

# the HERALD

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Home Newspaper of Halton Hills



JENNIFER HOLMES plays with plasticine while spending the day at Georgetown's first, private home Day Care Centre. Some of the activities the children take part in at the home of Sharon Ledger are crafts, paintings and dally outside playing.

## Means mill rate increase

# Education costs up 17.5 percent

Education in Halton is a \$61 million business this year having risen 17.5 percent over last year. To the average householder in the region that rise will mean an additional 4.3 mills added to the tax bill come this fall.

Those were the vital statistics in the Halton Board of Education's 1975 budget, passed last week by the board.

While the old saying may be "We've got some good news for you and some bad news", when it came to this year's educational budget there was very little good news but plenty of bad.

About the only bright spot in the budget was the increase in provincial grants. Through legislative grant regulations revenue representing 60.33 percent was produced, compared to 59.28 in 1974.

In dollars and cents that means the province is paying \$17,937,026 for elementary schools which is an increase of \$2,808,492 over 1974 and represents 58.04 percent of the costs. In 1974 the provincial contribution amounted to 57.89 percent.

The secondary school grants are estimated to be \$19,246,549 which is an increase of \$3,493,33 over 1974, representing 62.64 percent of the total costs. In 1974 the grants represented 60.65 percent of the costs.

That leaves \$12,794,673 of the elementary school costs to be paid for by the area municipalities. Of that Georgetown will pay \$795,738 Acton, \$319,476 and Esquesing

\$508,041. As could be expected Burlington will pay the largest share of the costs, contributing \$5,425,620. Oakville will add \$4,614,263.

Halton municipalities will pay \$11,010,158 towards secondary schools. Georgetown's share is \$677,504, Acton, \$250,346 and Esquesing, \$415,746. Burlington's share of the secondary school budget is \$4,745,919 and Oakville's, \$3,965,718.

In total Georgetown residents will pay \$1,473,242 for education in 1975. Esquesing will contribute \$923,787 and Acton, \$569,822.

Breaking those millions of dollars down to the basics the board has found that providing education for each of the 30,410 elementary students in Halton costs \$1,016.25 per year. That is an increase of \$159.94 per pupil over last year, or 18.68 percent.

Total expenditure for the secondary schools, including the trainable retarded on a per pupil basis is \$1,576.37 on an average daily enrolment of 19,463. That's an increase of \$194.38 per student or 14.07 percent.

For a breakdown of the overall revenue and expenditures of the Halton Board in 1975 see the chart on page 31

## Start on Terra Cotta Inn

Construction is set to begin on the Terra Cotta Inn. The final building permit for the reconstruction of the scenic inn overlooking the Credit River has been issued by A. G. Archdekin, building inspector for Caledon Twp.

Work on the building, partially destroyed by fire last August, had been delayed, pending

the receipt of the building permit. The inn is being rebuilt by Aldon Construction Company, owned and operated by Al Sleklerko, a well known custom builder. Stron Bongard, owner of the Terra Cotta Inn, has set July 1 as a tentative opening date for the refurbished restaurant.

## Snow to decide...

# Halton or Oakville?

Jim Snow, MPP for Halton East, is expected to announce late this week which riding he will be running in come the next provincial election.

As a result of the provincial government's proposed riding boundary changes Mr. Snow's present riding of Halton East is going to be split on a north-south basis but enlarged on an east-west base.

The changes expected to receive third and final reading in the legislature late this week, will separate Oakville from the present Halton East riding and Burlington from Halton West. Oakville and Burlington will each have its own riding while the remaining part of North Halton will be combined into one, officially known as Halton.

Fran Baines, president of the Georgetown Progressive Conservative Association and vice-president of the Halton PC association, noted that Mr. Snow is still weighing the pros and cons of running either in Halton or Oakville.

She noted that while Mr. Snow lives in north Halton two-thirds of his involvement with the local riding have been through the much more populated Oakville area. His decision, she added, will likely be made late this week in conjunction with the riding split.

George Kerr, MPP for Halton West, has made it well known that he will be running in the new Burlington riding. Should Snow decide to run in Oakville the search would then be on to find a PC candidate for Halton.

"If Jim doesn't decide to run in Halton it could certainly be an interesting election," Mrs. Baines mused.

She speculated that the provincial election would not be held in late spring as has been frequently mentioned in recent weeks. A June 19 date has been mentioned in the halls of Queen's Park but the government

is still denying that a 1975 election is planned at all.

"I really can't see how anyone could hope to hold an election by late spring with all the work the boundary changes will mean for enumerators and returning officers," Mrs. Baines said.

Regardless of when the election is to be held PC officials in the new Halton riding are already gearing themselves up for one. An organizational meeting for all PCs in the new

riding has been set for Wednesday, May 7 in the Mohawk Inn (Campbellville Road, just north of Hwy. 401) beginning at 8.15.

The meeting is open to the public and party members. A constitution for the new group will be presented and officers elected.

Mrs. Baines presently very involved in the Halton East PC association, stated, however, that she would not be running for an executive post with the new body.

## Small fire engines

The possible usage of SCAT trucks in Halton Hills is under investigation by the Fire Fighters Association.

The topic was raised at Monday night's General Administration Committee meeting.

A SCAT truck is a vehicle smaller than the standard fire engine which is capable of controlling and extinguishing small fires. They can reach a fire in a shorter length of time than the larger engines. Councillor Ric Morrow questioned, "Could we review back over the years and see what percentage of fires could have been looked after by using a smaller vehicle? Could they not get to a fire quicker than a larger fire truck?"

Ken Buikema, Fire Chief for Georgetown, stated that the SCAT trucks show a great deal of promise. "Initial results from the usage of the trucks have all been favorable."

Councillor Morrow suggested that the fire chiefs from Georgetown and Acton

discuss with the Fire Fighters Association the idea of using SCAT trucks in the Halton area and hear the collective thoughts of the association and executives.

## Your Morning Smile



Now that winter has relaxed its grip on Georgetown, we can all look back at some of the more annoying moments and laugh. One such example came from a discussion at works committee. One councillor was paying tribute to Mayor Tom Hill for pushing him out of a snowbank after one late council session. A voice from the rear of the council chamber exclaimed, "What else is new? The mayor has been pushing us all around for years."

## More grants for GAMA

A formal application to the provincial government, drawn up by the recreation department, will be sent to council, applying for an increased subsidy for community recreation.

Because construction of Georgetown's new recreational facilities (the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena and the Georgetown Indoor Pool) was not completed by March 31, the municipalities are eligible for a new, increased grant.

The former grant for \$20,000 was to cover both new facilities. However, the new grant possibly available would be increased to \$130,000.

The new application is for a new grant under the Community Centres Act, which enables municipalities to receive funds for community facilities.

Application for the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena would be for a total of \$75,000 and the grant for the hall within the arena would total \$75,000 as well. Maximum grants available for this facility are \$150,000.

Another application formerly made under the same Community Centres Act for the Georgetown Indoor Pool was for \$13,000 but new eligible grants would be for a maximum of \$75,000.

## More work on arena

Recreation director Doug Collison noted at the general administration committee meeting Monday night that, "As we near completion of the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena, we're finding some things are not being done to their fullest completion."

Mr. Collison then submitted a report drawn up by staff members of the additional work needed.

It was recommended in the report that the lobby and other areas of the arena be tiled. When the contractors leave, the report notes, there will be only concrete floors.

Mr. Collison also stated that the gray block walls make the first aid room a very drab looking place. A request was then made that the walls in the first aid room be painted.

For sanitary purposes the canteen storage area was recommended for painting. This would eliminate a large amount of dust in this area.

The cost of the additional work would be approximately \$2,500. The report was approved and will now appear before council.

## Pool halls may open on Sunday

If you happen to like to shoot a game or two of pool occasionally you may have an extra day to do it on.

The town's personnel and finance committee Monday night approved a request from Mr. Rosalire Routhier, owner of Club Billiards on Georgetown's Main Street, to consider allowing the billiard hall to open on Sunday.

That approval must now be supported by town council when it comes before council as a whole, likely next Monday night.

Mr. Routhier originally requested that the hall be open on Sunday from 1 to 11 p.m., however the committee approved the hours of 1.30 to 10 p.m.

Councillor Russ Miller explained that he had no objections to the hall opening on Sunday as long as it closed at 10 o'clock. "I personally feel that it's just better to have the kids off the street on a Sunday night by 10 o'clock."

Chairman of the committee Harry Levy added his approval of the Sunday opening noting, "Sunday, irrespective of the Lord's Day Act, has become just another day for recreation, the same as any other day of the week."

Mr. Routhier, who has owned the pool hall for the past 19 months, explained that

since taking over its operation he and his wife had "cleaned the place up. There are no drugs and no liquor allowed on the premises...The kids who are there are good ones." He and his wife, he added, are always on hand to supervise the hall.

## Clock talk

A donation of a time clock to the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena from Neilson Ltd. was not readily accepted at the general administration committee meeting on Monday night.

Councillor Ric Morrow suggested that the recreation department obtain the appropriate time clock and then see if Neilson will come to the committee's terms and reimburse the recreation department accordingly.

Councillor Roy Booth suggested an alternate route to be taken for the payment of the time clock. "If it can be paid for in five years from advertising revenues that there is no use in us taking the gift."

The recreation department will not determine the amount of revenue which could be obtained from posting ads on the time clock. Tenders will be called and an investigation will proceed to establish the rate charges for advertising space.



RATHER THAN GO TO A FIRE DIRTY, the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department took advantage of the car wash being run by the Grade Eight students of Holy Cross School last Saturday, to get caught up on their spring

cleaning. Hugh Wright, Bill Thibodeau, Mark Perego, Marty Power, Willy Cawler, Cindy Lehman, Alison Galbraith and Paul Paterson, were the official scrubbers.