

Photo gallery



by John McDonald



Winter scenes like this were common back in the 1890s. This shot was taken on Mill Street looking east at the corner of Willow Street. Note the piles of snow on the street for the benefit of sleds.

Deficit only iceberg's tip Mannell says

By Steve Arnold
The \$600,000 "surprise" deficit that shook Halton Region this year is only the tip of a huge iceberg, according to Oakville Councillor Laurie Mannell.

In a letter to the region's administration and finance committee last week Mr. Mannell asked for reports by regional staff on several other financial dealings carried out by the region that he felt were improper and illegal.

"It is my opinion," he

wrote, "that the 1979-80 council has an obligation to put its house in financial order, before turning the region over to the '81-82 council."

Halton's original \$600,000 deficit resulted from a late audit, unexpected increases in interest rates and lower than expected revenues for some services.

About 94 per cent of the deficit has now been covered by the use of reserve funds and a budget

trimming exercise carried out by regional department heads.

"If my calculations are correct," Mr. Mannell wrote, "this year we have used up all, or nearly all, of our general reserve funds in the amount of \$600,000. We have used or committed \$4,000,000 of Subdivision Trust Funds, we have completely eliminated the Road Reserve Funds and in the case of money collected for hospital expansion, we have used all funds on hand and

committed \$70,000 of time not yet collected."

"I suppose it can be argued that as elected officials, we have the power and the right to request taxpayers money in any way we see fit. However, I honestly question the propriety and, in some cases, the actual legality of the way we have used money collected for one purpose to balance the books for some other item we have not budgeted for," he added.

Over his six page letter, Mr. Mannell questioned many of the region's financial dealings with developers.

As in the past with similar letters from the volatile Oakville councillor, other committee members seemed more upset with the fact he had written, than with anything he had to say.

"Quite frankly," said Halton Hills Mayor Peter Pomeroy, "he wastes a hell of a lot of council time and I don't want him

to waste any more staff time."

Dennis Perlin, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, said he could find time to do the study requested by Mannell and could report to the administration and finance committee by Oct. 8.

Oakville Councillor Mac Anderson said he sympathized with Mayor Pomeroy's position "but every time this comes back it gains a little credibility."

"I'm being questioned on the street about these things now," he added.

Most of deficit is being made up

Most of Halton's surprise deficit has been covered following a budget review by regional department heads.

Acting Treasurer Jim Stewart told the Administration and Finance committee last week that only \$37,315 remains of the original \$600,341.

Mr. Stewart said that a month long review of budgets by department heads turned up \$122,200 in savings, the absolute maximum that could be cut from the 1980 budget.

"The review itself has yielded little in the way of available savings," he wrote. "The 1980 operat-

ing budget, as approved, provided little, if any, room for savings without affecting present levels of service. Likewise, there is little margin for making funds available for unusual, non-recurring or emergency items."

The four week budget search by department heads turned up only \$47,200—\$40,000 of which came from the police department. Proceeds from the sale of land in Milton to Halton Women's place also yielded \$75,000.

Mr. Stewart recom-

mended that the remaining \$37,315 be carried over to 1981, noting that 93.8 per cent of the deficit had been covered and nothing more could be done without reducing current levels of services.

Mr. Stewart, recently appointed acting treasurer, also recommended changes in the system of budget control used by the region. The new system, he said, would provide councillors with ongoing information that should make another deficit impossible.

Candidate for board seat

The mother of two elementary school age children has tossed her hat in the ring for the race to fill Acton's new seat on Halton Board of Education.

Nan Cargill, 36, says "being the parent of two children I have become increasingly concerned over the past several years about the quality of education in our schools in Acton and I intend to make sure we keep improving our school system without burdening the taxpayer."

Born and raised in Holland, Mrs. Cargill came to Canada in 1969 and worked as controller for Imbrex Ltd., Malton, until 1972.

She was married in Acton in 1970 and she and her husband Brian took up residence here the following year.

Her two sons, Kevin, 8, and Darren, 5, attend Robert Little School.



Nan Cargill

Chiropractor at seminar

Acton chiropractor, Dr. Tom Thompson, his wife Sue and chiropractic assistant, Mrs. Debbie Porty recently attended an intensive three-day postgraduate seminar in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Thompson was among 2,500 chiropractic professionals from the United States, Canada, and several other countries who gathered to hear special lectures on the latest research and developments in chiropractic care.

Dr. Thompson has been a chiropractor for nine years.

Mayor agrees with bat handling method

Mayor Pete Pomeroy is completely satisfied with the way Halton Hills Animal Control Officers handled the "rabid bat," incident two weeks ago, the mayor told council, Monday night.

Little Jay Lawrence who was wounded by the bat has finished his treatments with no side effects. The mayor said reports he was calling for an investigation were wrong. He said after talking to animal control

officers and the Health of Animals Branch of the government, he felt the matter had been handled well, and the present process needs no change.

According to a letter from District Veterinarian of the Health of Animals Branch in Brampton, the animal control officer should determine if there has been any human or other animal contact with the animal suspected of rabies. If so the branch

should be notified at once. If there has been human involvement the process in the lab in Ottawa is speeded up, and the number of possible contacts told to the medical officer of health so enough anti-rabies vaccine is on hand.

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