

MILTON LOSES MOST

Halton Hills gains from region: Report

By BOB RUTTER
Herald staff writer

A four-month report on the cost of regional government shows Halton Hills is a winner while Milton bears the brunt of the costs associated with re-organized local government in Halton.

The report, prepared by Milton Mayor Don Gordon, also notes that Oakville and Burlington have had "minimal" effect from cost increases since Jan. 1, 1974 when the region was formed.

"Despite a reduction in grants and the increase in the regional (or county purposes) account," the report reads, "the cost of regional government in Halton Hills is nil."

The report shows an increase in population of 2.9 per cent for Halton Hills since 1974 to 33,792 and a net drop of three full-time employees to 113.

Mayor Gordon says his municipality is the "big loser" on regional government because of increased rural and parklands it assumed in 1974.

He says services increased to Halton residents but did not in his 22-page report attempt to arrive at cost-benefits.

Cost of regional government spending at all levels increased by 38.4 per cent or about \$21.8 million since 1974.

This is a point debated by Oakville Coun. Gord Reade who claims the figures supplied by Mr. Gordon's report show an increase of 117 per cent for regional purposes and about a 50 per cent increase in the cost of local services.

Regional council is expected to be debated at length today. Based on audited municipal reports for all former and present Halton municipalities

from 1973 to 1976, Halton Hills treasurer Ray King said the 30 per cent inflation factor used to calculate projections is fair.

The report shows Halton Hills with a net decrease of \$78,000 in annual revenue last year. Coun. Russ Miller, chairman of the Halton Hills finance-administration committee said the obvious good position of the town results from the hard work of Georgetown prior to regional formation to keep debtures and mill rates in line.

He said the present council is continuing with this policy.

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REGAL BABYSITTER

Achilles Pelidis, seven months, seems totally unconcerned about the personage babysitting him prior to the Acton Fall Fair baby contest Saturday. The babysitter of course is the 1977 Acton Fall Fair Queen Susan Thibodeau who appears delighted to help Achilles' mother Mrs. Lea Pelidis by

looking after the tyke for a few moments. Miss Thibodeau said she enjoys young children. The look on her face confirms it. For more pictures from the 1977 Acton Fair see The Herald Second Front.

Photo by Bob Rutter

Legal aid clinic approved as urban-rural experiment

Halton Hills will have a legal clinic. Annette Vaughan, clinical liaison officer for the Ontario Legal Aid Plan, told The Herald Tuesday that Convocation, the governing body of the Law Society of Upper Canada, reaffirmed its decision to establish a legal clinic in the municipality last Friday.

He said that the Society responsible for the funding of legal clinics throughout the province, has been in contact with Susan Tanner a student with a Georgetown legal firm to discuss hiring of personnel.

If quarters can be found and staff hired in time the clinic can open its doors on Oct. 1, she said.

The original application called for a budget of \$22,815 to run the clinic from Sept. 1 to March 31. This grant has been reduced to \$17,840 says Mrs. Vaughan, because it was not in operation for one month and the money is allotted in monthly cheques.

Each cheque comes with a certificate specifying how it is to be spent, she says and adds that suggestions by a Georgetown lawyer at the hearing earlier this month that the Legal Aid Plan hand out funds

with no strings attached are totally untrue.

The clinic is to have two offices, one in Georgetown and one in Acton, two permanent duty counsellors, a para-legal assistant, and a secretary for each office.

The clinic's funds have only been approved for the remainder of the government's fiscal year, she says. It will receive notice in February that it must

re-apply for funds for another year if there is a desire to continue its operation. Then it will be re-appraised and a decision made to continue or discontinue its funding.

Mrs. Vaughan says that one of the reasons the clinic received approval was because it is an interesting experiment and everyone is curious to learn if the need exists for such clinics in semi-rural areas.

CFL OFFICIALS VISIT FAIR

Canadian Football League (CFL) players and officials are expected to be at Georgetown Fall Fair both Friday and Saturday.

They, along with a musical group from Toronto, Christopher, will be at a 50 by 30 foot structure called The Alpha Tent, said Rose Ann Newlove, spokeswoman of about 10 interdenominational lay Christians who will man it.

The group will have a coffee house Friday night in their tent, the first time, they

believe, one has been at the fair.

Expected Saturday among other is Gary Tufford, a wide receiver with Hamilton Tiger Cats.

Master of ceremonies will be a CFL referee Scott McBrien who is out of action after suffering an injury at a recent match.

The men are members of Athletes in Action, a group of Christian sportsmen.

A magic show for the children is planned for 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

Signs identifying free parking lots and directing potential customers to the Georgetown downtown area will be erected this year.

The color blue will be used for pedestrian and green for parking signs and all signs will have the downtown logo.

Further plans include improving and beautifying the walkways by improving the lighting and construct interlocking stones leading from the parking lot on Hill Street to the shops on Main Street.

The existing curb line, Mr. Martel said, will be flaired around the tree planters which will make it easy for street cleaning.

Mr. Martel said he has planned for benches to be placed along Main Street by bicycle racks and drinking fountains, which will result in a loss of seven parking spaces along Main Street.

Merchants Barbara Shuttleworth and George Blasko are not convinced that bicycle racks are necessary. Mr. Blasko said eight and nine-year olds won't use the bicycle rack even if they are placed in front of stores.

He said he feels the racks would be a waste of money. Cost is \$200 for three racks, but Bob Gougeon said the BIA has three racks which are used when the street is closed off.

Mr. Hyde said the racks are a minor detail which can be

worked out later and the main concern is getting council's approval. Once council has approved the plans then approval must also be sought at the region.

Mr. Hyde said the parking authority is not happy with the thought of losing seven of its 30 parking spaces along Main Street and the parking authority will be approached for its approval of the project.

Mr. Hyde added that the main feature of Georgetown is the free parking and by erecting signs it will encourage shoppers to park cars and walk along the streets instead of parking in front of the store they wish to purchase from and then drive away.

The plan is to concentrate on improving the Main Street for the first two years and then move to the other streets. If the improvements are made in one area the impact will be greater, he said. He hopes that the parks and recreation department will care for the trees, even if it's a chargeback to the BIA.

Mr. Hyde said that once the downtown facelift is underway shop owners will be encouraged

to clean up their own storefront. "I feel it would be the wrong attitude to take, not to change the downtown," he said.

The idea of developing a theme for shops is being considered. Mr. Martel said it

would be easy to strip away the front and restore the original brick. The cost of restoring the shop would be the shopowner's responsibility.

The main idea, Mr. Martel said, is to beautify the downtown area.

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four children, died outside the McGibbon Hotel following what has been described as "a fistfight."

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Man charged following death

A 24-year-old Georgetown man has been remanded in custody charged with manslaughter in connection with the death Friday evening of a Union Street man.

Charged is Dale Morette, 3 Dale Gate, who is to appear in Provincial Court Sept. 26.

Police Lloyd Sedore, 45, the father of

Trustees veto 10% pay cut

School trustees vetoed a 10 per cent cut Thursday with a variety of arguments, none of which however dealt with the central issue in trustees Don Long's motion.

Halton board of education paid lip service to improving efficiency. Long said. By cutting salaries from \$6,500 to \$6,000 the board would set an example of reducing costs from the top down that federal, provincial and municipal politicians could follow.

If passed, the cut "will show where our hearts lie," he said. Trustee Long's only support came from fellow Halton Hills trustee, H.H. (Bert) Hinton, who said that the cut would show both administration and staff that the board are serious in controlling costs and that the trustees themselves would be shoring up next year's budget.

But the board has already practiced restraint, said trustee Fred Armitage, by not increasing the salary, thus exhibiting "a curious form of leadership."

Trustees salaries are the best money taxpayers spend, he added, and the board can show leadership by developing sound policy and by using wise judgement in other matters. The pay cut is "superficial," he said.

Trustee Jim Clelland termed the pay cut "insignificant." He had heard little opposition to the "honorarium" when campaigning, he said. For the money, that goes to pay trustee

salaries, the voters get sound representation which they re-evaluated every two years, he said.

It costs money to be a school trustee, said Dr. Helen Howard-Loock. "The days are over when services are given by those who have the time."

School trustees are no longer an elitist group. She said the 10 per cent cut would not hit the trustees equally and that if any trustee had an excess of money he or she could donate it to charity or return it to the board.

Trustee Cameron Jackson argued that when considered in terms of the board's budget, of \$82 million, it is difficult to see how a \$600 cut is "significant."

Instead of looking for examples, the taxpayers are looking for results, he said. Better to associate value with showing leadership than by reducing salaries, he said.

Trustee Bill Herd's remarks prompted trustee Hinton to ask that they be withdrawn: Mr. Herd said that if the taxpayers could evaluate the board's performance in the last six months they would find good value for the money. He charged that "these circuit-type tactics" and "ignominious" are a waste of time.

Trustee Hinton told the board that Mr. Herd's remarks were unjustified, rude and unacceptable in that they questioned the motives of the trust-

tees. The executive committee is also looking for new faces. Their meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Elk's Hall. Anyone interested in befriending youngsters with potential problems can call Bob or Linda Anderson at 877-8978.

Georgetown Block Parents are looking for volunteers to join the program. The executive committee is also looking for new faces. Their meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Elk's Hall. Anyone interested in befriending youngsters with potential problems can call Bob or Linda Anderson at 877-8978.

Loose bricks in the arch over the door to the old Acton town hall will be repaired by the town's works department, finance administration committee decided Monday after Coun. Peter Marks withdrew a motion that would have had the damage examined by a consulting engineer. Coun. Marks withdrew his motion when told by committee members that the repair could be done for about \$100 whereas a consulting engineer would charge more just for a look.

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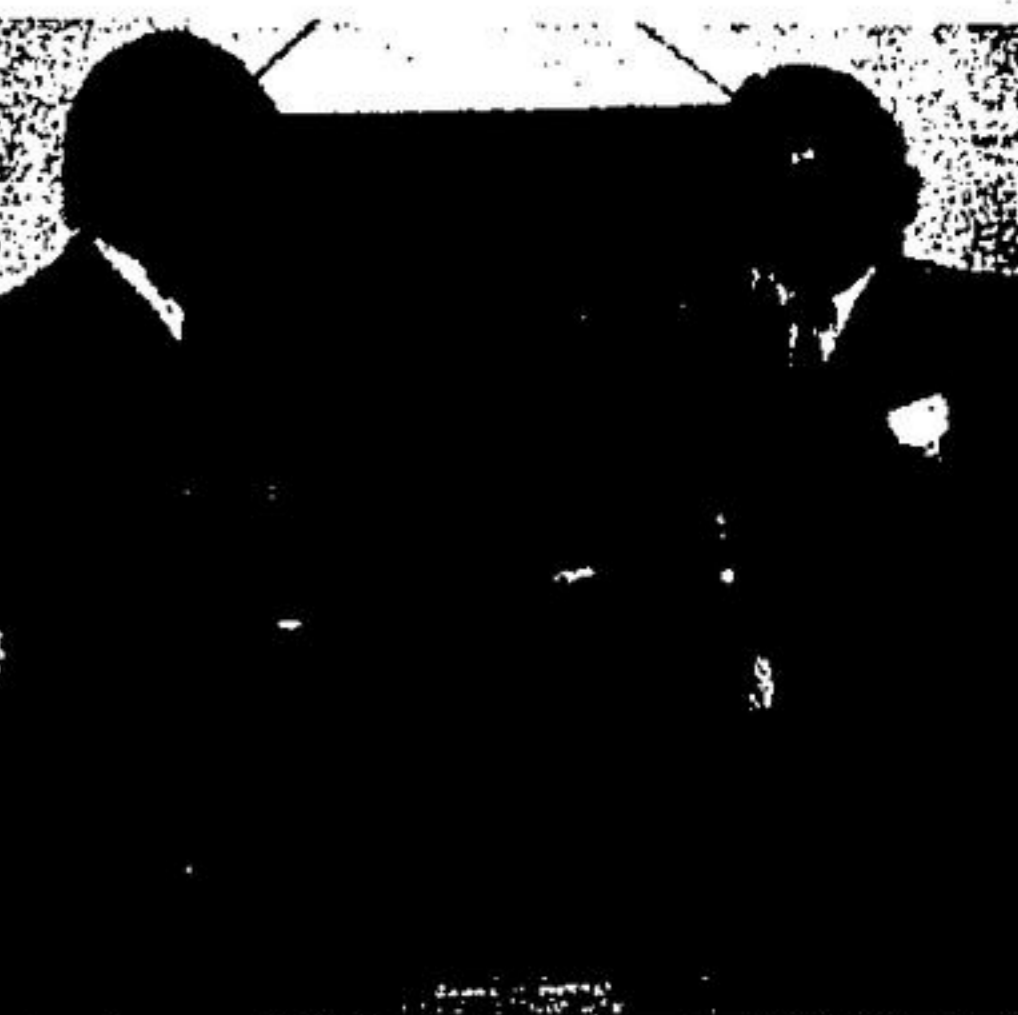
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Picked Up In Passing



\$2,000 for arena

Halton Hills treasurer Ray King accepts a \$2,000 cheque from John Horning, secretary-treasurer of the Georgetown Optimists Club. The money was earned through the club's Bang-O-Rama held last May and represents their contribution to the Memorial Arena building fund for this year.

OMB to set date

Halton Hills library board has approved a resolution calling on council to seek an Ontario Municipal Board hearing into the proposed new library at Cedarvale Park. The action last week confirms council's earlier decision following a protest by more than 3,500 Georgetown residents.

Hunting season

Deer Season will open October 24 in the Cambridge district. The season, as in previous years, is open only to bowhunters. With the increasing popularity of bowhunting a training course for interested persons has been developed. Registration forms for the "Bowhunter Training Course" are available from local sporting good stores or from your nearest ministry of natural resources office.

Conditioning course

The Halton Lung Association is continuing to provide Physical Conditioning courses for all children with asthma. The clinics include educational sessions, as well as exercises, breathing and relaxation techniques, and swimming. In Georgetown, courses will be held at Georgetown Indoor Pool on Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, starting Oct. 15. Anyone interested should call The Association at 845-0858. There is no charge for the programs.

Repairs approved

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Block parent need

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McKeough stumped on education tax status

By GEORGE EVASHUK
Herald staff writer

Ontario treasurer Darcy McKeough is a man used to fielding and answering tough questions from audiences but Monday afternoon he was stumped by one posed by chairman Ric Morrow of Halton region.

Mr. McKeough was telling about 200 politicians and senior civil servants Monday they are going to get less money from the province in the next fiscal year.

Then in the question and answer period following his prepared remarks, Mr. McKeough attempted to reply to Mr. Morrow's question of what extra steps the province was taking to make boards of education cut their budgets in view of declining enrollments.

Mr. McKeough said that enrollments are declining everywhere but that in Peel, Halton and Scarborough, they are not declining as much, with the result that the mill rates are

higher. As well, the treasurer added, declining enrollments are for some reason not as much a factor in the question.

"I admit, I'm puzzled," he confessed finally.

He said, too, that the average increase in the mill rate per year has been "hefty on the school side."

Chairman Morrow also took the opportunity to point out to the treasurer that Halton Hills has been practicing fiscal restraint for three years. He pointed to figures supplied by the treasurer himself. "We have the smallest increase," the chairman said.

The figures Mr. Morrow referred to are the percentage increases in residential mill rates from 1974 to