

**ACTONIANS SEEK ANSWER**

**Acton supports rest of Halton Hills?**

By **GEORGE EVASHUK**  
Herald staff writer

Financial information supplied by Coun. Garnet (Pat) McKenzie on the benefits to Acton since regional government show only one side of the coin, says a spokesman for Actonians for Acton.

What's needed, Norm Elliott told The Herald in a telephone interview Monday, is the proportion of tax dollars from Acton going toward projects in Georgetown and Esquering.

"There's never been any breakdown on the costs of the municipality," Mr. Elliott said. "This is the kind of information we can't get."

He said that figures Mr. McKenzie quoted in a public meeting last October were not provided to Actonians for Acton.

"If we don't have to pay for the sewage treatment plant in Georgetown, or the library or hospital costs which are expected to increase in a couple of years, maybe we're going to be better off by ourselves."

He said Coun. Peter Marks has shown the group some information about areas of the operating budget, "but didn't show conclusively that we were better off."

The question that remains unanswered is: "Are we not better off to pay our own and let Georgetown pay its own?"

"We're not saying we want out of regional government," Mr. Elliott said. "We want to know how Acton is doing in

Halton Hills."

He said Acton needs a provincial inquiry into regional government as has been done in other regions because councillors have a vested interest in the system that a higher, fact-finding authority won't necessarily have.

He feels that an Acton study may be done in the next two years but by then the present system will be established and it will be extremely difficult to do anything about it.

Mr. Elliott disputed that Acton was in dire financial straits when regional government came in 1974.

"We went in with a very small deficit," he said. "The money was spent on local improvement and not kept to go in with a surplus."

Prior to regional government, the Town of Acton paved every road with the exception of a few secondary roads, built a swimming pool and repaired the arena roof because "we knew the projects might be delayed."

"We could have held them up and gone in with a surplus and claimed some of the glory."

Every man on the Acton council was party to the decision to spend money from the sale of land toward those projects, Mr. Elliott said.

The figures Coun. McKenzie used in his address last October were prepared by Halton Hills treasurer Ray King. They cover the costs of projects in Ward 1, wages paid to town employees, the spending of

money realized from the sale of town-owned land, and the tax paid for education and for government.

In the rebuilding of Church Street ministry of transportation and communication (MTC) subsidies for reconstruction and storm sewers were \$83,700 while the taxpayers paid \$90,699, according to the figures supplied.

Storm sewers in the Leishman subdivision had \$62,670 in MTC subsidies while taxpayers footed a balance of \$63,040.

The total tax dollars for the rebuilding of Church Hill Road North and storm sewers was \$79,152. Subsidies from MTC and contributions from the reserve funds amounted to \$132,161.

The town's share of the reconstruction of Mill Street North, \$55,000.

A sampling of wages paid on Jan. 1, 1973 compared with 1977 rates show that laborers made \$3.21 per hour in 1973 and \$5.74 per hour in 1977. Semi-skilled workers earned \$3.34 and \$6.01 per hour respectively while skilled workers were paid \$3.48 and \$6.34 respectively.

For two classifications of salaried employees in the same period there were increases of 54 per cent and 74 per cent increasing to \$25,589 from \$15,318.

The figures estimate however, that the overall cost of living rate from Jan. 1, 1973 to Dec. 31, 1977, was 52 per cent.

In 1973, Acton sold two parcels of land for a total of \$122,551.70. Of this sum, \$40,900 was donated to the Acton swimming pool; \$15,000 for the arena roof; \$34,206.70 into general operating revenue to reduce the mill rate; \$27,000 for Industrial Road and road maintenance; and \$6,345 in deferred debentures.

Education tax in Ward 1 has increased 57.22 per cent from 1968 to 1977. For a home assessed at \$5,984 that means taxes of \$230.37 in 1968 and \$371.61 in 1977.

Government tax for Halton Hills and Halton region for the period 1973 to 1977 increased 29.08 per cent or an average annually of 7.27 per cent. Combined with the educational tax, total taxes increased 44.46 per cent or an average of 11.11 per cent per year. In dollars for an average home, there was \$495.22 paid in 1973 and \$715.40 in 1977. It was during this same period that the cost of living rose about 52 per cent.

The treasurer's figures also include the debenture costs only of the reconstruction of Bower Avenue, which was \$66,900, the construction of Elizabeth Drive, which was debentured at \$24,863, and debentures of \$72,000 for storm sewers on Mill Street, Bower Avenue and Elgin Street. The actual amounts spent on these projects was not reported.

Also included in the figures was \$89,973 for Ontario Provincial Police in 1973. This sum is approximately 12 per cent of gross expenditures for town purposes.

**CVCA urges action on ravine**

Continued from page 1

on Metcalfe Court, he said.

The deterioration over the last 10 years of the ravine has meant loss of property, loss of vegetation, erosion of slopes due to instability and loss of vegetation, erosion of the stream bed due to high flows, the transport of sediment into Silver Creek, deteriorated wildlife habitat and ravine aesthetics, increased possibility of loss of life or personal injury, loss of water quality and reduced recreational potential, the engineer said.

The seven gabion dams that Halton Hills erected in the summer of 1976 in the creek bed in an attempt to control the velocities were undermined or the water had eroded the banks around them, he said.

"Furthermore, two of the

three surface water outfalls discharging from the Metcalfe Court area have been undermined and require immediate attention."

The proposed remedies of the situation range from installing a corrugated steel pipe from the outfall at Deltex Boulevard to Silver Creek at a cost of \$181,700 to concrete paving at a cost of \$305,000 or gabions on the creek bed at a cost of \$372,500.

However, of the entire 2,700 foot length of the creek, only 1,600 feet belongs to Halton Hills. The rest is owned by Focal Properties Ltd.

And while erosion at the bottom of the ravine was discussed by Mr. Barton, another engineer, Doug Jagger reported to the CVCA on his examination of the slopes.

Mr. Jagger said he viewed aerial photos taken in the 1950s which showed "a very stable condition in the valley" and "no signs of sloughing or movement."

In his examination of the ravine last fall, he saw "severe erosion" along the banks and the potential for further erosion.

Mr. Jagger said the erosion has caused "local sloughing" which is worse where the creek bends.

He said he couldn't get accurate records for the period when the subdivision was built, but it is obvious that when the subdivision was built the top of the hill was leveled and the fill was shoveled over on both sides of the hill where Metcalfe Court is today. The north side of the ravine is in stable condition and no failures are occurring at this time, he said.

The major erosion on Metcalfe Court the side are at houses 19 and 21 and 43 to 51. Mr. Jagger said. At houses 19 and 21 there was "too erosion at the base of the slope". The mechanism of failure started with the stream where there was a loss of support and movement of soil started which went right up to the houses, he said.

Mr. Jagger said an examination of the house foundations showed no cracks.

"The builder very wisely put the homes on native soil. The fill was used for the backyards."

He said the problem has "partially been caused by

erosion in the ravine valley and use of fill soils."

The failure below houses 43 to 51 are more noticeable in the fill soils, the engineer said. He noted a number of drainage pipes coming out of the houses and water from these pipes has "settled and lubricated" the soil between the natural and the fill. Stopping this flow would ease the situation.

He said he doubted if the contractor took the time to properly compact the fill soil. It would be difficult he added to tie in erosion at the bank with erosion on the slopes without extensive soil borings.

"We have a potential condition where failure can occur at any time," he warned, "but it might not."

He suggested a regrading of the slope or terracing as a possible solution but said that if the work is not done properly, it may not work. In any event, the problem needs further study which "could run into quite a bit of money."

The CVCA will review the report and circulate it to the ministry of natural resources. A meeting in Halton Hills is planned in the near future before the final report is prepared. Funding for the project likely will be on a designated cost basis whereby the province pays 50 per cent of the total, the CVCA about 2.5 per cent and Halton Hills the rest.

**Another man declares for Halton Tory bid**

Darcy McKeough may lose his senior advisor if Triss Lett is successful in his campaign for the Conservative nomination in the riding of Halton, but the competition is tough: Otto Jelinek, who is currently representing the riding of High Park-Humber Valley, has announced that he too will be seeking the nomination.

Mr. Jelinek's home is in Oakville, and since his present riding will be split into four new constituencies under redistribution, he has decided to seek nomination in Halton, despite opposition from some sections of the Halton Progressive Conservative Association.

The riding of Halton is itself being split, with Georgetown forming part of the new riding of Brampton-Georgetown. Acton, however will remain in the Halton riding.

Mr. Lett, who has been senior budget advisor to Mr. McKeough since 1975 says he will be centering his campaign around the issue of the economy. He has described himself as a supporter of the free enterprise system and said the economy is not where it should be, mainly because of the federal tariff policy and the anti-inflation board policies.

Mr. Lett accused the federal government of ignoring "sound advice" from Canadian groups, such as

those who have recommended that the government should adopt a small business strategy. He said the country must change its economic policies in order to maintain its place among the industrial countries of the world.

"The government has lacked an imagination in its attempts to develop a small business policy," he said.

Mr. Lett graduated with an honors degree in economics from York University in 1970 and earned a master's degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science in London, England. He is employed by the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs.

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Landawn Shopping Centres Ltd. of Toronto recently announced the new plaza, which will be located on the north side of Guelph Street, adjacent to the Alcott Arena. The site will feature parking for approximately 352 cars.

Landawn Shopping Centres hopes to break ground in the spring, with stores opening in the fall. Miracle Mart has been confirmed as one of the stores which will be in the plaza.

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