

Staff Comment

by Richard Petrashek

Region's credibility in doubt

the 1979 sewer budget. As you may recall, the introduction of the new user-pays sewer charge system January 1 was intended, council said last fall, to take sewer charges off the tax bill and make sewers self-liquidating like water and hydro. You would pay only for what you used.

just shifting the cost and giving it a new name. In politics, however, answers are never simple. The region it seems, according to chief administrative officer Ernie Reid, made a commitment last fall that it would not increase rates in 1980. If council decides to go the same route as the works committee, it will severely

damage its credibility. By shifting the deficit onto the tax bill the region will be taking a giant step backward into time and only be deceiving itself that it has lived up to its commitments. The only honest solution is to admit that an error has been made in formulating the rates and to take the measures needed to adjust them to the proper level.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The preceding commentary represents reporter Petrashek's final contribution to The Herald. Richard is leaving the staff and Georgetown this week in the hopes of reviving his involvement in Toronto live theatre; we wish him the best of luck for the future. Richard turns over his municipal council beat to fellow staff writer Stephen Frost.

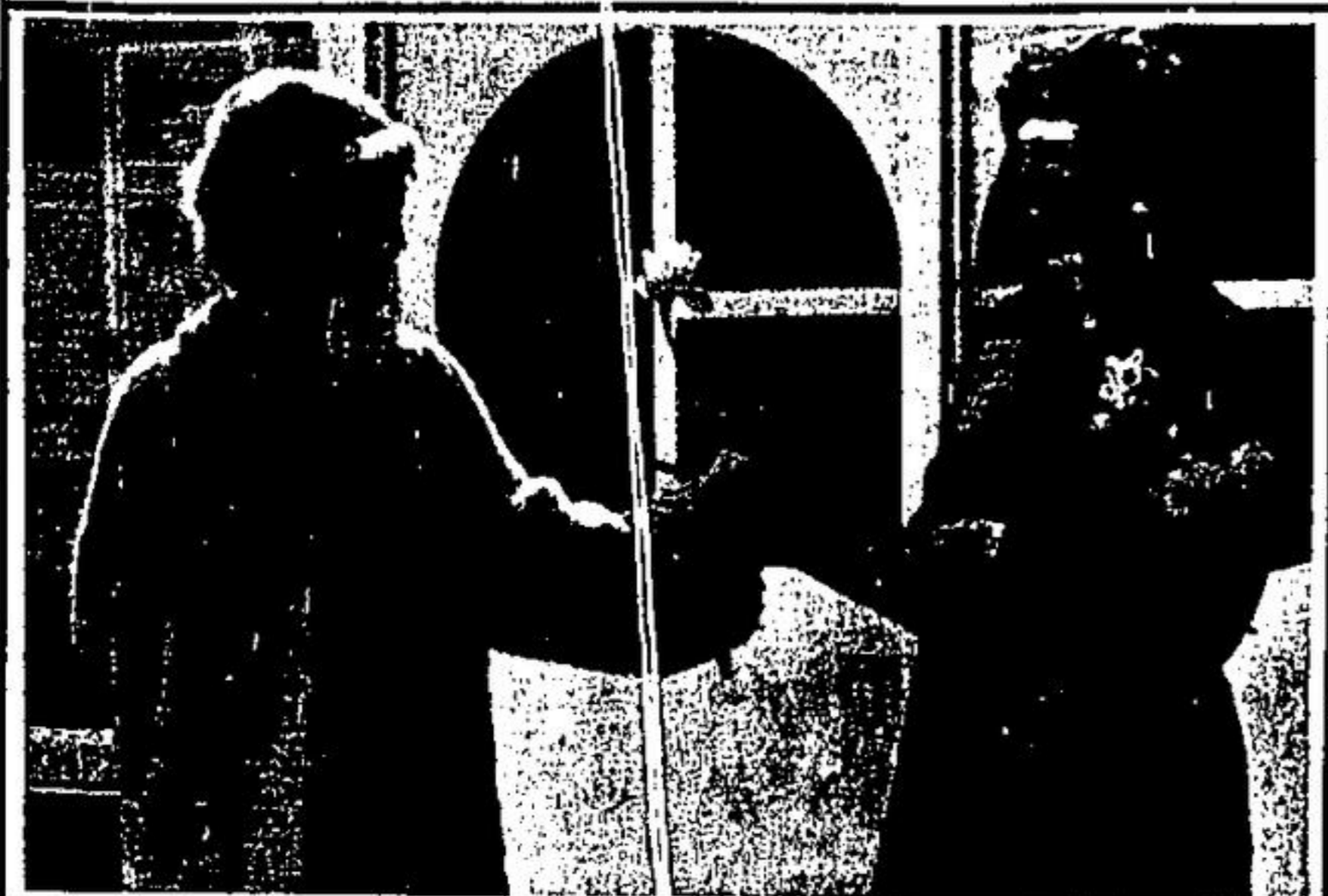


Halt regional council will be laying its credibility on the line this afternoon (Wednesday), when it votes on a public works committee recommendation that will, if passed, add between \$2.50 and \$2.75 to the average 1979 (payable in 1980) tax bill. The increase itself is not a major one, but the reasoning behind it does cast some doubt on the region's credibility, which is still recovering from the wrist-slapping it received from the public over recent allegations of double billing on sewer charges. As it turns out, the proposed 55-cent increase in the mill rate, a figure provided by the region's deputy treasurer, Jim Stewart, also originates from costs associated with the region's sewage system. The tax increase is to be used to cover an unexpected deficit of almost \$400,000 in

Four grass fires started last week

The grass fire season has begun again for Halton Hills firefighters who answered four calls to extinguish grass fires last week. The first grass fire of the week on Thursday was on the grass behind Mr. Donut on Sinclair Avenue. Later fires were near Boehmer's Lumber on Armstrong Avenue, and on the 10th Line. Firefighters also received a call from a man Monday night about a grass fire in a ditch, but it turned out to be a false alarm. Firefighters were also called out to two rubbish fires. A pile

of rubbish at the rear of 32 Heather Court caught fire Saturday, and a pile of garbage on Mill Street across from the Royal Canadian Legion caught fire on Sunday.



The Canadian Cancer Society Daffodil Drive is coming up this weekend and daffodil chairman Nan Brooker is ready to start selling daffodils as part of the society's fund-raising drive. Cancer society volunteers will be at the GO Train station Thursday afternoon, and at various locations throughout Halton Hills on Friday and Saturday. The money from the sale of the daffodils, \$2 for ten, will be used only for research. Mrs. Brooker is encouraging people to buy the daffodils where they live, instead of buying them from out of town.

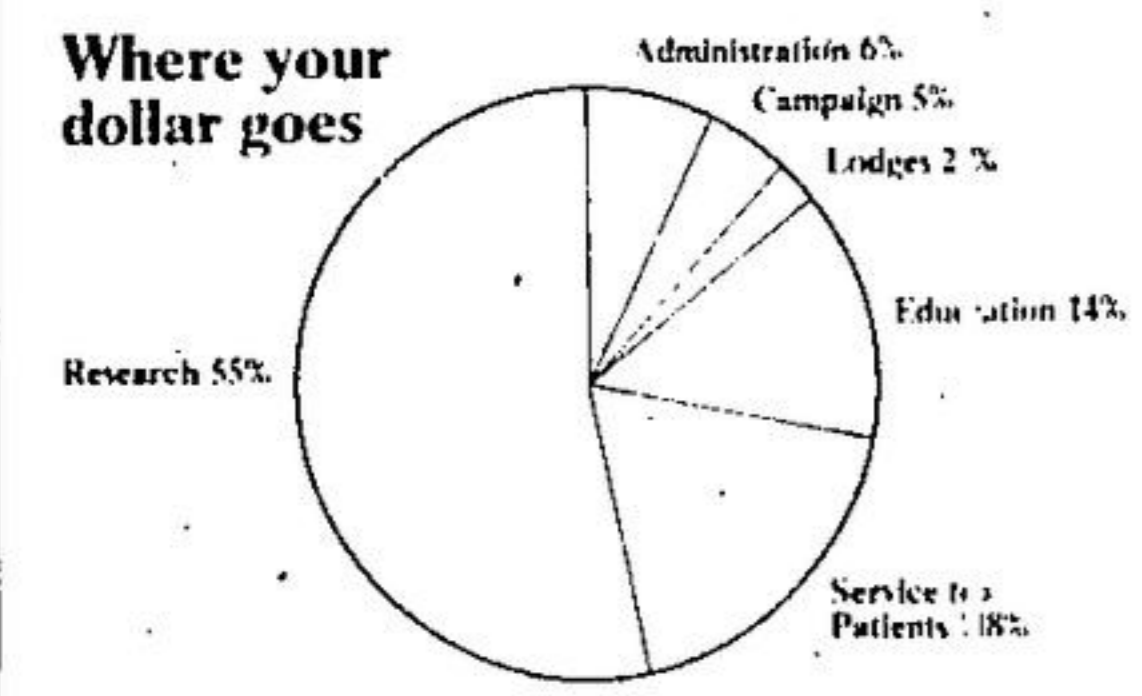
Generous donations help defeat cancer

Herald Special - Cancer research is extremely costly. The Canadian Cancer Society, acting through the National Cancer Institute of Canada, is the main source of funds for cancer research. The Canadian contribution to this world-wide progress towards the control of cancer has been of major importance. April is campaign month for the Canadian Cancer Society. Without the generous donations of the Canadian public, its support of cancer research would not be possible. Nor would the Society

be able to continue its program of public education and service to cancer patients. The entire emphasis of the 1980 fund-raising and education campaign is on action: the action of protecting oneself against cancer; the action of protecting others through support of cancer research. Each dollar donated to the Society's campaign goes to work in three ways: The first part of the program support of research is well-known. The second, education, is approached from the public and professional standpoint.

Throughout Canada, the Society carries out public education on the importance of early detection of cancer, when prompt treatment could result in a cure. Cancer prevention is also stressed. Attention to early symptoms, by men and women can affect great savings in human suffering and reduction in extensive medical costs. Society films, publications and conferences bring cancer news and facts to members of the medical and allied professions. Much is also done for the cancer patient through the making and distribution of dressings, transportation, hospital and home visiting, and coping with cancer programs.

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