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## Five per cent ceiling

# Tax reprieve will save residents \$30



FATHER'S DAY COMES EARLY

(Herald photo by Paul Beattie)

Maple Nursery School celebrated its own Father's Day on Saturday as fathers were invited to take part in different activities with their children. Evan

Walker and his father took advantage of the sand box, since the summer beach sand weather is on its way out.

By PAUL DORSEY  
Staff writer

A five per cent ceiling on increases created by the upcoming equalization of regional taxation factors has trimmed an anticipated \$900,000 cost to Halton Hills by nearly two-thirds, saving the average taxpayer here about \$30 in 1980.

Equalization factors being introduced next year by the provincial government had threatened to boost the town's regional tax burden by nearly \$909,000 in 1980, according to town treasurer Ray King, but a recent announcement from Queen's Park should prove to be the taxpayer's saving grace, at least temporarily.

would have paid \$401 in 1978 taxes under the anticipated tax schedule. Thanks to the five per cent ceiling, however, that amount has been reduced to about \$374. These figures are based on average assessments of \$5,638 in Georgetown, \$4,438 in Acton and \$4,638 in Esquesing.

**REASONABLY FAIR**  
Calling the five per cent ceiling "a reasonably fair approach" which virtually eliminates any "basis for appeal", Mr. King explained that the new equalization factor, as anticipated, would have boosted the average residential tax bill here by nearly \$18. The lower ceiling will see taxes increase only \$18, though, he said.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy warned Langstone Crescent petitioners two weeks ago that the anticipated \$900,000 increase would no doubt force the town to drastically revise its public works capital forecast and thus delay plans for the reconstruction of their road even further.

While echoing Coun. Harry Levy's positive remarks about

the five per cent ceiling, the mayor commented Monday night that a much larger tax hike is inevitable after 1980 as rates are gradually equalized across Halton region.

Even with its additional tax burden trimmed to \$350,000, Mayor Pomeroy pointed out, council's budget steering committee still faces "a tough job" coming up with the extra funds to meet servicing needs next spring.

**LESS EXPECTANT**  
Mr. King was less expectant of large tax hikes in the future, but acknowledged that some Ontario municipalities are already facing 30 to 40 per cent increases because of the new equalization factors. He admitted that larger increases for Halton Hills will likely be "phased in" during coming years.

Coun. Levy expressed concern over the province's November 1 deadline for municipal appeals over the new factors.

"The treasurer assures me, though, that the five per cent

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## Retarded home director cleared

By LOUI TAYLOR  
Herald staff writer

Robert Bilodeau was acquitted Monday on 16 counts of fraud involving the alleged theft of money from residents of the Countryside residence for the mentally handicapped in Hornby.

County Court Judge Patrick LeSage, in acquitting Mr. Bilodeau, said, "I consider it unfortunate that the accused has been subjected to the strain and no doubt the substantial expense of this trial on evidence based primarily on dislike, distrust and his position, and upon which the crown should not have reasonably anticipated a successful prosecution."

Mr. Bilodeau was accused of having stolen money from residents of the home of Countryside during the period in which he was director of the residence.

Judge LeSage described the evidence submitted by Crown Attorney David Price as, "considered at its strongest, flimsy and its weakest, practically non-existent." He said many of the charges were "totally lacking in proof."

**REASONABLE DOUBT**  
In reading his judgment,

which was reserved after the trial concluded October 6, Judge LeSage said that while one or two of the charges laid by the crown attorney raised suspicion and left question unanswered, none were proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

Judge LeSage said he found the trial had not been so much dealing with criminal charges, as a public inquiry to determine where the money went.

The judge began his summation with the letter of application submitted by Mr. Bilodeau in response to the advertisement for the position of director of the residence, in which Mr. Bilodeau set out his educational background.

Judge LeSage said that he found Mr. Bilodeau to have been deceitful in his statements about his educational background, but he rejected the allegation by Mr. Price that the letter of application was part of a scheme which Mr. Bilodeau had set in motion with the intent of gaining control over the residents' money.

Judge LeSage then proceeded to explain his views as to the credibility of some of the witnesses. He said that a number of the counsellors were cred-

ible witnesses, but that they weren't objective about Mr. Bilodeau because they personally disliked and distrusted him.

Mr. Bilodeau testified for seven days about the period of time under scrutiny in court, and while Judge LeSage said he found his statements about his educational background to be deceitful, he accepted Mr. Bilodeau's explanation about his system of bookkeeping for the comfort allowances paid to the residents by the government. The judge described Mr. Bilodeau's system as "haphazard, careless and a most unsatisfactory method", but said it had not been proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it was part of a scheme to steal money from the residents.

**NO RELATIONSHIP**  
Judge LeSage also said that he was satisfied on the totality of the evidence that Mr. Bilodeau had not had a homosexual relationship with one of the residents of Countryside, as had been alleged by the prosecution.

He then proceeded to take each charge and analyze the discrepancies between the

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## This Week

### Focal dispute

Have you been wondering what's happening with the long-standing Focal Propertyless dispute with Halton Hills? So has town councillor Marilyn Serjeantson and she was looking for answers at last week's planning board meeting.

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### Hollywood North

The movies have been gone from Georgetown for over a month now but this week the Herald takes a fond look at the three major movies filmed in Georgetown during the last three years in our "Hollywood North" supplement.

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### Girls banned

Two Georgetown girls have been banned from playing hockey with boys their own age and ability.

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### Delrex wins

Delrex Smoke Shop did it again. For the third consecutive year they are the flag football champions over the Dairy Queen team.

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## Two new subdivisions are likely for Acton

Despite strong opposition from some members, the town has moved closer toward approving the two residential subdivisions proposed for Acton's east end as part of the "moderate growth" predicted for the community in the coming decade.

Negotiations continue between town planning staff and P. Civiero Investments Ltd., which hopes to build 52 semi-detached homes off Churchill Road North and Cedar Road Developments Ltd., which has proposed 25 single-family homes for the opposite side of the road.

Official plan amendments

for both subdivisions were sanctioned by the board last Tuesday night, despite Coun. Harry Levy's contention that deputy planning director Brian Kropp recommended the action because he was "under the gun" to prepare a "positive" report on the proposals. Coun. Levy was referring to remarks made by board members two weeks earlier, when staff was urged to expedite the review process in preparation for early approval. Town council approved the amendments this week.

**PUBLIC MEETING**  
A public meeting on the proposals will be advertised as

part of a forthcoming board session. Planning director Mario Venditti informed members that his final report on both subdivisions should be submitted at the November 13 board meeting.

Commenting that development in Acton is biased toward industry, with the bulk of vacant land zoned for that use, Mr. Venditti acknowledged in a preliminary report that the board has twice rejected proposals for moderate residential growth in the community. Nevertheless, he said, "I feel strongly that these proposals represent a reasonable and rational approach."

"A modest increase in the residential component is desirable," Mr. Venditti went on to explain, "but because we are unsure of the real extent of certain servicing constraints at this time, it should take place as extensions to... existing neighborhoods rather than as commitments to whole new areas."

A lack of information about the serviceability of the entire seven-acre Cedar Road property on the east side of Churchill Road prompted the board to suggest an official plan amendment for the southerly half of the lands in an effort to expedite approvals.

**LEGAL DEFENCE**  
Coun. Ed Wood's attempt to have the amendment apply to all the Cedar Road lands was unsuccessful, largely because of Mr. Venditti's warning that the ministry of housing would then be obliged to make its own modifications to the proposal when it is referred for approval by the town. The planner pointed out that the town could not legally defend its own approval for the project unless sufficient servicing information had been provided.

"The developer's getting almost everything he wants, even though he may not be able to develop the pond area (on the northerly half) unless the reports prove positive," Mayor Pete Pomeroy commented. Nevertheless, council this week voted to approve amendments for all portions of the site after the mayor offered new information about provincial government rezoning requirements.

"It still doesn't alter the basic fact that we're proceeding with something that's very premature, bearing in mind the comments of Halton region and the (Credit Valley) Conservation Authority," Coun. Levy maintained Monday night. "We're being asked to approve a subdivision for which neither we nor the planning department have seen any plans. I still think we should wait until a thorough report is done and all the concerns are met."

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## Roy Booth fails to stop trapping

Town council has voted 8-1 to allow area hunters to trap fur-bearing animals in Halton Hills, despite Coun. Roy Booth's concern over the possibility that the hunters may be using leg traps, which he called "one of the cruelest traps I think we've ever devised."

Prompted by applications from two hunters, the general committee had recommended in favor of the practice on town-owned land last week, at which time Coun. Harry Levy expressed confidence that Coun. Booth, who he described as something of a conservationist, would have objections later.

**NO FAITH**  
Although absent from that meeting, Coun. Booth lived up to his colleague's expectations at Monday's night's council meeting when he challenged the humaneness of leg traps. Clerk-administrator Ken Richardson said he was unsure of the type of trap to be used in Halton Hills, but expressed belief that any trap would have to meet provincial government standards.

"I don't have the greatest faith in the ministry of natural resources," Coun. Booth responded.

"There's no doubt," Coun. Pat Patterson offered. "They're leg traps."

"Then I can't be a party to this resolution," Coun. Booth said, noting that the traps are intended for us on beaver, mink and muskrat. Mayor Pete Pomeroy commented that council is only required to endorse or deny licence applications before the ministry. Control over the type of traps used, he said, is not within the town's jurisdiction. "The mayor's got it twisted," Coun. Booth argued. "It certainly is in this council's jurisdiction to decide whether we wish to have trappers in Halton Hills."

"I respect Coun. Booth's wishes," Coun. Patterson said, "but if he had a pond like I do where the muskrats have destroyed it, I'm sure he'd want some type of trap in there. I'm going to give my permission to this whether it's legal or not, and I've got a couple of 'coon in

my barn somebody can get out, too."

**SOLE OPPONENT**  
With Coun. Booth the sole opponent of the trapping approval, the resolution was approved by Mayor Pomeroy and councillors Patterson, Levy, Mike Armstrong, George Maltby, Russ Miller, John McDonald, Marilyn Serjeantson. Absent were councillors Walter Biehn, Terry Grubbe and Ed Wood.

Coun. Booth also expressed concern over the application of a newly-approved bylaw enabling local farmers who obtain special permits from Queen's Park to shoot at Canada geese which raid their crops. He withdrew a request to have the permission apply only to landowners, their family members or a designated employee, however, after it was pointed out that additional applications may be necessary.

Both the committee recommendation and the pertinent bylaw allowing the killing or scaring off of wild birds were approved.



ISHAM HONORED

The North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded recognized one of their own recently with a reception in honor of Wyn Isham, director of the ARC workshop at Hornby. Mrs. Isham and her late husband, Harry, began the workshop in a small way in their garage near Milton teaching young adults to re-web lawn chairs, and Mrs. Isham became the workshop's director when the association purchased the old Hornby school in 1964. Mrs. Isham nursed prior to her marriage and came to Canada with her husband and two sons in 1948 from Northampton, England. She was one of the first people accredited by the Canadian Association for Rehabilitation Workshops. She is leaving her job for health reasons and has made no plans on how to fill her new leisure hours. Here Mayor Pomeroy gives Mrs. Isham a kiss along with her recognition gift from the association.

(Herald photo)