

Georgetown taxes up 1.13 mills

While residents in other municipalities in Halton are reluctantly looking forward to jumps of possibly up to 15 mills on their 1975 municipal tax bills, Halton Hills' homeowners have received some comparatively good news.

Halton Hills' 1975 mill rates will go up, but the increases are minimal, ranging from Georgetown's low of 1.13 mills over 1974 to Acton's 3.86 mill rate increase.

In dollars and cents the town's budget for this year will mean an \$8.47 increase in taxes on a home in Georgetown assessed at \$7,500. Total taxes on that home will amount this year to \$68.98.

The owner of a similar home in Essexport will find an additional \$34.01 added to his 1975 tax bill for a new total of \$487.40.

That same home, located in Acton, will require \$33.04 more, for a 1975 tax bill total of \$66.01, the highest amount in Halton Hills.

Following a three-year system for

planning the town's finances has paid off handsomely, according to members of the town's personnel and finance committee as they cheerfully presented the town's 1975 budget Monday night.

"Halton Hills is the envy of every other area in the region," said Councillor Harry Levy, chairman of the finance committee. "This was the easiest budget to work on in the existence of this council or many councils previously."

Buoyed by their success in presenting what is expected to be the lowest budget of all municipalities in Halton, committee members predicted that the benefits of planning on a three-year basis will likely hold mill rates down even next year. "We're planning to that end," commented Councillor Levy.

Explaining how Halton Hills has managed to keep its budget well in hand while other nearby municipalities, such as Milton, were not in such a favorable position, town

treasurer Harry Henderson noted that a surplus from 1974's budget was the key.

"We had a substantial surplus carried over from 1974, basically due to the lateness of the budget and certain projects not being carried out on time. As well there was a surplus of revenue that came in 1974 that was more than was anticipated."

"We've used a portion of that money to reduce the 1975 budget and another portion has been set aside to reduce 1976's."

That surplus from the '74 budget amounted to \$530,000, approximately half of which was funnelled into the current budget.

Councillor Levy added, "We have certain capital expenditures due in 1976, but we're paying for them in 1975. In effect we're already reducing our 1976 expenses."

Another goal of the finance committee has been to keep long-term debt service to a minimum. And it has been working, noted Mr. Henderson. "Between the new

Georgetown arena and the indoor swimming pools in Georgetown and Acton we have carried out well over \$2 million worth of work with only \$430,000 required to be debentured," he noted.

"Well over 75 percent is being paid for either from current funds, reserve funds, lot levies or other reserves as well as from the Winter Works program."

Mayor Tom Hill, who earlier termed Halton Hills' 1975 budget "the best in the area", pointed out that the town "has been using every possible grant and every possible system to get the budget down."

The finance committee whittled the town's total expenditures for 1975 down to a total of \$8,129,344. Of that sum just under 50 percent was totally beyond the control of the town, going, instead, to the region (10.9 percent) the board of education (38 percent).

In fact, had it not been for the boards of education's 3.75 mill increase Georgetown's residential mill rate would have dropped slightly. As it is, a 1.03 mill decrease by the region, helped in the overall 1.13 residential mill rate increase. (For the breakdown of the commercial, industrial and business mill rates in the town, see the complete budget figures and tables.)

Councillor Levy in his official report to council, noted that saving money for future capital projects was also another goal of his committee. Through a contingency fund the committee has set aside further monies for major capital expenditures, such as the new fire truck for Acton.

The town's major construction project for 1975-76, the addition to Georgetown's sewage treatment facilities, has also been budgeted for through a regional reserve fund of \$100,000 from Halton. That, plus a further payment from the region next year, will provide a major part of the funding for the project.

For full budget details turn to page 20

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CORSAGES FOR THE LADIES. Sandi Murton receives a corsage as token of appreciation for the hard work by her and the other members of the Georgetown District

High School kitchen staff. Sue Glover pins Sandi as the crowd of 325 that attended the athletic banquet last Thursday looked on.

Another delay for sewage plant

Placing the blame squarely on delays by the consultants to do their part, Councillor Ern Sykes has revealed to town council that work on Georgetown's badly needed new sewage treatment plant may not begin before next year.

"I don't want to be a harbinger of doom but it looks like there are going to be further delays in the sewage treatment plant," Councillor Sykes, a member of the region's work committee, explained that the consultants' plan for the plant has just been received by the ministry of the environment. "They will take the next three to four weeks to review it and it will then go back to the consultants with any recommendations for final plan changes. It will then go back to the ministry."

"They expect this to take into the summer, and possibly into September or October. It looks like we're looking at commencement either late this year we hope, or the beginning of next year."

Councillor Sykes noted that the delay in getting action reared with the project's consultants, Procter and Redfern of Toronto.

"They've had the plans in their hands, from what I can understand, since 1968 or 1969."

Councillor Pat McKenzie voiced council's displeasure with the long delay. "It concerns me that this council, and the people of Halton Hills are getting these numerous delays... Surely we don't have to sit and listen to delay after delay."

Councillor Sykes added an additional warning. Because the region will not be able to order equipment or materials until the final plans have been approved, further delays may be experienced due to equipment shortages.

"The delivery dates for some of the equipment may be anywhere from a year to 18 months from the time they are ordered until the time they are delivered."

A resolution noting the town's concern over the delay and asking for immediate action on the construction of a new sewage treatment plant for Georgetown was accepted unanimously by council. That resolution will now be forwarded to the region and to the ministry of the environment.

One more time for tenders

Tenders for the skate sharpening room in the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena were re-hashed once again at the general administration committee meeting Monday evening.

Council had recommended to the committee to investigate skate sharpening in all the arenas in the municipality. However, Councillor Roy Booth explained the impossibility of that procedure.

"We have an existing contract in the arena and we can't call skate sharpening tenders," Mr. Booth stated, "personally, I think we are doing it the right way by working separately with all three arenas. If there are

going to be tenders then they should be set on the skate sharpening room."

Councillor Booth suggested that the recreation department examine what the local merchants charge for sharpening skates.

"If someone in town is charging 35 to 65 cents and if we at the arena charge 35 to 40 cents then we will be undercharging the local merchants."

It was also stated that if the skate sharpening room was to be used, extensive work would have to be done in the form of installing a proper ventilation system. If the system was to be installed it would probably cost in the neighbourhood of \$2,000 to 3,000.

Councillor Ric Morrow recommended to the general administration committee that the recreation director, Doug Collison, investigate such concerns as; present skate sharpening prices in town, the re-tender process, the existing contract with the arena, and the ventilation system and if problems would occur with the Compensation Board if the system was installed.

The matter of re-tendering the skate sharpening business for the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena will be held over pending a further report to be submitted by the recreation director.

\$100,000 plan for town's park

Study will soon begin on the feasibility of carrying out a major \$100,000 facility of baseball facilities in Georgetown. Town council, following a presentation last Tuesday night by Ron Sguigna, president of the Georgetown Baseball Association, agreed to consider developing a park of senior baseball standards, including lights and changeroom facilities.

The hardball facilities may either be developed in the fairground area, the present centre of ball activity in town, or adjacent to the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena as part of a large multi-purpose recreational complex.

In his presentation to council Mr. Sguigna noted that the washroom facilities at the fairgrounds, which consisted last year, of a single portable washroom, "were totally inadequate" for the large number of people who use the park every night during the summer, barring bad weather.

"As a temporary facility," said Mr. Sguigna, "I can understand the use of this, but to expect this to suffice is not being reasonable."

"I am sure that the carnival and other facilities of this type that use the park could put the facilities to good use as well."

He explained that he did not just have a washroom, in mind but a facility combining changerooms, first aid room, and possibly a canteen. Nothing that he was asking specifically of hardball Mr. Sguigna commented that the sport "had never fully realized its potential for the youth of our town because of the lack of properly designed, maintained, and lighted facilities."

The present baseball diamond in the fairgrounds he said, requires proper chain

link fencing in the outfield, and along the foul line, plus dugouts and overhanging backstop behind home plate to bring it up to "minimum standards". The infield, he added, would have to be properly groomed.

"Presently the irregularities present the possibility of a serious personal injury to occur. We have been extremely fortunate that no one has been injured to date."

Drainage which frequently makes the park unusable for up to three days in a row, is also another problem on the diamond.

Listing poor lighting as the greatest drawback of the diamond Mr. Sguigna told council that "lighting is expensive but it's an absolute necessity if we are to provide an outlet for our youth."

"The failure of past town administrations to provide this facility has added additional costs," he estimated that lighting could cost in the neighbourhood of \$45,000, to \$50,000, with fencing requiring an additional \$5,000. "Costs of the same type of lighting installed in Brampton two years ago came to \$40,000."

"We need proper washrooms and changerooms in the fairgrounds and we need a proper ball diamond. And we need them now."

When asked by Councillor Dick Howitt if the fairgrounds diamond could be turned into a proper senior hardball diamond Mr. Sguigna noted that it could if "the level of the current diamond is raised by approximately six inches" to aid the water runoff.

"As to whether it could be a first class installation," he commented, "it would depend on the amount of money being spent to fix the diamond up."

A number of councillors greeted the

suggestion for diamond improvements with general enthusiasm and some embarrassment. Councillor Ric Morrow said, "I feel a personal embarrassment that a municipality this size has a fairground with absolutely no changeroom facilities and a baseball diamond which cannot handle hardball on any level of satisfaction compared with many other municipalities much smaller."

"Councils previous to this have procrastinated long enough. We've reached the point where it's absolutely ridiculous that we can't provide the number of facilities other municipalities can."

Councillor Harry Levy, who presented a resolution that \$100,000 be allocated in the 1975 recreation budget, for up-grading washroom facilities and installing lights, agreed that previous Georgetown councils

had procrastinated. "We did endeavour to set certain sums aside but with council we always put it aside."

"I moved this motion," continued Councillor Levy, "because I think it's feasible and possible to do it this year... It's to show the intent that, as finance chairman, I think we can do it."

However when the \$100,000 expenditure came before committee of the whole, during its in camera review of the current budget Wednesday night the motion was not included in the 1975 budget. Councillor Levy explained that more study will have to be made of the plans proposed by the town's baseball association before the funds can be set aside.

A rear-end collision damaged the cars of Gordon Moore of Terra Cotta and Ed Robson of Brampton. Estimated damage to the Moore car was \$350. The collision occurred last Wednesday on Guelph Street.

Carroll Peables, 43 Jocelyn

Girl hit by car

A rear-end collision damaged the cars of Gordon Moore of Terra Cotta and Ed Robson of Brampton. Estimated damage to the Moore car was \$350. The collision occurred last Wednesday on Guelph Street.

Carroll Peables, 43 Jocelyn Crescent was taken to hospital with cuts, bruises and a concussion after being struck by a car while crossing the Mill Street intersection last Sunday. Robert Ford, 141 Confederation St., in Glen Williams, was the driver of the car.

Dawkins captures PC nomination

Gary Dawkins, principal of M.Z. Bennet Public School in Acton and life-long resident of Acton has been nominated as the Progressive Conservative candidate for the Halton-Burlington riding.

There were 618 eligible voters at the Nomination meeting held last Thursday evening, all carrying banners, wearing stickers and boosting their candidate.

However, it seemed that the bus loads of Acton people carried the heaviest weight throughout the meeting, for Mr. Dawkins was elected by a clear majority after the first ballot.

George Gray of Georgetown was believed to be the only other candidate fighting against until the evening of the nomination. Many were taken by surprise when it was announced that there was a third candidate running.

The late entry was Mrs. Bonnie Newton from Campbellville. Mrs. Newton stated in her campaign speech she ran not because it's International Women's Year, not because she felt the need to be liberated for "I have been liberated all my life." She stated that she was running as a P.C. candidate because of her "deep concern over the way our world is going."

Going in alphabetical order, Mr. Dawkins was first to announce his aims and concerns.

Mr. Dawkins' nominator, Mr. G. Mackenzie introduced his candidate and stated that Mr. Dawkins was an "ideal age" for politics.

"He's not young or inexperienced nor is he old and set in his ways," stated Mr. Mackenzie.

In his campaign speech Mr. Dawkins pointed out that a "very critical decision will be made tonight. I am a Conservative who believes in the freedom and rights of individuals. Your P.C. candidate must listen to his constituents and react in behalf of their concerns," stated Dawkins.

Some of the main issues on which Mr. Dawkins expressed deep concern were those of regional government, establishment of the green belt and the education system of today.

"Very few of us are satisfied with regional government. But it's in a transitional period now. We must push for improvement."

Touching on the green belt issue, Mr. Dawkins stated that he didn't want the young people of today to "grow up in an asphalt jungle." Going on to education, Dawkins stated that education is one of the few areas which affects everyone, directly or indirectly. "We must reach a compromise with the old concepts and the essential new ideas."

George Gray, Georgetown P.C. candidate expressed his delight in the number of enthusiastic young people present at the meeting.

"I'm proud of the number of young people here tonight, who will be participating as members of the Conservative party." One

of Mr. Gray's greatest concerns was that of housing. "Housing is the greatest, most recent inflationary spiral. Young people cannot afford to buy a home today. But real estate remains to be a young couple's best investment. Some public housing is needed but it is not the long-term factor," stated Gray.

Mrs. Newton's speech received several rounds of applause. She seemed to be expressing views which all the members at the meeting agreed with. Touching on topics such as education, capital punishment and immigration and standing firmly on all the issues, Mrs. Newton gave quite an earth-shaking campaign speech.

"Our children who are leaving the high schools are virtually uneducated in the basic subjects... capital punishment for murder, bring it back... close the doors to all countries on immigration until the time comes that our country can get on its feet again," were only a few of the strongly expressed opinions made by Mrs. Newton.

The newly elected P.C. candidate for the Halton-Burlington riding, Gary Dawkins, 36, has lived in the Halton Hills area all his life and holds very strong ties in the area.

He is involved in a number of educational organizations including the North Area Principal's Advisory Committee and the Halton Elementary Teachers Council.

Mr. Dawkins has been a member of the Acton Rotary Club for 13 years during which he has held every office in the club including two terms as president.

In a statement made earlier by Mr. Dawkins he expressed his great desire to serve this area as the P.C. candidate. "I think it's a great place to be and I would be honored to represent its people."



DAWKINS, P.C. Candidate.



I'M FOR GRAY, ALL THE WAY. Despite the large number of Georgetown people who were present at the P.C. nomination meeting

for the Halton-Burlington riding it seemed they were greatly out-numbered by the Acton residents who strongly supported Gary Dawkins.