliator is seen as a person to help those in trouble cope with the legal system.

The conciliator has been to court on nine days

for a total of 38 hours or an average of 4.22 hours per day.

Much of the conciliator's time has been spent so far learning and orienting to the court

area. The conciliator is seen as a person to help those in trouble cope with the legal system.

The Tremaine-Britannia Citizens Group is on record as opposing the region appointment of professor John Cherry to study groundwater effects at Site A in Burlington.

David Estrin, solicitor for the group, presented a letter to the Friday meeting of the Solid Waste Management committee expressing "considerable concern" over the appointment of Dr. Cherry as the region's "independent hydrogeologist."

Mr. Estrin did not dispute Dr. Cherry's ability to do the job, but his affiliation with consulting firms engaged on Site A.

"Our concern is not that Professor Cherry does not have the qualifications to make such an evaluation."

"His qualifications go unchallenged."

"Nevertheless, Dr. Cherry has had previously, and to the present time, an involvement with the region's own hydrogeological consultant, Gartner Lee."

"Dr. Cherry has been consulted by Gartner Lee in regard to their opinions expressed at the OMB hearing heard earlier this year with regard to the hydrogeological suitability of the site," he said.

Despite the request, the region's solid waste management committee decided to retain Dr. Cherry.

Region turns in Site A direction

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hydrogeologist to determine whether the National Sewer Pipe land is safe for sanitary landfilling.

The approval comes five days after a meeting of the Halton Solid Waste Management Committee where National Sewer Pipe executive vice-president Bud Christian

introduced his firm's concepts of how it can fit into the region's landfill future.

The site is located between an operating dump and one that was closed down 10 years ago.

The company would make 60 of the 200 acres it owns, available for landfill.

Brassard says Carelessness is key in many area fires

by Jennifer Rowe
During the past five years over 1,000 fires have taken lives, seriously injured and destroyed property valued at over \$1 million in Halton Hills alone.

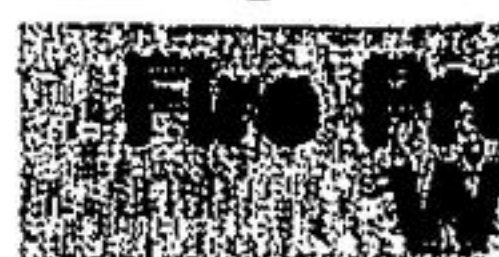
These statistics, alarming as they may seem for five years, are steadily increasing with three deaths and well over \$1 million in damage to date in 1979.

happen to me," Brassard said.

Carelessness takes on many forms when it comes to fires.

In Halton Hills smoking and leaving something unattended in the kitchen, are two common forms of carelessness which result in fire damage or even death.

This week, October 7 through 13 is Fire Prevention Week. The annual week is a North American-wide event which the United States started October 9, 1911, with the first prevention day.



Fire Prevention Week has always been held on the week closest to October 9 in honor of a very large historic fire in Chicago. Legend has it that the famous fire of 1871 was started by Mrs. O'Leary's cow when it kicked over a lantern and started a blaze which enveloped the city. The October 9 Chicago fire killed 250 people, destroyed 17,420 buildings resulting in \$168 million damage.

Brassard suggests anyone wishing to make their home safe should remove all fire hazards, install an early warning detector and design and practise an escape plan. "A lot of people have detectors, but when they go they have no advance plans of escape and don't know what they should

do. If you don't plan how to get out it could cost you your life. It has in the past," he said.

Smoke detectors have saved four lives in Halton Hills over the past year and one person died who might possibly have lived with the advance warning of a smoke detector, Brassard said.

In addition to tours of the hall, information sessions in schools, inspections and fire drills, an open house will be held at each fire hall. Acton is holding theirs October 22 from 7-9 p.m. and Georgetown October 25, 7-9 p.m.

Halt Hills fire department has three full-time staff members, Chief Mick Holmes, Deputy-Chief Bob Hyde and Fire Prevention Officer Larry Brassard. Volunteers in area one, Acton, number 35 and in area two in Georgetown, 45 volunteers are with the department. Red and Jean Asseltine are the full-time dispatchers.

Brassard said it is education of the public on fire prevention which will save lives in the future, but it is up to the individual. "You can have fire prevention day, week, month or year but you can't protect someone from their own carelessness. They have to do that themselves," he said.



Driver of a van which turned over on the front lawn of Alice Duby, Church Hill Rd., N., received minor injuries Monday after his vehicle went out of control. A hedge and fence were taken out, and small trees and a flower bed were run over. Turn to Page 2 for more details.

