

AHS students strut their own creations



2.6 per cent of taxes cover part of deficit

Covering the \$451,238 deficit rolled up over the past four years in the region's operating budget will only eat up 2.6 per cent of Halton's total 1981 tax levy.

The remainder of the over \$1.1 million deficit piled up between 1977 and the end of 1980, \$723,533, is in the sewer account and will be recovered through increased water and sewer charges to customers.

Of the total region budget of about \$1 billion only \$17.2 million comes from local regional tax levies.

Halton Regional Police take the largest chunk of the tax dollars raised across Halton, 48.8 per cent. Five per cent goes to conservation authorities and two per cent to children's aid. All three areas aren't under the direct control of regional council.

Halton is planning considerable road reconstruction this year and that's reflected by the 11.8 per cent increase in

taxes for public works. Also a number of changes are being made in the treasury department, including staff increases, and that's shown in the 11.3 per cent tax hike for general government spending.

Reserve funds were used last year to help reduce the region's deficits. This year 2.3 per cent of taxes will be used to replace the 1980 reserve fund and another 2.3 per cent of taxes will be for 1981 reserves. Taxes are going up 2.2 per cent for health services, 2.4 per cent for hospital debts, 3.2 per cent for welfare, 0.6 per cent for day care, 1.6 per cent for grants to organizations, 2.1 per cent for Halton Manor operations, 1 per cent for recreation and cultural programs and 3.2 per cent for the planning and business development departments.

Acton's regional councillor Dave Whiting says "I'm told there won't be more region

deficits this year" because for the first time in several years the audit of the previous year's books was done before the budget was set. Therefore all the deficits should be properly carried over and covered in the 1981 budget.

He warns there could still be shortfalls because of departments going over budget or revenue shortfalls in the sewer account, but those kinds of problems will be explainable and more easily solved.

Whiting says the region has been "unknowingly" deficit financing for four years now.

W.I. annual in Acton

The District Woman's Institute annual meeting for Halton will be held at Knox Presbyterian Church in Acton on May 21. The Dublin W.I. is hosting the event and the theme is "Consider the Disabled." A bake-off will be held for lemon loaf and plain maple cream candy.

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