

Average town tax up \$13.18 in Acton

The Town's share of taxes is up \$13.14 in Georgetown, \$13.18 in Acton, and \$5.42 in Esquesing on an average assessed home. The 1980 budget for town purposes only was accepted by Halton Hills council, Monday night.

But that's not the total tax hike. The education tax has jumped \$44 in Georgetown, \$43 in Acton and \$40 in Esquesing, making an increase to date of \$57.14 in Georgetown, \$56.18 in Acton, and \$45.42 in Esquesing. In addition, the regional tax levy has to be added, which has not yet been set.

Using an average assessment of \$5,638 in Georgetown, \$4,498 in Acton and \$4,638 in Esquesing, the total town tax alone is \$222.20 in Georgetown, \$209.10 in Acton and \$181.49 in Esquesing.

The percentage increase is 6.3 in both Acton and Georgetown and 3 per cent in Esquesing.

The Town residential mill rates are 37.08 in Georgetown up 2.31 mills from last year, 46.49 in Acton up 2.90 mills and 39.13 in Esquesing up 1.17 mills.

A \$500,000 surplus from last year helped keep the town's increase to this level.

The largest jump in the budget is a 59.5 per cent increase in the library board budget, from \$200,000 to \$319,173, which Finance Chairman Harry Levy described as simply "stopping paying only lip service to library and doing something for them for a change." \$45,000 of the library budget will go to computerized services.

\$40,000 is in the budget for the restoration of Acton Town Hall.

Recreation

The parks and recreation budget has jumped 25 per cent from \$1,175,743 last year to \$1,469,685 this year. Included in the parks and recreation budget is \$22,000 for an ice resurfacer at Alcott arena, Georgetown, \$10,000 for replacing the lobby floor, \$40,000 for creative playgrounds, \$12,000 for renovation to ball diamonds, \$47,300 for the repair and construction of soccer pitches, \$16,000 to overhaul the lighting system at Acton arena,

Tax score to date

	1979	1980
Esquesing		
House assessed at \$4,638		
Town purposes	up \$ 5.42	\$181.49
Education	up \$40.00	\$324.00
Total so far	up \$45.42	\$505.49
Acton		
House assessed at \$4,498		
Town purposes	up \$13.18	\$209.10
Education	up \$43.00	\$321.00
Total so far	up \$56.18	\$530.10

Bad news regional tax has yet to come.

\$10,000 for the relocation of the recreation office to the former ambulance building in Georgetown, and \$35,000 for repairs to community centres.

The recreation and parks budget was cut by \$173,292 before being accepted by council. Among the many items cut were a sprinkler system at Georgetown Memorial Arena, a \$27,617 cut on repairs to community centres, a \$52,500 cut which eliminated lighted hand ball courts at Alcott area, \$45,000 cut from creative playgrounds, and \$18,750 cut by dropping the acquisition of land at Cook and Holmesway in Acton.

Transportation

The transportation budget this year is only marginally larger than last year, totalling \$2,236,104.

Major road expenditures in Georgetown are River Drive reconstruction at \$137,200, with the town's share being \$79,000; Guelph Street widening at a total cost of \$205,000 with the town's share being only \$25,000; and Main

Street South Acton, at \$259,000, with the town's share \$32,000.

Subsidies from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications normally pay 50 per cent of road work, but on cases of highway connecting link pay more. Ontario Street in Georgetown will also be reconstructed.

Storm sewer work takes a large part of the budget, with Maple Avenue, Market Street, Dayfoot Drive, Norton Crescent in Georgetown and phase two of Lakeview subdivision in Acton being completed this year.

In his report the finance chairman said higher garbage disposal and collection costs, and increased energy costs for street lighting helped raise the mill rates. He noted the Town plans to upgrade the street lighting system in the urban areas.

The total town budget amounts to \$6,427,400, up from \$5,531,303. Last year, the taxable assessment has also increased by 2.2 per cent.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy praised Finance Chairman Harry Levy for his fine work.

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Fluoride water worries mother

by Gord Murray

Fluoride has been in Acton's water since December 18 and it has a number of residents upset including a mother whose little boy is allergic to fluoride.

The young Acton mother told Mayor Peter Pomeroy and councillors Ed Wood, Ross Knechtel and Terry Grubbe that she is concerned about fluoride in the water at Friday's ward one councillors drop-in at the Community Services Centre.

She reported she learned Thursday from the region that fluoride has been in Acton's water since December 18. A check by Pomeroy with region official Bob Moore confirmed fluoride has been in Acton's water since that date.

The mother, who asked that she remain anonymous, said the child is allergic to fluoride and she can't afford to buy distilled water for him.

Lorna Clark at the town office reported she has received "quite a number" of complaints from residents regarding fluoride in the water, maybe a dozen complaints. Her daughter is allergic to fluoride, Mrs. Clark said, so when she visits she can't drink the water.

The worried mother asked why, when fluoride is something people can get themselves if they need it at the drugstore, it is being forced prescribed for everyone?

She is also upset because Actonians weren't notified by the region that fluoride was being introduced to the water in December. She said the region official she contacted admitted there was no public notification.

Pomeroy noted the region, by a resolution of council, decided about two years ago to put fluoride in Acton's water.

The mother of the boy who is allergic to fluoride said she has learned from her family physician that her child isn't the only one in Acton allergic to fluoride.

She said she understands boiling won't work, and councillor Ross Knechtel agreed. She said she believes the only solution is to buy distilled water. Pomeroy said he'd check with the Health department to see if the fluoride can be neutralized.

The mother said she thought before fluoride was put in the water all of the facts would be put before the residents so they could decide if they want fluoride in the water.

She noted there are concerns south of the border regarding fluoride and health. There is some evidence fluoride is harmful to expectant mothers, children and the elderly. "We don't know what it will do to us."

Pomeroy observed fluoride has been in the water in many municipalities, including some in Halton, across Ontario for years.

The government is still forcing people to "put something in their bodies they don't need. If they do need it they can buy it themselves," the mother countered.

The mayor said the woman's concerns have been discussed by politicians in Halton many times and for the public good the region supported fluoride. The benefits must be greater than the drawbacks Pomeroy said or region council never would have approved it. He suggested fluoride allergies are very isolated cases. Fluoride isn't new, he added, and has been in use for many years without complaints.

"From what I hear many people are against it (fluoride)," the mother declared.

Wood said during the last election he surveyed voters to see where they stood on fluoride and found a 50/50 split. However, Wood added, the people who were opposed were predominantly just opposed because they weren't being given a chance to decide the issue themselves, they wanted a plebiscite.

The only way to get the fluoride out now would be by a resolution of regional council, and that won't happen unless there was a massive public outcry Pomeroy said.

The mayor reported the only reason it took so long for the fluoride to be put in the water after council approval, about two years, was the delay in fluoride equipment arriving.

He said his check with Moore revealed the region doesn't normally notify the public on an item like fluoride, which had previously been approved by council.



The McKenzie-Smith students' operetta Anne of Green Gables delighted packed crowds at the school both last Wednesday and Thursday evenings. This is a school yard scene from the performance Thursday night featuring actors and actresses Rick Dwyer, Scott Newlan, Tim Garton, Lisa Doberthien, Bev Glenn, Andrea Arbie, Connie Soros, Jenny McDonald, Louise Reed and Janice Barton. Photo by GORD MURRAY

Industrial realtors' tour planned to promote Acton

With a group of industrial real estate agents coming to tour Acton's industrial area this May, the push is on for the Halton Business Development department to have everything involved including a brochure in its "major thrust" to promote Acton this year ready by the spring.

In conjunction with the tour there will be an industrial showcase for Halton Hills in Georgetown. In an interview this week Business Development officer William Marshall said the basic thrust of his recently unveiled industrial strategy as far as it applies to Acton is "to try and market the industrial land in Acton better."

Marshall notes there is a drastic lack of industrial land in Halton Hills, except in Acton, and he feels the first promotional step is to spruce up the industrial park. The regional official says he is going to push for a committee to be set up, likely involving town officials, industrial landowners and developers and the Acton Chamber of Commerce. The aim of this committee will be to make the industrial land "more presentable."

Marshall said he has been up to Acton twice recently and one thing he noticed was a "whole lot of trucks parked all over the place. They didn't show off the area too well." He also hopes the committee will be able to get the ditches and properties cleaned-up.

He says he sees a great potential to promote Acton's industrial land, especially on the basis of prices being lower than elsewhere in the Metro Toronto area.

Marshall's department also will develop a special Acton portion in its new Halton Hills promotion brochure. The brochure would contain a map showing where Acton's vacant industrial land is located as well as details about the properties and prices. He added it will be an inexpensive brochure.

In conjunction with the visit of industrial real estate agents, all from outside Halton, Marshall says there will be an industrial showcase at Alcott Arena in Georgetown, sponsored by the Georgetown Rotary Club, with help from Acton's Rotary Club. Both the Halton Business Development department and the Ontario Ministry of Industry and Tourism will be among the exhibitors.

The real estate agents will be bussed through the industrial area here so they can "get a feel of the type of industry there now and the property available." With that kind of "exposure" Marshall wants to make sure all the information about the land is ready for the visitors and the industrial area "looks the best it can."

Archie White citizen of year

The Chamber of Commerce last night announced Archie White is the new Citizen of the Year.

Mr. White, Church St. W., was the unanimous selection of the Chamber, according to Dave Whiting.

"Well, it just about floored me. It was the last thing I would have thought of," Mr. White said after hearing the news. There was a delay in the chamber informing Mr. White of its decision. There were telephone calls to his home; however, Mr. White was out meeting captains for the upcoming Cancer Campaign.

Mr. White's efforts in raising funds for the Cancer Campaign, figured highly in his selection as citizen of the year. For five years Mr. White has taken on the task of being chairman of Acton's highly successful Cancer Campaign. For its size Acton has the highest per capita record of donations in the province.

The local Heart Association also benefits from Mr. White's efforts, according to Mr. Whiting.

Mr. White, who started work at Beardmore's in 1920, when he was 13 years old, retired in 1971.

Mr. White's attention to and care on the job were held in high regard," said Mr. Whiting. It has been in retirement that Mr. White has found time to devote to canvassing. One of the letters which accompanied the ballot nominating Mr. White described him as being a "longtime and thoughtful visitor of shut-ins."

Mr. White is also a devoted and active member of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church. In addition to his long association with the tannery and his work with the cancer society, Mr. White has also been active in the sports world.

The Chamber committee received 30 ballots.

Treasurer Ray King, in his report, pointed out the Town is made up of four wards with a somewhat different assessment base.

Councillor Ross Knechtel hoped nobody would assume the Town was going to establish market value assessment simply because a review is sought. "A lot of taxpayers have asked why the difference between the old and new areas, and get irate when they are told we have refused to look into it."

Halton Hills council on a six to four vote agreed to ask the Ministry of Revenue to carry out an assessment survey of the Town, which may result in market value assessment.

Wages, retirement gratuity, working conditions and some lesser matters separate the two sides. Education director Em Lavender commented on the results of the strike vote during the board's meeting. "The results indicate 93 per cent support the possibility of a strike."

The vote, he went on to say, confirms the opinion of mediator Martin Teplitzky that the parties are divided on matters of principle.

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The Acton Chamber of Commerce unanimously picked Arlington White as Citizen of the Year. The selection was made last night (Tuesday).

If there is a teacher strike it won't be till April

by Eric Elstone

Halton high school teachers will remain in the classroom until the end of the month, at least, according to an Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) official.

"We are not looking at a strike before the end of the month," OSSTF District 9 President Ron Ness said after 93.5 per cent of Halton's secondary school teachers voted Thursday in favor of a strike.

Of 1,208 eligible voters, 1,165 cast ballots and only 73 voted against a strike. There were three spoiled ballots.

In addition to the contract items separating the teachers and the board, a new issue has emerged: the method of reaching a settlement.

According to new board spokesman, Burlington Trustee Cam Jackson, the board is willing to accept either arbitration or the mixture of mediation and arbitration. Both forms are binding.

OSSTF President Ness, in a separate interview, said teachers do not want an imposed settlement. He told reporters teacher representatives will contact the board this week to determine if a meeting can be arranged.

"We've been criticized for not moving. Seems to me they (the board) are not willing to move off mediation arbitration or arbitration," said Ness.

Ness indicated no strike date will be set without the board first showing no movement on the method of negotiating.



Famed missionary and former Moderator of the United Church, Dr. Robert McClure, was the star attraction at Sunday morning's service at Trinity United Church. Dr. McClure chats here with Rev. Chuck Beaton before making his remarks to the congregation. There's a report on Dr. McClure's speech on page 2.

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