

## Mountainview regrading postponed?

# Budget goes before council after \$1.14 million chopped

By STEPHEN FROST  
 Herald Staff Writer  
 More than \$1,140,000 worth of health and social service programs, nine staff positions and road reconstruction projects that were to include the regrading of the hazardous Mountainview-River Drive intersection, may have all fallen victim to regional budget cutbacks.

The cuts were recommended last Wednesday by the administration and finance committee with almost all of the region's 24 councillors present. The committee did not finish its task of cutting items out of the budget, however, and asked chief administrative officer Ernie Reid to take the budget back to the region's individual departments to see if there were additional cuts that could be made.

"I really don't know where to look for any more cuts," Mr. Reid said. "I've been through the budget over and over and I'm stumped."

The meeting was to provide final committee revisions before the budget was presented to council for approval today (Wednesday). There is still a chance that more cuts can be made this morning, in time for the budget's approval this afternoon.

"I was quite pleased with the progress we made (last Wednesday)," Mayor Pete Pomeroy told The Herald. "Any more cuts are going to be nickel and dime stuff, so hopefully we'll get anything that comes up approved in the morning session so we can take the revised budget to council in the afternoon."

**LEVY DROPPED**  
 By cutting \$1.4 million from the projected budget, the anticipated increase in the general levy dropped from 18 per cent to 14.5 per cent. After assessment growth of four per cent is worked in, the general levy hike works out to approximately 10.5 per cent. The largest single item recommended for deletion from the budget last week was the reconstruction of the Mountainview Road-River Drive intersection, which would have cost \$386,000, of which the region's share would have been \$193,000.

One other project which may get shelved for a year is the construction of a bridge to replace the present one-lane structure on Winston Churchill Boulevard (Regional Road 19) near Norval's Credit Valley Boat Company.

The only program to survive the axe was a \$2,400,000 Children's Aid Society (CAS) grant. Mr. Reid had recommended a cut of \$150,000, of which the region's share would have been \$30,000. Oakville Coun. Bonnie

Brown told the committee that Halton region has the highest number of children coming under CAS care in Ontario.

"Despite this, the CAS has a good record of projecting a budget and then staying within it," Coun. Brown said. "The province also says that by law, you have to take kids in trouble under care, but they don't offer you any more money to do it. If we cut this amount now, we will probably have to pay it back at the end of the year."

The region's solid waste management program didn't escape unscathed, losing \$120,000 proposed for a market development program and preliminary engineering studies for a facility that would separate recyclable waste and convert the remaining garbage to energy (steam) by burning it.

"The program has been in the books for years, but because it is so expensive, people back off," Halton Hills Coun. Russ Miller told The Herald. "If we were really serious about cutting things from the budget, we should start with new projects."

**PROMISED PEOPLE**  
 "This program is something we have promised the people since we started. Perhaps we could get some assistance from the senior levels of government."

Burlington Coun. Steve Toth agreed, saying the problem of waste disposal "is not just a regional problem, but a national one, and I think we should pursue (funding) with the provincial and national governments."

Credit balances from projects last year amounting to \$323,019 were used to meet the sewer system deficit of \$332,000.

"Despite some members' allegations that we are playing games with figures, I feel using the credit balance to offset the sewer deficit is simply good business," Mayor Pomeroy said. "It's really giving money back to people that we have overcharged them."

Coun. Brown pointed out that because there isn't a sewer cost on property bills this year, the 10.5 per cent increase may appear lower than it actually is.

"If the new sewer surcharges were calculated in to the levy the overall increase to the taxpayer would be closer to 15 per cent," she said.



**ACTON'S MAIN MAN**

The contributions Arlie White has made to Acton were finally recognized Saturday when the Acton Chamber of Commerce presented him with its Citizen of the Year Award. Accolades were given by old friends and colleagues and included an award from MPP Julian Reed and words of congratulations from Otto Jelinek, MP for Halton. Pictured above are Bert Hinton, Chamber president, Mr. and Mrs. White, and Ross Knechtel, councillor for Ward 1, Halton Hills. (Guelph Mercury Photo)

## Pat's people annoyed

# Region spends money like 'drunken sailors'

"Some of my constituents believe that the region is spending money like a bunch of drunken sailors," Coun. Pat Patterson charged before general committee Monday night.

Prompting their annoyance, he said, is the reconstruction of Trafalgar Road between Maple Avenue and Highway 7. "Do we really need to have the road upgraded, and what was the traffic count on that road?" Coun. Patterson asked regional engineer Bruce Kitchen.

"The traffic count north of Maple Avenue is slightly more than 4,000 vehicles a day and around 5,800 south of Maple," Mr. Kitchen replied.

The planned reconstruction would entail the levelling of hills and backfilling north of the tracks by Sideroad 20 to reduce the hump caused by railway tracks. The road would also be widened by ten feet.

Coun. Russ Miller expressed concern that too many trees would be lost if the road is widened.

"We should be looking to save trees in all our works projects," Mr. Miller said.

Mr. Kitchen assured him that the road was to be widened on the west side only, thereby saving about half the trees.

"By widening the road on the west side, we save the trees in front of the residential build-

ings that are predominantly on the east," Mr. Kitchen said. Only the preliminary engineering and surveying will be done this year with construction scheduled to start in 1992.

There will be public meetings for all residents who are concerned with the reconstruction, their dates to be advertised two weeks in advance in the local papers.

Coun. Roy Booth asked if these public meetings were customary.

"When a project funded by the region such as this goes right past your door, we try to maintain a high profile and ask the public if there are any conflicts," Mr. Kitchen said.



**KINGS OF THE HILL**

This team is number one—the winners of the Ontario double A championship after over three months of Ontario Minor Hockey Association playoffs. The McNally Firefighters celebrated their win with a tour of the Georgetown fire hall, and a party courtesy of one of their sponsors, the Area 2 firefighters. The team is shown here on the back of one of the pumpers in the fire hall. (Herald photo by Lori Taylor)

# Region contract ends 12-day strike

By MAGGIE HANNAH  
 Herald Special  
 Halton regional public works employees are back on the job today after ratifying a new two-year contract Monday.

Regional council and members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 636, both approved the new contract which gives workers an average hourly rate of \$7.80 effective immediately, up from \$7.27 under the contract which expired Dec. 31.

The new contract calls for a 7.25 per cent pay increase retroactive to Jan. 1 and a further two per cent effective June 1.

In the second year of the

agreement workers will receive 7.5 per cent effective Jan. 1.

The cost of living allowance clause, which was one of the main bones of contention during the prolonged bargaining session has been improved so that it will kick in during 1991 as soon as the cost of living reaches 108 per cent of the figures released on Oct. 31, 1990.

A union spokesman termed this a big improvement in the clause since it will give the men a full 12 months of potential increase. The old clause was based on Dec. 31 figures and these were never picked up, he said, because it was the date the contract expired.

By agreement between the

union and the region, each of the employees will receive a flat \$104 payment for their cost of living allowance during the months of negotiations.

Ratification of the agreement reached Thursday brings an end to a 12-day strike by union members during which one man was injured on picket duty at the Oakville landfill regional site Thursday.

A union spokesman termed the new contract "good for the region and good for us. It's fair all the way around. Now we just want to go back to work and let bygones be bygones. We all have a job to do."

## JELINEK JOINS TORY 'CABINET'

Halton MP Otto Jelinek is "delighted" with his appointment as corporate affairs critic in the Conservative shadow cabinet.

Mr. Jelinek said Thursday he knew the week previous that opposition leader Joe Clark was giving him the post, since the Tory leader is aware of Mr. Jelinek's interest in small businesses.

The appointment is simply a broadening of his responsibilities, the MP said. "It enlarges my interest from strictly small businesses to medium and large corporations as well," he commented. "I have already had a call from the deputy minister to say that government priorities will centre on the Bankruptcy Act, the Bank Act, non-profit corporations and similar items."

"It will be a very challenging portfolio handle," Mr. Jelinek said.

Mr. Jelinek said he will be flying to Ottawa Saturday to attend a meeting of the Ontario Caucus Sunday morning. He will not be running for any offices in that caucus this time because his shadow cabinet post will give him enough responsibilities to keep him busy.

In the afternoon, he will be attending the national caucus meeting.

## FIRM BUYS LAND

A manufacturer of high precision screw machine products has purchased five acres of land in the Georgetown industrial park, according to Brampton realty firm E.A. Mitchell Ltd.

Mitchell vice-president G.W. Harley told The Herald this week that A. Berger Precision Ltd. purchased the site on the north side of Highway 7 immediately west of United Co-op and intends to hire local people, although the number of employees required has not been disclosed.

Mr. Harley added that the company's move here will not take place until 1991 at the earliest.

## Truck hits area picketer

Herald Special  
 The only negative aspect in an otherwise smoothly-conducted, 12-day strike by Halton region public works employees took the form of a traffic injury Thursday morning which left one of the strikers hospitalized following a mishap at the picketed Oakville landfill site.

Halton regional police charged Kevin Paul Scott, 25, of Longford Mills, Ontario, with dangerous driving after the small dump truck he was driving ran over picketer Bernard Gillivet, 53, of Oakville.

Mr. Gillivet was reported late last week in fair condition at Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital with head injuries and a broken left shinbone.

The accident occurred just outside the Fourth Line dump site late Thursday morning when, according to police, the idling truck lurched forward when the driver's foot slipped from the clutch. The truck was hauling a private load of waste garbage.

Thursday's accident came following comments by union

president Bruce Allen that he was unhappy that members of other unions were crossing IBEW picket lines to deliver garbage to both the Burlington and Oakville landfill sites.

He said Monday an IBEW representative would try to reach an agreement with a Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) official to work out a way of stopping CUPE workers crossing the IBEW picket lines. Workers in the towns of Halton Hills, Oakville and Burlington belong to CUPE and were being forced to cross the lines.

Gord Miller, the CUPE rep for Halton locals, said last Wednesday that CUPE members had to cross the picket lines because, in their collective agreements with various towns, there was a clause stating that members would not go on strike and managements would not lock them out as long as the contract was in effect. Refusing to cross the picket lines would be tantamount to refusing to work and members could be penalized or even fired without any recourse through their union, he said.

# 'Steamer's' taking gift painting to Dutch veteran's reunion

When 850 Canadian war veterans return to Holland next month to commemorate their role in the country's liberation from Nazi control 35 years ago, Halton Hills representatives among them will take with them a painting by Coun. Roy Booth as a gift from the town to the city of Nijmegen.

Coun. Booth's Niagara escarpment scene was turned over to local veterans Wheldon "Steamer" Emmerson of Georgetown, Milton regional

Coun. Gus Goutouski and Major-General Chris Vokes (retired) during Monday night's meeting of the town's general committee.

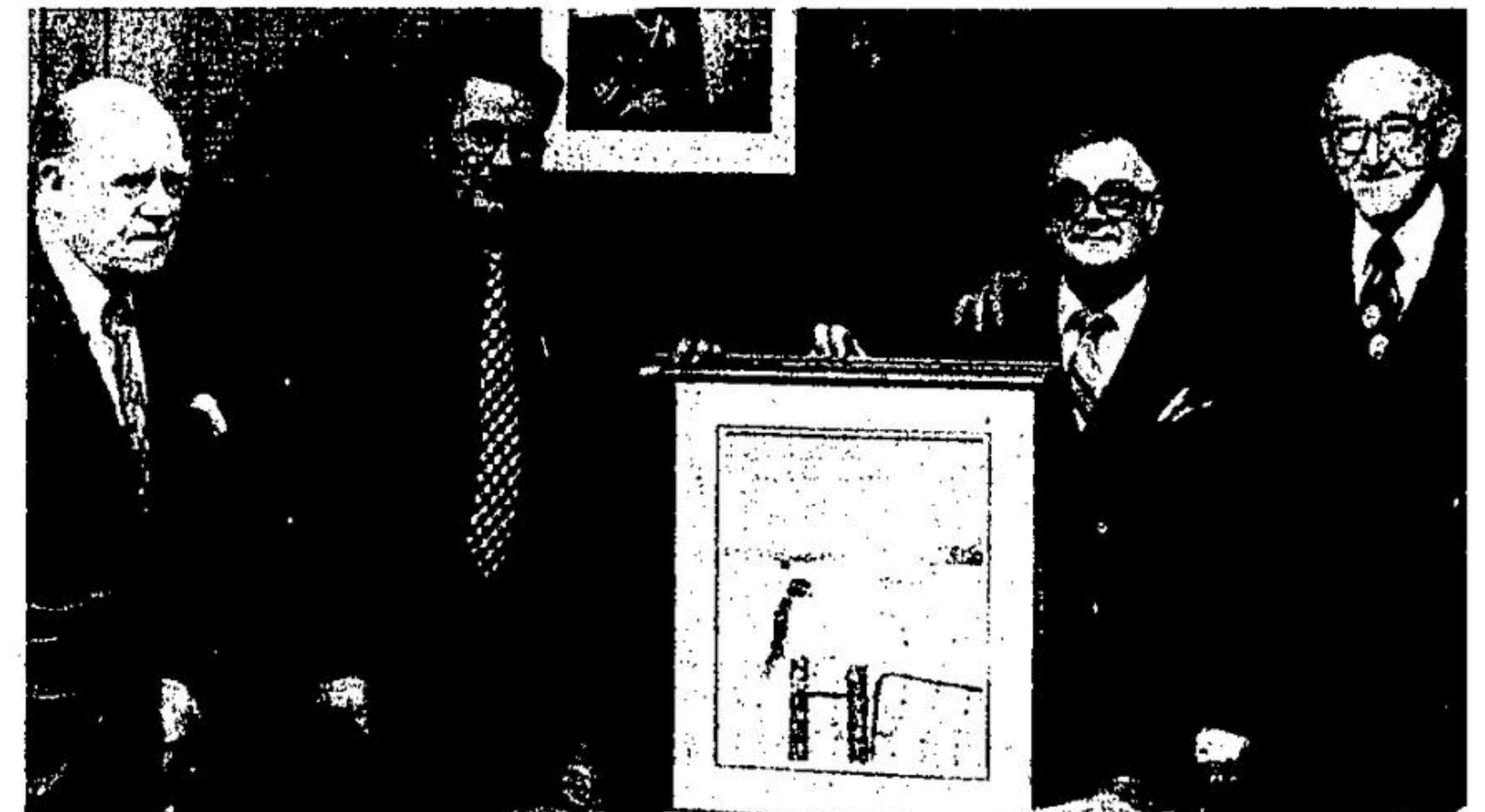
"The Dutch haven't forgotten who fought for and liberated Holland in 1944 and '45," Coun. Goutouski told the committee, explaining that the 850 Canadian veterans have been invited by Nijmegen city fathers to help them celebrate the 35th anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe) Day May 5.

"The Nijmegen town council will be spending \$350,000 dollars to entertain the Canadians," Mr. Goutouski said. "They realize the importance of our sacrifice, while we often forget that our way of life in this country is owed to blood spilled on foreign soil."

Steamer Emmerson will be representing the town of Halton Hills and will present Coun. Booth's painting, "The Sentinel", to the people of Nijmegen.

"I will represent Halton Hills with dignity and dispatch," Mr. Emmerson said "and it is a pleasure to be travelling with such a distinguished Canadian and a dedicated soldier as Mr. Vokes."

For his part, Mr. Vokes assured the committee he would "look after Steamer". Canadians attending the ceremonies commemorating VE Day will be staying in private homes of Dutch citizens.



Major General Chris Vokes (left) and Gus Goutouski (right) look on as Roy Booth presents one of his paintings to Wheldon "Steamer" Emmerson. The painting, entitled "The

Sentinel", will be presented to the citizens of Nijmegen, Holland, as a gift from Halton Hills commemorating VE Day, May 5. (Herald photo)