

Treasurer says

Industrial taxes not higher in Acton

An Acton industrialist says one of the reasons he is moving his firm to Brampton this spring is because of the high taxes in Acton but Halton Hills treasurer Ray King says taxes here compare favorably with other municipalities in Halton and Peel.

Roy Topelko, general manager of Vacform Plastics, revealed recently his firm is pulling up stakes and re-locating in Brampton after coming to Acton three years ago from Mississauga.

He says that while his firm has merged with

English Plastics, of Brampton, Vacform still had to expand and he had no intention of doing so in Acton, mainly because of the high industrial tax rate here.

A check with the Halton Hills treasurer Ray King shows the industrial mill rate in Acton is 16.15 and Shelly Hardy says the mill rate in Brampton is 36.59. Ms. Hardy is an official of the Brampton tax department.

The mill rate would tend to prove Mr. Topelko's case, however King says mill rate, viewed in isolation, "tells absolute-

ly nothing."

In an interview this week, King said assessment must be considered in conjunction with mill rate when comparing one town's taxes with another community's levy.

A comparison of industrial assessment in Acton, as a percentage of market value of the property and building, with the industrial assessment in Brampton is also necessary.

Acton councillor Ross Knechtel says in Acton assessment runs five to six per cent of market value. King noted, in a

sample of assessments of industrial manufacturing property in Acton, which he recently reviewed, he found assessment was about 16 per cent of market value.

Ms. Hardy said in Brampton assessment of industrial property is 25 to 30 per cent of market value and agreed comparisons of taxes in various towns can't be made unless both assessment and mill rate are examined. She conceded industrial taxes in Brampton and Halton Hills are "basically the same."

Based on figures

supplied by both municipal tax departments it would appear while Acton's mill rate is considerably higher than Brampton's, Brampton assessment is at least double that in Acton.

An individual or firm's taxes are arrived at by multiplying the mill rate by the assessment.

King explained Brampton assessment is a much higher percentage of market value because it was reassessed more recently than Halton Hills. He pointed out if Halton Hills was reassessed, assessment would go up, but the

mill rate would go down by the same proportion. He recalled seeing a study two years ago comparing taxes in Halton Hills and Peel municipalities. The report showed Halton Hills compared "very favorably" with other surrounding municipalities. Taxes here were as low or lower.

Police blame vandals for damage

Vandalism in Halton Hills and Milton amounted to about \$130,000 last year, according to statistics released by Halton Regional Police.

The total bill in Halton Region comes to approximately \$634,000 based on 3,475 occurrences in 1979.

The figures were released by Sergeant Wayne Jessop who heads

the new Halton Regional Police crime prevention bureau.

Sgt. Jessop estimated that between 70 and 75 per cent of vandals' crimes were reported.

Approximately 1,000 incidents of vandalism were reported in the Halton Hills and Milton areas last year. Those municipalities are policed under District One, which is based in

Georgetown.

There were by far most incidents of vandalism in Burlington—1,500, while Oakville trailed with 975. In the dollar value of the damage carried out by vandals—the ages of which are 50 per cent adult and the rest juveniles is \$312,000 in Burlington, \$192,000 in Oakville and \$130,000 in District One.

The rate of catching

people is low because much of the damage occurs at night. "The whole problem is, no one sees it done," said Sgt. Jessop.

Vandals pick mainly on vehicles, according to the police survey. In District One damage to vehicles amounted to \$64,000. Much of the damage stems from scratches, sprayed paint, slashed tires and snapped windshield wipers. The figure in Burlington was \$140,000.



Sgt. WAYNE JESSOP

Provincially the Beaulieu Royal Commission on vandalism is collecting information from municipalities on the subject of vandalism.

Sgt. Jessop said a comparison of 1978 figures with last year's is difficult because the 1979 data is the first batch that has been divided up according to districts. It is, therefore, impossible to gauge the effectiveness by stats of last year's Neighborhood Watch program which concentrated on District One.

Neighborhood Watch urged citizens to be more knowledgeable about their neighborhoods in an effort to stem vandals.

Former Actonian Pleads not guilty stabbing charges

A former Acton resident, charged with one count of first degree murder and two counts of attempted murder in Iowa last October, recently appeared in court and pleaded "not guilty."

Gail Vukovich made her first appearance in court in Waterloo, Iowa, on January 18 and pleaded not guilty to the three charges the prosecutor, Assistant County Attorney Jim Sheerer said in an interview Friday.

Mrs. Vukovich is scheduled to go to trial on the three charges April 21, Sheerer stated.

Mrs. Vukovich is accused of stabbing to death her seven-year-old son Michael on October 1. She is also alleged to have stabbed her other two sons, Matthew, five, and

Jonathan, age four months at the time of the incident, in Cedar Springs, Iowa.

Sheerer says Mrs. Vukovich remains in custody in the psychiatric ward of St. Francis Hospital in Waterloo, where she continues to be "evaluated in terms of her sanity, or lack of it," Sheerer said.

He said his office expects to receive "notice of intent to present an insanity defence," before the case goes to trial, from defence counsel.

Dr. Joseph Vukovich, formerly of the Glenlea Medical Centre in Acton, moved with his wife Gail and three sons to Iowa in August. The tragic incident occurred on his first day of work at Allen Memorial Hospital in Waterloo. Waterloo is a city adjacent to Cedar Falls.

Works Dept. title changes

The retirement of Bud Snow from his position as superintendent of roads for the town has precipitated some changes in titles, the combination of some jobs and the

deletion of others.

The position of general superintendent has been renamed the public works superintendent. It will still be held by Frank Morette.

A new position of assistant public works superintendent has been created, replacing the former two positions of superintendent of Roads and Services. It will be held by Alf Duby.

The two positions of foreman of roads and foreman of services will also be combined in one new title public works foreman.

Knox Ladies elect officers

An armchair trip to the St. Vincent and Barbados was given in an interesting manner at Knox Ladies' Aid meeting last Tuesday. Mrs. C. M. Davidson, who had vacationed there, spoke of the climate and general conditions on these two islands.

Mrs. H. Murray, the president, opened the meeting with a reading, "Our Job."

Program of the spring work in the organization was outlined by Mrs. Murray.

Mrs. W. J. McIntyre, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, presented a slate of officers for 1980 as follows: president Mrs. H. Murray, vice-president Mrs. J. Berry, secretary Mrs. C. Armstrong, assistant secretary Mrs. D. S. Morrison, Treasurer

Mrs. J. C. Dennis, assistant treasurer Mrs. W. J. McLeod, pianist Mrs. H. Besley, banquet committee Mrs. J. B. Macpherson and Mrs. J. Berry, kitchen committee Mrs. W. Kennedy, Mrs. C. Allen and Mrs. E. Beerman, manse committee Mrs. G. S. Matthews and Mrs. H. Murray, card convener Mrs. W. J. McIntyre, advisory committee Mrs. C.

scripture and Mrs. C. M. Davidson giving the prayer. Mrs. C. Armstrong was the winner of the contest as presented by Mrs. Macpherson. Mrs. J. Berry was courtesy convener.

Elected chairman

Councillor Mike Armstrong will continue as chairman of Halton Hills planning board for this year. Councillor Ross Knechtel will continue as vice-chairman.

Mr. Hinton said the idea came to him after a talk with former Halton Hills clerk-administrator Doug Pritchard. He concluded he wants the public to be aware of his offer and "the conditions" attached to the dedication.

In interviews, after council adjourned, Mayor Peter Pomeroy and Acton councillors Ross Knechtel and Terry Grubbe suggested a number of possible municipal uses of Mr. Hinton's home in the future, including a fair board office, day care centre, meeting rooms for local organizations, a town recreation office and a residence for a park caretaker.

Knechtel described Mr. Hinton's offer as a "generous gesture" but predicted many people in Acton won't be in favor of the park being renamed. He suggested "perhaps Mr. Hinton will reconsider his position."

Grubbe echoed the same sentiments, saying Mr. Hinton's offer was "genuine" but she wants to see what the reaction of Actonians will be. "It's their park," Grubbe said, adding "The people of Acton have demonstrated in the past a commitment to the history of the town." She noted the park has always been called Prospect Park. Like Knechtel, Grubbe said she hopes Mr. Hinton will reconsider the park name change portion of his proposal.

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ACTON MEWS PLAZA



Vic Bristow raises the Heart Campaign flag Friday to kick off heart month, February.

Heart fund Campaign underway

Vic Bristow is hoping Actonians show they have a heart this month.

Mr. Bristow kicked off the February Canadian Heart Fund campaign in Acton by raising the flag at the cenotaph Friday afternoon.

The Acton campaign chairman said kits went out Saturday and about 90 canvassers will be going door to door this month. Mr. Bristow will also canvass local businesses and industry.

Last year the Heart Fund campaign in Acton raised around \$4,200 and Mr. Bristow says he's aiming to increase the amount raised this year by \$300, to

Acton man's firm can't export...

(Continued from page 1)

in Canada) for export to Cuba. The 800 pound machine, a sale for Vector Holdings of just under \$3,000, isn't used for production, Smith pointed out. He added an electrical discharge production machine would cost more than \$50,000 and the machine he bought from a firm south of Chicago would be for school training only.

Vector Holdings ordered the machine, paying in advance, including freight costs, and when it arrived six months later the firm applied through a broker, to Industry, Trade and Commerce, for an export permit.

Smith said, after six weeks, word came back from Ottawa that the export permit had been denied.

He says, he spoke to an official of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Smith withheld the official's name) and was informed "verbally" that the permit had been denied because "Washington refused to allow Industry, Trade and Commerce permission to give us an export permit."

Smith notes his uncle and president of the firm, Frank Smith, also contacted the federal government and got the same story.

His company can't export the educational machine to Cuba because it was American made and Washington doesn't have normal relations with Cuba.

"The United States clamps down and a poor little Canadian firm is the victim," Smith observed unhappily.

The machine will be extremely hard to sell in Canada, Smith says, and even if it can be, it will be costly making calls and sending letters to possible buyers. All this should eat up Vector Holdings' "marginal profit" on the deal, Smith stated. If it can't be sold in Canada, the company can either keep it in inventory, paying high interest rates on the crated machine every day, or send it back to America and lose up to \$1,000 in freight and a possible 10 to 15 per cent restocking charge, Smith explained. And all that is above and beyond the loss of an \$8,000 sale. In addition the loss is "real money" not on paper, he said.

"There is supposed to be free enterprise in Canada. I could understand this if we (Canada) had poor relations with Cuba. But we are on good terms with Cuba. It bothers me that the United States government can tell the Canadian government what it can and can't do," Smith declared.

He is quick to point out he has a lot of respect for both the American people and their government. Further he believes the "Yanks are getting a "raw deal" around the world and he doesn't blame the United States for his firm's dilemma.

But he does blame the Canadian federal government.

"This is a reflection on our government," he stated, adding "no matter which party is the government." It is interesting to note his firm's problem transcends both the Liberal and Progressive Conservative regimes.

He'd really like to know who is running the Canadian government, Canadians or Washington?

"All the politicians are the same, The Conservatives, Liberals and the NDP. The country is going down the tube. It is ridiculous, they won't get down to business. They all say they care about small business, but don't do anything," Smith declared.

He admits sometimes he and his family wonder why they keep going in a business where they deal with governments and educational institutes because "they hold all the aces." Fortunately, he says, they don't deal directly with foreign countries, "There are too many horror stories" for small business, it's too easy to lose money dealing with third world nations.

At any time there are four to six people working for Vector Holdings so it definitely is a small business, what Smith calls "the backbone of our country. We pay a lot of taxes," but he wonders if anyone cares.

The company started back in 1958 and initially sold used machinery but then switched to wholesale and distribution in the late 60s.

Hinton....

(Continued from page 1)

making sure his proposal meets with public acceptance. "I have a warm spot in my heart for Acton," Mr. Hinton said the idea came to him after a talk with former Halton Hills clerk-administrator Doug Pritchard. He concluded he wants the public to be aware of his offer and "the conditions" attached to the dedication.

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