

# Mayor off to good start, seeks budget cuts

By PAUL DORSEY  
Herald staff writer

Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill wasted little time getting down to the business of budgeting at Thursday's meeting of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA), the first meeting of the Authority he had attended this year.

Mayor Hill demanded reductions in budget requests by the CVCA's information and education advisory board, threat-

ened to personally consult the ministry of natural resources over budget spending and suggest that the advisory board itself should be disbanded.

The board had listed about \$30,000 in projected expenditures for 1979 which include the development of pond catwalks, nature trails and classroom facilities at the existing Vaughan House in the new Silver Creek Conservation Area near Georgetown.

Beginning next fall, the CVCA will be busying students from across Halton to the area for one-day seminars on conservation and ecology, at a cost to the students of \$1 each per day.

About 5,000 students participated in a similar education program at Terra Cotta Conservation Area during 1978.

Mayor Hill took exception with CVCA plans to use the Vaughan House, now fully

owned by the Authority, for its educational program. The CVCA originally planned to rent out the building, he observed.

"If for one thing we're spending too much on education," he asserted, "if I had my way, I'd scrap the whole advisory board. An \$80,000 budget for education is just ridiculous. There's no way I'm going to support an expenditure like

that on the house. If you do, I'll take this thing right downtown (to Queen's Park)."

Advisory board chairman Robert Harris pointed out that the CVCA has been planning for the past two years to move its educational centre to Silver Creek park. Board members, he said, have decided that the Vaughan House is the logical site for classrooms. Authority member Frank Leavers added that initially, the renovation of a barn at the site was considered, but the CVCA has learned

the job would be too expensive.

Honorary authority member Roy McMillan recalled that the CVCA Foundation purchased the Vaughan House more than a decade ago and specifically designated it for educational uses.

CVCA chairman Grant Clarkson noted that the stone house is "virtually indestructible" and, as such, can easily stand the rigors of four classes per day.

The board's budget esti-

males, comprising one of four budgets the full authority will consider for 1979, was referred back to the board for further

reductions. A budget for restoration, land use and wildlife totalling \$50,000, one for parks and recreation totalling

\$273,740 and one for water management amounting to \$1,667,400, have been submitted.

## Expect fact finder this week in stalled board, teacher talks

By MAGGIE HANNAH  
Herald staff writer

A fact finder should be appointed this week to look over issues that bogged down talks between elementary teachers and the Halton board of education last week.

Doug Lawless, head of the Ontario Education Relations Commission, said Monday that it is the commission's responsibility to appoint a factfinder during negotiations but this is not usually done so long as things are moving smoothly.

However, the commission has been "notified

of an impasse" in Halton's talks and a factfinder will be appointed probably "within a week" he says.

Teachers' demands for a lower pupil-to-teacher ratio (PTR) has created the impasse says Bill Priestner, chief negotiator for the Halton Board. Lowering the PTR becomes increasingly appealing to teachers as dropping enrollments threaten their job security more and more each year.

To the board, however, lowering the PTR represents a fairly expensive requirement.

The present PTR stands at 23.5 to 1. Lowering it by even one student would require 50 to 58 extra elementary teachers across the area says Education Director Emmerson Lavender. At the average pay rate of \$20,000 per teacher under the present

collective agreement that could cost the board over \$1 million dollars just for the elementary level.

Mr. Priestner says that the PTR is probably the last stumbling block and "if we could get over that we could probably have a settlement."

Illegal riders because they are either gone by the time the policy appear, or the riders have dismantled and begin walking their bikes.

Council will hear the recommendation next week to ratify the committee recommendation.

## Committee agrees to fence accesses

Finance-administration committee has recommended fencing and installing a gate at two entrances to Fairy Lake from the Lakeview subdivision in Acton.

The move, approved Monday, followed a request from a delegation of area residents protesting the use of the property by motorcyclists.

The recommendation calls for a fence to be placed across the access at the end of Elizabeth Drive and a "cow gate" to be erected across a second entrance at the end of Elmore Drive.

Ward 3 Coun. Roy Booth who recommended the action to committee said that while the "cow gate", a set of row fences allowing pedestrian access only, might provide a hardship on persons pushing baby prams, the hardship faced by area residents over noise from motorcycles using the park area must be considered.

Committee also called for a report on signing park properties against use by motorized vehicles after spokesmen Peter Papillon and George Van der Eyken said underage, unlicensed riders were using the parkland.

Mr. Van der Eyken said that police have difficulty catching

## Georgetown fair this weekend

By MAC GILVRAV

Scheduled for Friday and Saturday of this week Georgetown Fair is truly a country fair. It started back in 1846 and has been continuous until the present day.

Fall Fairs originated in Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1722, and since then has spread to well over 200 towns and villages in Ontario.

When the harvest is gathered and the autumn days set in, the fair is a place for friendly competition between urban and rural dwellers, to vie for the best pies, cakes, crafts, flowers or pumpkins.

The fair also provides entertainment — the last gasp of summer activities in the open air. The big Happyland midway will provide rides and games for the younger set, while the horse shows and viewing of the cattle and sheep will attract the older citizens.

If you haven't attended a country fair in recent years, make it a point to be at Georgetown Fair this weekend.

Julian Reed, M.P.P. for Halton-Burlington will officially open the fair at 2 p.m. "Steamer" Emmerson will be master-of-ceremonies, and Jesse McEnery will call the horse entries.

On the program will be music and dancing and other events. The Girls Pipe Band will be taking part, and the still walker who thrilled CNE crowds will also be on hand at Georgetown fair.

The directors look forward to a large exhibit in their new building at the west end of the grounds, and the armories will be full of commercial displays by local merchants.

There will be no entrance for motor vehicles by way of the main park gate (pedestrians only) but entrances and limited parking is provided off the Parkview and Park school entrances.

The hall will be open for viewing at a small entrance fee on Friday evening — the midway will be in full swing and the merchants displays in the armories will be open.

Plenty of refreshments booths will satisfy your appetite for home-baking hamburgers, candy floss and coffee.

The junior horse jumping classes get underway at 3:30 Saturday and from then on it will be a day to be remembered.

Admission to the grounds is \$2.00 for adults; students and senior citizens \$1.00; children under 12 free, and parking \$1.00.

With the fair being almost completely rained out last year the directors are hoping for a record crowd in order to recompensate some of their losses.

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