

Shortfall

Region readies for surprise deficit

The Region's finance department is preparing a plan of action because of possible budget problems for 1982, amounting to a more than \$1 million budget variance.

The problem has been caused largely by revenue shortfalls from the Province for daycare and the Halton Centennial Manor. The shortfalls amount to \$950,000.

The impact of the provincial budget will also take a toll on the Region's finances to the tune of \$60,000, through OHIP increases and sales tax on building materials and labor for maintenance.

A further \$93,500 shortage is possible in the roads system, because of a \$40,000 overexpenditure in winter maintenance during last winter's severe weather, as well as a washout on Maple Avenue in Georgetown which will cost the Region \$53,500 in repairs.

Dennis Perlin, Halton's chief administrative officer, told the administration and finance

committee last week that there are cutbacks strategies already in place in the areas of daycare and the home for the aged.

He said that regional staff is working with staff members from the ministry of community and social services. The Region hopes that part, if not all, of the \$950,000 shortfall will be made up by the Province.

"The daycare can be handled, but the Manor is extremely difficult," said Perlin, explaining that the Halton Centennial Manor budget has been examined by provincial staff, but they can find nothing wrong with it.

Discussions with the Province will continue this week.

The \$93,500 shortage in the road systems is being examined by the public works director—Bob Moore. He is re-evaluating the road maintenance budget to identify areas where adjustments

might be made to offset the overexpenditure in winter maintenance.

He and his staff will also explore alternative methods of funding the Maple Avenue repairs, possibly through the use of residual funds from completed "work-in-progress" projects.

The committee also approved a recommendation to request an increase in the 1982 transfer payments from the Province to the local governments and school boards, to compensate for the cost increases caused by OHIP rates and the removal of sales tax exemptions included in the 1982 provincial budget.

The net impact of the provincial budget on the Region is estimated at \$60,600 for 1982, increasing to between \$149,800 and \$177,800 in 1983.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is also objecting strongly to the 1982 provincial budget.

"The action of the treasurer of Ontario with respect to the collection of new and additional provincial revenues from local governments is most annoying and frustrating," states the AMO report in Halton Region.

"The 1982 budget indicates a complete lack of understanding or appreciation for local initiatives towards fiscal accountability, and even more importantly, to the ability of Ontario's municipal governments to generate the required new revenues, particularly at this point in the municipal fiscal year. It would seem that the Government of Ontario has forgotten that its own legislation prohibits local governments from 'deficit financing'," the report states.

The discussion of the finance report at the committee meeting finally prompted Oakville Councillor Peter Arch to conclude that Halton is "once again getting the shaft from the Province."



Town Clerk Ken Richardson

Top man on Town totem

Elected officials come and go at the whim of the electorate, but the Town staff who keep the wheels turning remain.

A series on the various department heads will introduce them and their responsibilities to the readers. This week we start with the top man, Clerk Administrator Ken Richardson.

Harry Truman said it first, "the buck stops here," and that could describe Clerk Administrator Ken Richardson's job. He's the top man on the Town staff, and in the end responsible for all departments down the line.

An unassuming chap, Ken is a Norval native, who attended Georgetown high school when J.L. Lambert was principal.

There's nothing too glamorous about a clerk's department but it is the hub of Town business, where reports and information from planning, engineering, treasury and building departments are coordinated, and recommendations made to council.

The Clerk Administrator is a bit touchy about citizens thinking the bureaucrats run the Town. He insists his department after consultation with the others only recommend but council makes the decisions. "If we see something we feel needs changing we will make a recommendation, but as often as not our recommendations are rejected by council."

Richardson emphasizes he simply implements the elected officials' decisions.

It's in the clerk's department the reams of paper such as minutes of council and committee meetings, reports, and copies of all correspondence to council, as well as Committee of Adjustment, Site Plan Review and Land Division Committee are produced.

But it's not all dull. Licences are issued from here, this includes strippers, or adult entertainment, as it more discreetly known, as well as raffles, bingo, arcades, pool halls and taxis.

"We even check taxi meters on a regular basis," says Ken.

He would like to see his department as the first contact with the people who would come to the Trafalgar Road building if they need help. "We'll tell them where to go, to get help that is," he quickly adds. "If they want welfare, if they have a noise or building problem, come to us first and we'll point them in the right direction." After all we are the coordinators for the citizens.

Most bylaws are now prepared right in the clerk's department, with legal advice only when necessary. All agreements and submissions to the Ontario Municipal Board, ministries, government agencies are also done in house, but if a hearing is called the lawyers get into the act.

Ken is also responsible for negotiations with the Town workers' union CUPE, after receiving guidelines from council," he stresses.

Budgets too come under his scrutiny. From preparation time, when all departments submit their proposed spending to him right through to a monthly monitoring of spending compared to the budget figure.

If that's not enough for one man to do, he wears another hat. In this job council has no authority over him. At election time he is the Returning Officer for the Town and must obtain poll clerks, DRO's, polling stations, nominations and vote tally. Much of this job is handled by Deputy Clerk Delmar French, says Ken.

Municipal employees are not noted for going out on a limb, but Richardson is willing to state the amalgamation of Acton, Georgetown and Esquevas has been beneficial to the taxpayers. "Without the larger tax base doubt if Georgetown could have afforded the reconstruction of Guelph Street, or Acton afford the improvements at Lakeview subdivision or the Main Street South repairs."

Asked if the six per cent guidelines should extend to municipal employees, he said he wonders if it's fair to cover only one sector of wage earners.

He stoutly defends the Town's financial position pointing out no new debenture debt has been incurred for years, and stresses the Town portion of taxes has increased much less than the region's or the board of education.

Ken, his wife Wendy, also a Georgetown native, the daughter of Ev and Jack Saunders and three children live in Belfountain, where he settled when he was city coordinator for Brampton before coming to Halton Hills.

A \$4,000 boost

Plans for a Halton-wide United Way campaign got a \$4,000 boost from the Region's health and social services committee recently.

Acting on a committee recommendation, council approved paying that grant to the campaign organizers who hope to have a region-wide drive in 1983.

newsmakers

Georgetown / Acton, Wednesday, August 18, 1982

Region briefs

Protest increase

Halton Region is objecting to Bell Canada's bid to increase telephone service rates next year unless Bell agrees to extend service to remove long-distance charges within the region and to Toronto.

Halton Council's Administration and Finance Committee approved a move to file an intervention with the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission objecting to the rate increase. Bell's proposal originally called for a service increase of 25 per cent for residential service and 35 per cent for businesses. However, one councillor notes that the federal government has advised Bell to stick to the six-and-five per cent guideline established under a voluntary restraint program.

Low bid favored

One Halton regional councillor is disturbed that major construction contracts are going to companies outside Halton Region.

The latest is a \$308,810 road resurfacing contract nabbed by Graham Bros. Construction Ltd. of Brampton, the low bidder.

Second lowest bidder was an Oakville construction firm, Genstar Stone Products.

Oakville Councillor Keith Bird noted at the region's Administration and Finance Committee meeting last week that the two bids were only \$400 apart. "I thought we had passed a motion at one time to try to deal locally when we could," Bird pointed out.

No Garden grant

A supplementary grant request from the Royal Botanical Gardens has been rejected by Halton Region.

The RBG board of directors had asked Regional council to provide an extra \$5,000 above the 1982 grant of \$150,000.

Grant restrictions have caused revenue problems for the Gardens but Halton councillors rejected the request, fearing the precedent that might be perceived by other groups receiving Regional grants.

Pay own way

Halton residents living on welfare will have to continue buying their own car and life insurance.

Regional councillors recently approved a health and social services committee resolution rejecting the idea of the Region providing that coverage.

Councillors had wondered if there would be any financial advantage to providing such insurance through group policies, but social services director Debbie Oakley said welfare is supposed to be a short-term type of assistance, while insurance would be a long-term commitment.

System reviewed

Halton's budget setting process and committee system are going to come under review at two special meetings of Regional council to be held later this year.

The budget setting process will be the subject of a special meeting called for Aug. 18. A special meeting Sept. 22 will deal with the council and executive structure of the Region.

Both special meetings will start in the morning, before regular sessions slated for the afternoon.

Energy reduction

A program to monitor, and hopefully reduce, Halton Region's energy bill as been given approval in principle by Regional Council.

Halton's program is operating under the municipal energy audit program started by the provincial government.

Planned to take three years, the program is currently in the stage conducting an audit of Halton's energy use. Recommendations on how that use can be changed will be made following the audit.



Acton and Georgetown children and their parents gathered Saturday afternoon at Cedarvale Park in Georgetown for the Salvation Army picnic. They really enjoyed this 20 foot banana split, ingredients donated by Acton IGA. The children and adults pictured here are: Shelly Hillier, Cory Edison, Crystal Hillier, Jannene Vale, Stacy Hillier, Charlotte Hillier, Angela Bridge, Michael Noseworthy, Debbie Swadell, Debbie Patey, Darryl Noseworthy, David Patey, Trevor Marsh, Elaine Marsh, Meredith Pehure, Roy Stuckless, Sheldon

Stuckless, Stephan Braull, Grant Rowse, Martin Pehure, Marty Chasson, Tripa Vale, Envoy and Mrs. Douglas Vale, Raymond and Doris Stuckless, Steve and Lorna Thompson, Ed and Brenda Hillier, Dan and Verley Hillier, Reg and Marlene Marsh, Bill and Sandra Patey, Dan and Alice Noseworthy, Cecil and Phyllis Stuckless, Tom and Alfreda Stuckless, Junior and Anne Rowse, Oswald and Glinny Edison, Benita Edison, Brian Hillier, Doreen Marsh and Mary Pehure.

Collision kills cyclist on Sixth Line

A 21-year-old Georgetown man is dead following a motorcycle accident last Wednesday afternoon.

Kalvin Ferguson of 77 Ewing St. died Wednesday evening at Toronto General Hospital of injuries suffered when the motorcycle he was riding collided with a car on the Sixth Line just south of Waterfalls Park. The accident occurred around 2:30 in the afternoon, according to Halton Police reports. Mr. Ferguson was apparently heading south on the Sixth Line when he collided with a northbound vehicle driven by Brian O'Connor of R.R. 1, Norval.

Mr. Ferguson was rushed to Peel Memorial Hospital, and subsequently transferred to Toronto General.

Four members are returning

Four Niagara Escarpment Commission members whose terms of office were to be terminated were reinstated recently in a decision by the Ontario Cabinet.

Maryon Brechin, Robert Bateman, Dr. Ray Lowes and Anna McArthur will continue as members of the commission. They had been scheduled to complete their terms of office this summer so that new appointments could be made in August.

A press release from CONE, Coalition of the Niagara Escarpment, calls the re-instatement of the four members a victory, since, according to CONE president Lyn MacMillan, these four are the most pro-conservationist of all the commissioners.

inside this section

Prominent businessman and Shorthorn breeder Stewart Bennett died at his Scotsdale Farm home last week at age 90. Page B2
Halton Regional Police are joining the dig at Crawford Lake to develop their detection skills. Page B6
Smiley says it was a quiet summer until his grandkids arrived. then Page B7
Fourth Line reconstruction will not mean another gravel haul route, Mayor Pomeroy says. Page B8

Agricrews sow seeds to help farm labor

by Jane Muller

Halton farmers kept two four-member Agricrews busy this summer doing everything from harvesting to rebuilding barns.

Sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agricrews are hired for a period from one to five days for \$90 a day. Halton students comprised two crews which were in much demand since they began the temporary farm labor program June 21.

However, the success of the program has convinced Agricrew coordinator Patricia McCabe that at least one more crew could be utilized in Halton and more advertising could have reached more farmers.

"The Province should sponsor more advertising. More farmers would use it if they knew about Agricrew," she said.

Along with coordinating two Halton and one Peel crews' activities, Miss McCabe attended farm meetings and displayed posters in feed stores and other locations where farmers could see them and learn of the service available to them. Her

methods of publicizing Agricrews must have paid off as the three crews only missed one day this summer and that was due to rain.

When the program first started, Miss McCabe was concerned about getting enough inside work for rainy days but, with just three days left in the program, there have been no problems finding bad weather jobs.

The Agricrew coordinator recruited students between the ages of 15 and 23 to make up the farm labor teams and discovered some of those she hired found they weren't cut out for the type of work.

"It's hard to find kids willing to work for the minimum wage," Miss McCabe suggests.

She was able to hire replacements to fill the demand for local farm labor.

Dean Ingle is just one of many farmers who was able to make use of the provincial government's Agricrew program. It was the first year the vegetable producers hired an Agricrew and he said the students did "a pretty good job."

Earlier in the season

he hired a crew to weed fields of vegetables and recently had them return to harvest corn bound for farmer's markets in Milton, Weston and Snelgrove.

"We've done a lot of different jobs," said David Gourlay, an Agricrew foreman.

The 18-year-old Georgetown youth and his fellow crew mem-

bers did a lot of haying this summer as well as fence building and barn repairs.

"I really enjoy the work," explained Gourlay, who has been working on farms part-time since last fall.

The experience Dave Caffry obtained this summer as an Agricrew member will help in his efforts to become a

veterinarian. The 18-year-old Oakville resident has spent two previous summers working on farms and brought that experience with him to Agricrew.

At first Heather McTavish of Milton found providing farm labor to be extremely hard work, but the 15-year-old says she got used to it. Doing a

different job each day made the summer enjoyable for her and she found bringing in the hay was the most fun.

Agricrews will continue working in the area until August 13 but they will be back next summer during the busiest farming season of the year.



Two Halton Agricrews who have spent the last two months providing farm labor will soon be packing it in. Pete Wodams (left), Dave Gourlay, Dave

Caffry, and Heather McTavish harvest corn for Dean Ingle of Eden Mills, one of the many jobs they worked at this summer.