

**Darcy--**  
Cont'd from 1.

1975 than in 1970. To allow for the fast-growing population in the regions, McKeough altered this figure by measuring spending in terms of the amount spent per household, and arrived at a 105 percent increase in the same time period.

How was the money utilized? McKeough partially blames "a special form of inflation": if the salaries of the two old administrations, which were amalgamated to create a new region, were not equal, the lower pay cheques were raised "for the sake of fairness." Fairness to the local municipal employees but not the taxpayers.

The rest of the money, according to McKeough, was used to improve existing services or create new ones.

Increased levels of service (more firefighters, more Children's Aid cases and more land miles of roads, for example) accounted for between 20 and 40 percent of increased spending.

Since growth must also be taken into account, a greater volume of services was also necessary to accommodate the increasing population. For example, Ontario's regions increased the size of their police forces, collectively, by 26 percent between 1970 and 1975, and a total of 20 to 30 percent of spending increases are attributable to the increased volume of all services.

Backlogs of demand for services took the last bite out of the regional budget.

Certain improvements necessary to upgrade services in new urban areas might not have been possible if the resources of the new region government had not been available.

Some councils, believes McKeough, deliberately postponed expensive projects until the government was re-structured.

"To some extent, the attitude was, 'Let's wait until the region is formed and let THEM pay for it,'" McKeough said.

He added that some postponements were beneficial in the long run: projects such as replacing a fleet of police cars should be integrated so that standardized vehicles are used throughout the new region. Municipal governments alone did not completely subsidize the projects to improve local services. Financial assistance from the province to the regions increased more than 124 percent from 1970 to 1975, and without this aid, taxes would have been even higher.

**Norval--**  
Cont'd from 5.

United Church have had a busy month of activities for the month of April. Early in the month they attended the musical play "South Pacific" at the Lester Pearson Hall in Bramalea. Later in the month they attended the races at Mowhawk Raceway, and ended the month by attending the Norval Community Association Spring Dance held at the former Riviera club.

Get well wishes are extended to 5-year-old Craig Taylor, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Taylor, who spend several days in Peel Memorial Hospital, Brampton, with an acute attack of asthma.

A speedy recovery is extended to Mrs. John Castle, R12 Norval, who is a patient in the Brampton Hospital.

Unit Two of Norval United Church Women entertained Unit One and their sister U.C.W. from Grand Valley on Wednesday evening, April 14 with Mrs. Phyllis Moffatt presiding.

Seventeen members of the Grand Valley U.C.W. came by bus and enjoyed the evening. A short devotional, consisting of a singsong of favourite hymns and a prayer led by Mrs. Gwen Laidlaw was followed by an interesting talk and slides by Rev. Hilda Johnson of Brampton on her work as a missionary in India. The evening ended with a dessert lunch and a social time.

Fruit growers are anxiously watching their trees for frost damage from the freezing weather and the wet snow of the weekend. The unusual summer weather of last week did much by bringing the fruit blossoms into bloom too early. Now the heavy wet snow is causing that damage.

At Hutton Nurseries near Huttonville the shade house collapsed from the weight of the snow sometime during Sunday night. The shade house was full of their spring stock ready for planting such as Blue Spruce, Austrian Pine, Sky Rocket Juniper, Cedar hedging, and many more. Estimate of the damage is unknown at this time. The shade house is a complete loss but how much damage has been done to the stock will not be known until the wreckage has been cleared away.

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