

**Misrepresentation**

**Fraud charges for Firestone**



**MD CARNIVAL**

Arthur Domingos was manning the ticket booth Wednesday afternoon at a muscular dystrophy carnival organized by a group of children on Raylawn Crescent. Lucy and Christine Pacheco were among the patrons at the carnival. Organizers of the event included Carlos Pacheco, Shawn Coffey, Greg McLean, Francis McLean and Ann Domingos.

(Herald photo)

A Georgetown store and one of its employees have been charged in a recent crackdown on fraudulent business practices by the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

One charge has been laid against the Georgetown outlet of Firestone Canada Ltd. and an employee Stephen Kruk, R.R. 1, Cambellville has been charged with two counts of misrepresentation under the Business Practices Act.

Charges were laid Thursday after investigators visited the premises in unmarked cars and were told they needed service or replacement parts or repairs which were actually unnecessary.

Maximum penalty for an individual convicted of misrepresentation is one year in jail and a \$2,000 fine. The maximum penalty for a corporation convicted on the same charge is a \$25,000 fine.

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**Tax reforms bring problems**

Mayor Pete Pomeroy plans to meet with provincial government officials in the hopes of offsetting the effects of a newly-revised assessment equalization factor which will pose serious problems for Halton Hills' financial situation while easing economic pressures in Burlington.

Town treasurer Ray King told the town's general committee Monday night that there is little if anything to be done about the province's recent decision to revise its equalization factor, which he described as a mathematical means of making municipal assessments across Ontario more equitable.

The new 1980 factor for Halton Hills is 10.03, he reported, representing a comparison of sales or appraised values to assessment values, using where possible 10 per cent of all rateable assessment in order to get a proper sample.

**NEW FACTOR**  
"The new factor has a dramatic effect on the towns of Halton Hills and Milton in that both municipalities' share of regional and educational levies would be substantially increased," Mr. King said, "whereas Burlington would be materially decreased. The impact on Oakville is rather minimal."

Mr. King warned that Halton Hills taxpayers will have to pay another \$900,000 next year beyond their normal level of taxation.

Some hope for a reprieve exists in the form of a study being conducted by the province which, when completed, "could very well bring in a phasing system by the fall," Mr. King said.

"So we'll get another kick at the cat," he said.

Coun. Mike Armstrong described the new assessment factor as a "double-edged sword," both ends of which are pointing at Halton Hills.

Coun. Harry Levy pointed out, though, that the town has been "under-assessed" for the past four years and can expect little success in off setting the new factor. For an average home assessed at \$6,000, he estimated, the owner will have to pay an additional \$60 a year in taxes.

**EXPRESSED DOUBT**  
Coun. Pat Patterson expressed doubt that the province will be able to implement the new assessment factor by next year as planned. He quoted an unnamed source as saying it will be 1984 before the effects are felt.

Coun. Patterson added that homeowners in Ward 2 are paying more in taxes than the owners of comparable homes in the urban area. His Ward 2 colleague, Coun. George Maltby, noted that the urban taxpayers used to subsidize their rural neighbors, though, but now "the political whomp's turned around."

Mayor Pomeroy acknowledged that the new factor will have a serious effect on the town's ability to accommodate its capital forecasts and operating budget. He expressed hope that a meeting to be arranged at Queen's Park will offset the problem somewhat.

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**Bell Canada agreed to \$22,837.50**

**The union said no**

For nine months we tried unsuccessfully to negotiate an agreement with the Communications Workers of Canada representing our craft and services employees.

Then, at the union's request, a government conciliator was appointed.

The conciliator recommended the following monetary terms:

An overall wage increase of 28.8% during the 30-month life of the agreement including a 10.5% increase upon signature of the contract, retroactive to December 1, 1978.

This brings the annual salary of a senior level technician in a major centre up to \$22,837.50 from the present \$17,719.29 by September 1, 1980. In addition, he recommended a cost-of-living allowance in January 1981.

**Bell agreed**

An additional increase in the range of 1% to 2% for all employees located outside of Toronto, Montreal, Hamilton and Windsor.

**Bell agreed**

Further wage increases of 1% to 2.5% for all employees in certain job classifications.

**Bell agreed**

Improved overtime provisions, including higher pay for overtime, so that a senior level technician could earn up to a maximum of \$22 per hour; more vacation and paid holidays; higher shift premiums and better travel compensation.

**We agreed, although the entire package went far beyond our earlier proposals.**

**The union said no.**

**We regret the inconvenience to the public but we feel our position is a responsible one.**

**Bell**