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Face increases

By STEVE ARNOLD

Halton residents could face stiff increases in water and sewer charges in the coming years if regional council supports a special committee recommendation against industrial lot levies.

The special review committee established to look into the question of special charges against industrial developers voted last week to recommend against establishing the levies.

After the meeting, Halton chief administrative officer Dennis Perlin said the decision would do little to solve the region's ongoing revenue problems.

The proposal being studied was to charge new industrial developers \$2,580 an acre as a share of the cost of providing regional services to the land.

An alternative, a five per cent surcharge on water and sewer bills to existing industry, was also proposed and rejected.

Both suggestions met with vehement opposition from established industry, developers and regional politicians on the committee.

Mr. Perlin said Halton has a severe problem in getting enough cash to meet the costs of its obligations. Part of the trouble, he said, started when many new water production and sewage treatment facilities were built for a wave of development which did not materialize.

That left the region with many facilities which are underused and highly in debt from debentures sold to pay for their construction.

Municipalities, he explained, have few choices in financing the costs of new development.

Near limit

Money can be borrowed through debentures, the costs can be collected directly from current taxpayers or developers can "front end" the entire cost and collect later from new developments.

Halton is currently very near the maximum limit of debenture debt established by the Ontario Municipal Board, so without lot levies, the only option is to collect the money from existing taxpayers.

"Now we will be looking at water and sewer rate increases at least in the teens for a longer time than we had hoped," Mr. Perlin said.

The special committee's recommendation will go to the administration and finance

committee and then to regional council for a final decision.

Council approved the levies before the November municipal election, but the new council shelved the plan pending the special committee review.

Developer arguments against the proposal have centred on a specially-commissioned consultant's study concluding the region reaps a \$700 per acre "profit" from industrial land because it gains more in taxes from such owners than it spends on services.

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz argued against the charges, saying industrial development is needed for a healthy economy and a special levy now would only hamper an already crippled industry.

As one factor, he noted if there are not jobs in a community, the welfare requirement can be expected to rise "and that comes right off property taxes."

Small cost

Other studies carried out by the development industry have concluded the cost to homeowners of new industrial development amounts to slightly more than \$1.50 on their taxbills.

Halton Hills Mayor Peter Pomeroy said that fact alone was enough to oppose a new charge.

"It isn't just the development industry that is opposed to this imposition," he said. "I haven't received one call from a taxpayer objecting to the cost of supporting industrial development."

"People seem to think we're out of our skulls to be putting in something that's going to put us in an uncompetitive position," he added.

Mr. Krantz noted Milton already has a stiff industrial lot levy, "but we are reviewing it and we may reduce it or do away with it."

"Five years ago you could ask developers for the sky and get away with it, but now the whole ball game has changed," he said.

Suggestion reward

A program to save money by rewarding regional employees who show creativity and initiative has been approved by Halton's administration and finance committee.

Committee members agreed last week to endorse the plan put forward by chief administrative officer Dennis Perlin.

In his report to the committee, Mr. Perlin said the plan would cost a maximum of \$25,000 in the first year, but suggestions in other areas have saved more than that.

"The reward system has a way of making people think about improvements they wouldn't normally make," he told committee members in outlining the plan.

The program, if approved by regional council, would be administered by a Suggestion Awards Committee and would start in the late fall of this year.

Any employee below supervisory rank would be eligible for an award under the scheme for suggestions which make better use of resources or reduce hazards on the job for regional employees.

"At the supervisory level we're saying it's a part of their job," Mr. Perlin said adding a program of cash awards was being suggested "because we've tried suggestion boxes before and found that unless we offer some reward we're not going to get anything worthwhile."

Awards in 1983, if approved, would be paid out of surplus funds from the budget. If there is no surplus, money will be set aside in the 1984 budget.

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The Stewarttown School team of Jim Manning, Jimmy Clark, Jody Klymak and Bobby Sun, captured the North Halton Quiz Kids championship, this week beating Centennial School in the finals, with a score of 380 to 225.

Volunteers McGibbon subject

By JANE MULLER
Staff Writer

Who could be better qualified to outline the changing role of volunteers than a woman who has been performing such a service for 40 years?

The Honorable Pauline McGibbon, former lieutenant-governor of Ontario thought it appropriate to address the subject at the Hillcrest Women's Institute's Annual Daffodil Luncheon as its members are volunteers.

"The role of volunteers is being recognized as the public becomes more aware," Mrs. McGibbon explained to a group of about 200 women.

When she began volunteering in 1933, just after she graduated from university, the need was great and economic times dictated those who did not need to work for pay didn't.

"In the early days, government was not as involved in social welfare as it is today," she recalled.

She reminded the crowd Thursday afternoon, "the health of a democratic society is measured by the contributions of individual citizens."

The former lieutenant-governor has held a number of Volunteer positions, including her current contributions as a member of the research committees at Women's College Hospital and Mount Sinai Institute and as board member for Massey Hall and Roy Thompson Hall.

this country's volunteers are men.

Agencies requiring volunteers have had to "take a critical look at the ways they utilize volunteers' talents," she suggested.

This need, a result of the time a volunteer has to offer becoming more precious as they join the work force, is a reflection of another change in their role.

The acceptance of seniors citizens as valuable volunteers is a third change being developed in the 1980s. Mrs. McGibbon said, using herself as an example.

"We must break down the stereotype view of seniors at the receiving end of welfare services," she said.

She added, "I'm glad to say we are beginning to benefit from the experiences of our senior citizens but we still have a long way to go."

She stressed the value of training received by volunteers and the learning experience the actual task brings about. The benefit of working with others toward a common goal, forming new friendships and recognition of the individual were other positive points highlighted by the speaker.

"Working as a volunteer you are a person, you are recognized and valued as a person. There is a power of one, if you put your mind, heart and soul into the job," she said.

Encouragement was the key to Mrs. McGibbon's words which she concluded by saying, "never say I'm just a volunteer. Be proud."

Many honors

Her achievements are many and varied. She holds 17 degrees from universities in Canada and the United States as well as 16 awards, medals and fellowships. She is the first woman to hold five particular positions in the business world. Of eight positions in education and six in the military, half were firsts for a woman.

One of her greatest involvements is with the Canadian art world, in which Mrs. McGibbon has held 14 positions in the past and present. She is also an associate with St. John Ambulance and is a member of the advisory committee of the Order of Canada.

She admits several of her positions have been paying jobs and such contributions should not be considered as volunteering.

As a qualified volunteer, however, Mrs. McGibbon brought to light three areas of definite change relating to the volunteers of the 80s.

"Men are at long last being recognized as concerned and giving volunteers. Volunteers are not women in a flowered hat and a white blouse," she said of the changing identity.

Men, even as early pioneers, gave of their time to benefit their community, according to Mrs. McGibbon who said 46 per cent of

Mother's Day

Good Mothers, leading stars in demand; They can ruin or build the land.

Mothers who can lead with pride, Give their lives to act as guides.

Faithful Mothers, love and trust, To their children are a must.

Live a life that's good and true, Remember Mothers want you to.

She gave her love and care to you, Make her proud, the best you can do.

If you can't be great, do no harm, Winds and storms are better calm.

When the day comes and Mother's gone, You're all alone, but must go on.

Think of Mother's love and care, Or you won't get anywhere.

Future Mothers of this changing day, Led by good Mothers of yesterday.

Albert Brooks
Halton Hills

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Get more than hot water with a gas water heater. Switch to a natural gas rental water heater when converting your home heating off-oil (order before June 30) and Union Gas will rebate our company-approved installer up to \$90 towards the cost of your water heater installation. And we'll give you a free, wallet-sized Sharp calculator, too. This offer is also available to Union Gas home heating customers now using an electric water heater, who decide to replace their old gas furnace now. Depending on its size, the monthly rental on your new gas water heater from Union Gas could be as little as \$3.25.

Our lowest-cost off-oil option now costs \$50 less. If your old oil furnace is up to it, keep it and just replace its oil burner with one fuelled by natural gas. With the \$50 trade-in Union Gas is offering for old oil burners, a \$265 gas conversion burner will cost you \$215 plus installation, when ordered by June 30. What's more, the Federal Government, through COSP, will rebate half the conversion cost. So our lowest-cost off-oil option could cost you about \$500 or less.

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