

Vote '81

Chris Cutler

A full open inquiry into the financial woes of Halton region is needed along with a complete review of regional government according to Halton-Burlington New Democratic Party candidate Chris Cutler.

It's time individuals and ratepayer groups from throughout Halton had some say about regional government 20-year-old Cutler, the youngest member of the provincial executive of the NDP, says.

Only an inquiry in the "full light of day" will determine what has gone so wrong at the region. Cutler says he has found many Halton residents, including hundreds in Halton Hills, "who want to be heard about the region."

The inquiry shouldn't look just at the deficit, which under the Municipal Act Cutler says the region shouldn't be allowed to have, but also the "rationalization" behind the Halton region structure.

With Halton growing so fast the New Democrats feel there should be some form of regional government here, but also believe some powers should be returned to the local level where they are better handled.

The "democratic process" is being short-circuited in Halton without a full inquiry, the NDP candidate warns. "Only the People of Halton can determine what they need and want. They feel drastic changes are needed and only by allowing them input will their concerns be alleviated. Maybe only an inquiry could ever determine just how large the deficits are."

Another local issue he's hearing a lot about is property tax assessment reform. Property taxes



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are a "fundamental issue" and seem to bother people even more than regional government.

New Democrats are concerned about the "wise" lower and middle income families are being caught in, between declining real income and rising property taxes.

The first step the NDP would take to solve the property tax problem would be to introduce an Education Tax Reduction of 15 per cent. In turn the NDP would increase provincial support for education from 45 per cent to 60 per cent which should result in an immediate reduction in local tax bills.

"We would eliminate market value assessment, which taxes people unfairly on unrealized property values, and introduce Economic Value Assessment. This would be a fair assessment based on rental incomes and rents would still be controlled, further holding down the local tax bite," Cutler explained.

The third part of the NDP's property tax reform package would be a Normal Property Development Grant to help both homeowners and renters whose incomes are below \$30,000.

Cutler noted their plan is the only one which takes into account renters pay property taxes indirectly. Anyone earning less than \$10,000 wouldn't pay property taxes and renters would receive a rebate.

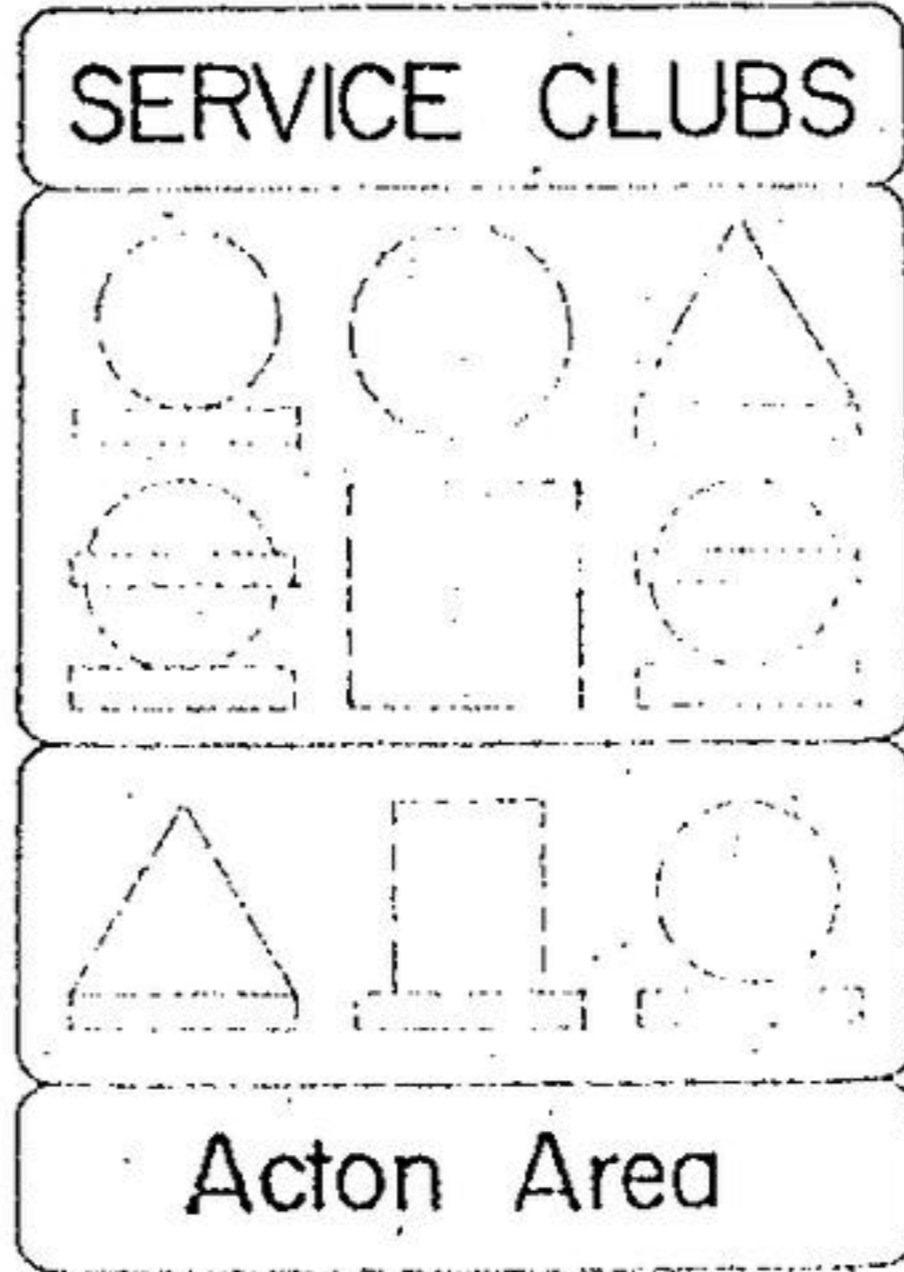
Everyone earning between \$10,000 and \$30,000 would receive relief, the amount decreasing as income increases.

New Democrats want to "warm up Ontario" by promoting energy conservation in the home and also boost the economy by setting up crown corporations to get into the growing alternate energy industry.

Cutler says the NDP wants to send out house doctors to look at every Ontario home and determine for homeowners where they are suffering heat leakage.

Then, through Ontario Hydro an NDP government would provide utility customers with loans to make improvements at just 5 per cent interest. The NDP figures people opting for these improvements would realize a 50 per cent immediate return on their investment. People would pay the loans back through their electrical bills.

New entrance signs examined



a proposal for new entrance signs in Halton Hills for the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Peter Pomeroy.

The first set of entrance signs are white with welcome to the Acton Area, Town of Halton Hills printed on them and the town coat of arms. Acton Area will be in larger letters.

The second signs have space for nine logos with Service Clubs printed at the top and Acton Area at the bottom.

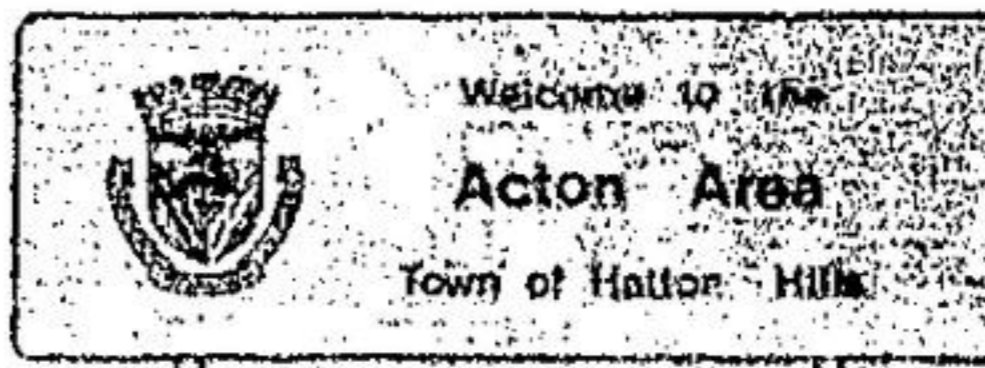
Ed Wood noted the town has been trying to get entrance signs approved by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications for several years without success. The province has very strict regulations regarding what type of signs they will allow and previous designs haven't met ministry criteria.

Now signs which will be uniform throughout Halton Hills but maintain local identity have been developed and they appear to meet provincial requirements.

There were entrance signs up around Acton before the province had regulations, but they deteriorated and ideas for new ones weren't approved, Paul Nielsen noted.

Clipsham suggested the two sets of signs, with the Halton Hills sign going first and the service club sign following, should be up at Highway 7 and Lakeview Ave., Highway 7 at Churchill Rd., and on Highway 25 north and south of Acton.

The ministry even determines the signs must be on 4 by 4 posts and three-quarters of an



inch plywood.

He said he was sure Halton Hills could get approval for the signs even though stating Acton Area isn't covered in the ministry sign manual. He added there is nothing to cover an amalgamated regional municipality in the manual.

Cost estimates are needed for the service club signs, which three years ago cost \$600 each, Clipsham said.

Some service club members were concerned about the costs for the signs, noting paying for a service club will take money away from community work.

He pointed out the town will own and maintain the signs and the municipality must apply to the province for sign permits. Clipsham added Halton Hills will likely contribute to the cost of the signs.

Clipsham said he expects the welcome to

Acton Area municipal sign could be up as soon as two months from now.

Several people suggested Halton Hills should pay for the welcome sign and Councilor Ross Knechtel, noting he was only speaking for himself, felt the town "could and should" pay for the welcome sign.

However, he felt it would be hard, with the budget almost set, to secure municipal funds for the service club signs this year. At the same time Knechtel suggested the town would likely contribute to the service club signs in 1982.

ABC spokesman Bill Coats said he'd rather see the Leathertown logo on the welcome sign as opposed to the Halton Hills coat of arms.

Clipsham said the Leathertown logo could go on the service club sign, but would never be approved by the province for the welcome sign.

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Resident says

Churchill N. stop signs result in more speeding

The stop signs put on Churchill Rd. North last year to reduce speeding has resulted in motorists driving faster according to an Acton area resident who has travelled the street for over 50 years.

William Dobbie, RR 2, Acton, attended Friday's councillors' drop-in and discussed the stop signs with Dave Whiting and Russ Miller.

The stop signs were put up after residents went to

both the drop-in and council several times complaining about speeding. At homeowners' insistence council finally agreed to put up the two stop signs because residents said it was the only thing which would slow traffic. A police survey confirmed there was speeding, but most councillors would have preferred to see more police enforcement of the lowered speed limit.

rather than stop signs which engineering studies show don't really work.

Dobbie, a former regional roads department worker, says stop signs are expensive and the ones on Churchill Rd. North were just a waste of taxpayers' money. They also cause cars, trucks and school buses to waste gas.

He has been travelling Churchill Rd. North since 1929, Dobbie said, and before the stop signs went up most drivers he followed were going 30 to 33 miles an hour.

However, since the stop signs went up last year he says he has seen speeds increase. Now most drivers he follows are going between 35 and 40 miles an hour between the signs to make up time.

Dobbie believes drivers got used to

getting home in a certain length of time and have started driving faster because the signs cost them travelling time.

He told the councillors the safety hazard on Churchill Rd. North wasn't the speeders, but children who aren't "educated" properly about the dangers of being on the road.

Dobbie noted he sees children regularly walking three and four abreast on both sides of the street. "That's (children walking on the road) the real problem."

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Quarterama wins

Two local lads won honors at Quarterama, Canada's largest annual Quarterhorse show held recently at the CNE Coliseum.

Jim Miller and Roger Moore, Acton's teens, came home with ribbons after the five day event which attracted thousands of entries from all over the continent.

Jim Miller, 19, representing the Youth Team for Ontario won the youth barrels class of the Canadian Youth Tournament putting Ontario in the lead. Jim copped 12 of the 50 points Ontario needed to win the tourney.

Riding Smoke Mister B, Jim also pulled a third in Team Tournament pole bending and fourth in the stake race.

Jim is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Miller of

Whispering Pines Training Stable, R.R. 3, Acton. Roger Moore, 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Moore of R.R. 4 Acton, entered youth games and won fifth in pickup race and seventh in youth barrels out of an estimated 30 entries. Roger rode his Quarter mare Poco Tan Joe.

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