

# Council ducks Section 86 issue

Halton Hills council ducked the issue of property assessment and tax reform through Section 86 again this week. However, they did decide Monday to reopen debate on the issue in the future.

Last year council decided not to opt for Section 86, but set up a study committee which reviewed the present form of assessment and proposed reform for eight months before bringing in a report in January. Both councillors and citizens sat on the committee.

The report was deferred a couple of times earlier this year for further study of equalized assessment.

It was to be discussed next week at general committee, but at the urging of Mayor Peter Pomeroy it was moved up to the Monday night agenda. Pomeroy said it was possibly the most important issue council will decide this term and wanted to be in attendance for the debate. He said he wouldn't be able to attend on March 9 and so wanted Section 86 on the agenda for the March 2 meeting.

However, both he and Councillor John McDonald were absent Monday night.

Monday night council passed a motion from

The-Lake. He thought some experts should be invited who could give the pro Section 86 picture.

He urged the issue be deferred until the committee can arrange for council to hear more presentations.

Grubbe, who was against delaying the debate, noted it was the mayor who asked for the subject to be discussed Monday night and then wasn't in attendance. She said there was no guarantee there'd ever be a full council to discuss Section 86, adding "let's go ahead and do it."

Section 86 is "ridiculous" Councillor Mike Armstrong said, adding he hasn't heard from anyone who thinks it's "great." He said Halton Hills should be waiting until Section 86 has been in place in Milton for five years so its impact can be properly judged.

He predicted that no matter which party wins the provincial election Section 86 will be shoved "down the throats" of municipalities. He urged Halton Hills let "sleeping dogs lie."

Both councillors Harry Levy and Walter Blehn said Section 86 couldn't be debated at such a late hour, past 10 p.m.

Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson said the problems with Section 86 always seem to come down to poor work by assessors and urged when the issue is debated council hear from assessors who say everything is set to go in Halton Hills to see if the same mistakes have been made here that were made elsewhere.

Whiting said if the issue is reopened then maybe council will hear public input and Armstrong said the press has been doing a good job of informing the public about Section 86. Miller observed it must have been something important that kept the mayor away from the meeting.

Serjeantson, Whiting, Knechtel, Levy, Blehn and Grubbe all voted to reopen the Section 86 debate.

A motion to defer the issue until more presentations can be arranged lost followed by the passing of a motion from Knechtel and Grubbe calling for the minister of revenue to implement equalized assessment through Section 86 for 1982.

Blehn then urged the issue of implementation be deferred and that passed with only Grubbe opposed.

She said she was disappointed council ducked the issue since councillors were supposed to come prepared for discussion.

Grubbe said she hopes everyone comes to the meeting when it is to be discussed again, that there are lots of presentations and the meeting starts at 3 p.m., so councillors can't avoid the subject by saying it is too late at night to make a decision. No new date for debate of Section 86 was set.

Councillor Russ Miller said while there has been considerable study and discussion of Section 86 he and some citizen members of the special committee feel more is needed.

He also felt the debate should be held off until all councillors are present.

Council could keep delaying the issue forever waiting for everyone to be present, acting mayor Roy Booth warned.

Knechtel said he was disturbed that after eight months of study council has received just one presentation, and a biased one at that from people in Niagara-On-

the-Lake. He thought some experts should be invited who could give the pro Section 86 picture.

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## Chamber directory coming along well

Work is progressing on the 1981 Acton Chamber of Commerce directory. Students in Acton High School's grade 12 urban geography program have been out for a month now contacting all businesses, including in-home sole proprietorships, obtaining needed information.

Any business which hasn't been contacted should call Chamber official Charlie Auger at 853-0834 or 853-1960 or Murray Killmer at the high school, 853-2920.

The directory will contain information about local businesses, community groups, churches, recreation etc.

As well the directory will have a Leathertown theme, with articles about the local industry and photographs of old Acton.

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## Knox Ladies' Aid Helen Steiner Rice's poems discussed

Several catering events in the spring were named by Mrs. H. Murray, president at Knox Ladies' Aid meeting last Tuesday.

Her opening poem was "The Legacy". Roll call was answered by "A Famous Landmark".

March Sundays will be supervised by the ladies at the Friendship Hour. Some projects will have Mrs. C. Armstrong, and Mrs. S. Chiasson as convenors, who will seem more information.

The devotional period was taken by Mrs. D.S. Morrison reading the scripture and Mrs. W.J. McIntyre leading in prayer. Mrs. Murray gave

her "Thought for the Day", and a reading.

A sketch of the life of Helen Steiner Rice, whose birthplace was in Lorain, Ohio, was given by Mrs. J.C. Dennis, and some of her beautiful poems read. For 42 years she was editor on the staff of Gibson Art Co., famous producers of every-day cards.

A humorous reading entitled "A Mother's letter to her son" was given by Mrs. Armstrong.

Winners in a contest conducted by Mrs. A. Near were Mrs. W. Kennedy and Mrs. S. Chiasson. Mrs. C.M. Davidson was Courtesy Convenor.

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## Decision reversed 130 ft. tower approved

Halton Hills council, changed its mind Monday night and approved the Union Gas communication tower at Speyside, reversing a decision of planning board last Wednesday.

Jim Lovett, of Union Gas, said the company have never had a problem locating a tower before. He said the 130 foot tower would serve 10,306 customers in the Acton, Milton and Georgetown area, and stressed it would increase safety measures.

He explained it would be a self-supporting tower with no wires, and pointed out the trees in the area are over 50 feet high so the tower would not be too evident from any distance.

Commenting on a suggestion by Councillor

Dave Whiting made last week, where he urged a mobile telephone system instead, Lovett said the Bell would have to put in a tower to operate it. He refuted claims there would be no benefits to rural residents, by pointing out the company pays \$35,000 in taxes for its pipe line in the area.

Councillors Pam Sheldon and George Malby put forward a motion rejecting the tower.

Councillor Ross Knechtel said he opposed the motion and pointed out the planning department recommendation would probably result in Ontario Municipal Board approval. "It will bounce right back in our face," Sheldon repeated her earlier opposition on grounds of the visual

impact and her fears that one more tower, added to the present two, in Speyside, would make the area the logical location for any other towers deemed necessary. She said residents of the area were of the same opinion.

Councillor Terry Grubbe asked if the writers of four letters of objection lived within 400 feet, and how many were property owners.

Deputy Planner Bruce MacLean said none of the objectors were within 400 feet, and three of them were property owners.

"I understand one is a 14 year old," said Grubbe.

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**Property Tax Credit**

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This credit returns a portion of money paid in provincial retail sales tax. It is based on personal exemptions and taxable income. The maximum amount that may be claimed for Property and Sales Tax Credits is \$500.

**Political Contribution Tax Credit**

This credit may be claimed by Ontario residents who contributed to a registered Ontario political party, constituency association or candidate in an Ontario provincial election.

This claim applies if your provincial tax payable is more than your Property and Sales Tax Credits.

The maximum Political Contribution Tax Credit that may be claimed is \$500.

**Attention Senior Citizens!**

The Ontario Tax Grants introduced in 1980 replace Ontario Property and Sales Tax Credits for residents who were 65 years or older as of December 31, 1980. If you are filing a federal income tax return, you should not complete the Ontario Tax Credit form unless you are claiming the Political Contribution Tax Credit.

**Nursing Home Residents**

Residents in nursing homes and similar institutions are not usually eligible to claim the Property Tax Credit or the Property Tax Grant.

For more information or copies of the Ontario Tax Credit Guide, call the Ministry of Revenue's toll-free Information Centre:

- In Metro Toronto - dial 965-8470
- In Area Code 807 - ask the Operator for Zenith-8-2000
- In all other areas - dial 1-800-268-7121

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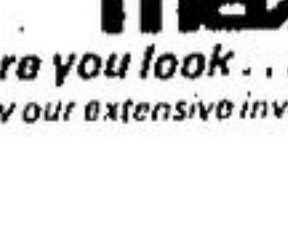
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