



SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Mary McDonald, Leanne Rivers and Tracey Charles were playing "Jumpsles" together Sunday as Halton Hills got its first real taste of the "warm weather to come. All

over town, people were out enjoying the warm weather in different fashions, lazy and energetic.

(Herald photo)

OHIP surgery coverage unavailable in Georgetown

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to spend more time with their patients.

"They could spend as much time as they want with their patients in OHIP", he said.

DIFFERENCE

Dr. Landry said there is a "tremendous" difference between the fee schedule paid by OHIP and the one recommended by the OMA.

"Personally I am very satisfied with the money I make in OHIP. I am not in medicine for the money and I think any doctor who is, is in the profession for the wrong reason.

"I am a doctor because I enjoy trying to make sick people healthy again. Bringing a new baby into the world and seeing the smiling face of a new mother when you present her with her child is a feeling money just cannot buy".

Dr. Landry said that considering the state of the world and the Canadian economy "we would be very greedy to be asking society for more when it is obvious society can't pay it".

"I can't see that doctors need more money and think we can all set an example of restraint."

VERY CONCERNED
Halton MPP Julian Reed told The Herald he is "very concerned about doctors opting out of OHIP, although I have had no calls from constituents on the matter."

He said, "If the government was looking after doctors properly they wouldn't be opting out of the plan."

Mr. Reed said he would not support removing the opting out option for doctors.

He said OHIP fee schedule has not kept up with inflation, especially to general practi-

tioners and rates must be raised for these doctors.

He said inefficiency of the OHIP bureaucracy which leads to late payments to doctors has also led to the medical profession's dissatisfaction with the program.

NOT A PROBLEM

William Leonard, executive director of the Halton health council told The Herald that the number of doctors in the region out of OHIP is "not a problem".

He said there are a large number of doctors in the region so the percentage out of the plan does not create difficulties.

"I don't think we really want to overreact," he said.

Mr. Leonard said the health council has no plans to discuss the issue of local doctors dropping out of the health care program.

Council approves \$5.5 million budget

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formed council that his committee had trimmed the draft budget from \$5,922,000 which would have represented an increase of approximately 16 per cent over 1978's total of \$5,102,320.

HARD JOB

"It was an exceedingly hard job," he said, "but with the co-operation of town staff, council members and members of the committee, I think we've succeeded in cutting it down fairly well".

Coun. Levy reminded council that the town's portion of the tax burden to be borne by Halton Hills residents in 1979 amounts to only 39 per cent of the overall total. Beyond council's control, he said, are the annual budgets of the Halton

Board of Education and Halton region. He said the town must strive to minimize its budget but warned that the 6.6 per cent increase initially recommended by his committee could be trimmed no further unless municipal services were to suffer.

Coun. Levy suggested alternative methods of collecting revenue that could help minimize the town's budget, including the public sale of town-owned land, but the comment drew criticism from other council members and words of caution from town treasurer Ray King.

Mr. King said that capital revenues, such as those derived from the sale of the town's

land, are not used for projects within the council's operating budget, a practice that is governed to a large extent by existing municipal legislation. Mayor Pomeroy suggested that the council may be able to "circumvent" the pertinent bylaw to accommodate specific projects through the sale of municipal property.

Coun. Roy Booth questioned the logic of such a move, asking what would happen once all of the town's surplus land is sold. Council would be merely postponing the inevitable confrontation with higher taxes, he said.

COMMITTEE CUTS

Cut from the steering committee's recommended budget for 1979 was the provision for a five-month staff position in the

planning department. Hired for a two-year period on a contractual basis, the town's intermediate planner, Jim Shewchuk, resigned his post earlier this year and was to have been replaced temporarily during 1979 at a cost to the town of \$16,700.

Despite Coun. Ross Knechtel's warning that the position may be needed during 1979 if Mayor Pomeroy's prediction that development is to be encouraged is correct, council voted to delete the item from the budget.

Also deleted was a \$25,000 reserve contingency fund slated for use as working capital, a figure that had already been reduced from \$50,000 by the budget steering committee. Mayor Pomeroy initially suggested its deletion under the mistaken impression that its intended use was in the replacement of the town's computer system, scheduled to take place several years from now. When corrected by Mr. King, the mayor maintained that the \$25,000 should still be removed.

A third item was deleted from the recreation and parks department budget in the form of a \$15,000 worth of construction at Yodder Field, a proposed soccer pitch to have been developed this year behind Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena. Coun. Russ Miller recommended its deletion after Mayor Pomeroy requested council members to start trimming the budget.

FINAL PHASE

Much of the discussion Monday night centered on a \$132,000 budget item under transportation services for the final phase of post-construction work in the Bard Lane, Churchill Crescent and Charles Street area of Georgetown. Representing a gross cost to the town of \$71,000 the project was deleted from the budget

by the steering committee despite the promise of a provincial government subsidy that would have seen local taxpayers contributing only \$10,000 of the final cost.

While commending the budget steering committee for having done "an excellent job" overall, Coun. Mike Armstrong complained that council would be "penny-wise and pound-foolish" to decline provincial subsidies and shelve the project until another year. Failure to take advantage of the subsidies, he pointed out, would probably mean that that province will not offer Halton Hills similar subsidies next year.

Coun. John McDonald said he understood it is a tradition in Halton Hills to take advantage of such subsidies and suggested that the Bard Lane project deserves further consideration.

ENDORSED CONCEPT

Mayor Pomeroy endorsed the concept of utilizing subsidies but refused to support the project's reintroduction into the budget unless the \$60,000 gross cost to the town could be recovered by making deletions elsewhere.

Another suggestion by Coun. Miller that park maintenance funds should be depleted was strongly opposed by Coun. Levy.

"No more, please," he urged council. "This budget item is way up this year only because it was cut so many times in previous years. It's work that has to be done now, as a result."

When a resolution to approve the 1979 working budget of \$5,525,003 gained council's approval, Mayor Pomeroy commended Coun. Levy and his steering committee.

"I really don't see how it could have been done any better," he said.

School board budget

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Halton residents realize that the major part of the budget is not reflected in controllable items, where reductions can be made, but in salaries and benefits, where the board must live up to its agreements with staff and teachers.

"To control the budget, you must control salaries," he said. "The only way to change the cost of the budget is to change salaries, or reduce the pupil-teacher ratio".

FUTURE TAXPAYERS
"Members of the board and the public say they care about the students," trustee Elsie Hilson said. "I care about the students as future taxpayers. We have a declining population paying increasing taxes, and I can't support this budget for that reason".

Trustee Len Crosier asked if the secondary school expenditures would have come in under the provincial ceilings had the board not agreed under its collective agreement with the secondary school teachers to hire an additional 18 teachers for special education. Rev. Gary Morton said yes.

When trustee Len Auger moved that the board reduce the budget by the amount necessary to bring the secondary school level in under the provincial ceiling, Rev. Morton said that while he identified with the sentiment the only way to reduce the budget would be to cut back on supplies and services, or break the law by withdrawing from existing contracts.

PROPER USE

Trustee Anne Fairfield expressed concern that the elementary school spending levels

were \$53 below the provincial ceiling, and said that this could indicate the board is not making proper use of available money in the form of grants from the province. She suggested that the board consider using a portion of the differen-

Flood problem

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said, it was difficult to do any dynamiting. First of all, the works people had to wait until daylight, she said, and since the ice surface was broken, dynamiting would do little except shift the ice around.

"In spite of everything we can do, the flood plains belong to the river," Mrs. Rollings said. "It's a judgement at the time and on the site (whether or not to dynamite) and it's always open to question — you can't second-guess Mother Nature".

For a number of years, the CVCA has had a project on the books to attempt to alleviate the flooding problems in Glen Williams. The authority has set aside the money to build a spillway on the paper mill dam, and to dredge the river upstream so that the ice will float downstream, rather than piling up to create a jam. The project will cost about \$65,000. The design engineering is underway now, Mrs. Rollings said, and the project will have to be tendered, approved by the ministry and so on. She said the project might be ready to go by the summer "and that's a guess".

The original report by the CVCA on the flooding in Glen Williams was issued in 1965, and recommended the straightening of the bend in the river, performing some channelization work and constructing one or two small dikes further downstream to ease the flow of the ice. However the Township of Esquering objected to the cost of the proposal, which for the township's share was \$14,400.

SUMMARY OF HALTON HILLS TAX INCREASES

Stemming from council's 1979 operating budget, approved Monday night (see story Page 1).

AREA	COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT VALUE	1978 TAXES	1979 TAXES	DOLLAR INCREASE	PERCENTAGE INCREASE	1979 MILL. RATE
Acton	\$4,498	\$195.84	\$209.20	\$13.36	6.8	46.51
Georgetown	\$5,638	\$195.86	\$209.17	\$13.31	6.8	37.10
Esquering	\$4,638	\$165.11	\$181.62	\$16.51	9.9	39.16

The Comparative Assessment figures shown represent the average assessment per residential unit of all housing types excluding farms and Ontario Housing Corporation units in each ward. Equalization factors are used so that the different assessment figures represent the same values from area to area.

Tax dollar and increase figures shown represent the total impact for town purposes, a combination of taxes for general town purposes plus those for the urban service areas. The percentage increase for Esquering in 1979 is substantially higher than in the urban areas largely as a result of the discontinuation of transitional grants in 1978.

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<p>45 ACRES House and out buildings, rolling partially wooded property, 5 miles north of Milton just off Highway 25 - buildings need restoration. Auto wrecking licence with property. Call 877-0173 and ask Finn for more information.</p>		<p>PRIVACY PLUS PRESTIGE With this large treed lot in park area. Home is a 4 bedroom brick bungalow with stone fireplace in the spacious living room. Paved drive and 2 car garage. Vendor wants offers. Call Reg Cooper 877-0173.</p>		<p>OPEN HOUSE You are invited to view this immaculate country home - 1/2 acre, fireplace, inground pool, double car garage, plus more on Sunday March 25th, 2-4 p.m. Call Susan for directions. P.S. Priced reduced - \$77,900. 877-0173.</p>		<p>OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY MARCH 25th 2:00 - 4:00 P.M. Follow Highway 7 towards Acton, Highway 7 west of Georgetown to 4th Line north to Town Line West, 3 1/2 miles to OPEN HOUSE Sign.</p>			
<p>RAIN OR SHINE You will enjoy the view of your 28 acres on top of the hill in this 3 bedroom custom brick raised bungalow offering 3 baths, balconies, & walk-outs, 2 car Lincoln sized garage. Priced to sell. Call Mike for appointment. 877-0173.</p>		<p>VENDOR ANXIOUS This lovely 3 bedroom sidesplit can be yours if you would like an elegant living and dining room, with walk-out to deck and lovely garden. Big family kitchen, double garage, family room with stone fireplace and much more. Call Tillie at 877-0173.</p>		<p>THE BEST FOR LESS Can you spot a bargain? Sharpen your senses and come with me to view this lovely big home. With a little work, you can make this home a "showplace", beautiful oak trim throughout, it just one of the many features. Call today, ask for Tillie 877-0173.</p>		<p>IF YOU LOVE THE GREAT OUT-DOORS You will love our great indoors. This beautiful brand new 5 bedroom home is spread out for a large family. Solid Oak floors, 2 fireplaces to keep you warm. Nobody in bath to bother you, a must to see this one. Call Mike for an appointment. 877-0173.</p>		<p>NEED LOTS OF ROOM? 5 bedroom home on large lot with plenty of privacy - main floor laundry room, family room - priced in the \$70's. Call Susan at 877-0173.</p>	
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<p>30 ACRE PARCEL If you are a frustrated farmer, better look at this 30 acre scenic and workable parcel, only 3 miles from Georgetown. Ideal estate land, call Reg Cooper 877-0173.</p>		<p>NEW HOME 3 bedroom raised bungalow, fireplace in living room, H.U.D.A.C. warranty, choice of broadloom and priced at \$57,900. Call Susan 877-0173.</p>		<p>WANT TO MAKE MONEY? 2 storey 11 room house on large lot with good structure. Give away at \$49,900. with 10 percent mortgage, yes, in Georgetown! Call Reg Cooper 877-0173.</p>		<p>BUILDER'S - \$2,000 DOWN 75'x125' building lot - \$19,500 - serviced with town water. U.G. Hydro - quiet village location. Builder's term mortgage 6 months at 11 1/2 percent. Call Finn at 877-0173.</p>		<p>SPRING FEVER? Cure it with new custom built brick bungalow, fireplace & att. garage, on country sized lot, priced in low \$50's. Your choice of colours, broadloom, etc. 5 yr. HUDAC warranty. Call Trudy 877-0173.</p>	