

MAYOR DEFENDS REGION SPENDING

Rising to the defence of Halton region, Mayor Pete Pomeroy has produced figures showing that regional councillors are not spending money "like drunken sailors", as Coun. Pat Patterson had suggested at last week's general committee meeting.

The mayor distributed documents at Monday's town council meeting giving the breakdown of municipal taxation for 1980, which show Halton Hills' share of the regional levy set last week by Halton to be only 2.2 per cent.

"Does the councillor who made the remark about the drunken sailors have a comment or apology to make?" Mayor Pomeroy asked. "I really don't care if he does, but I am curious as to his reaction to a very small rise in the regional levy."

"Just what have the rural people gotten out of regional government?" the Ward 2 councillors responded. "We've got an absolutely nothing."

"You get exactly the same as urban people," Mayor Pomeroy said. "You get roads, don't you?"

"We got roads when we were under a county govern-

ment," Coun. Patterson said. "Are you trying to tell me that the roads aren't as good as roads in 1974?" Mayor Pomeroy asked.

"Some are better, but some are definitely worse," Coun. Patterson maintained. "What did county government give you?" asked regional Coun. Roy Booth. "You're far better off now because you have more service and less cost. Put that in your pipe and smoke it."

"I think what Coun. Patterson is trying to say is that the provincial government forced us into the region of Halton against our wishes," Ward 2 Coun. George Malby said. "At the same time, I recognize that the rural people were getting a free ride, because we didn't pay any direct taxes for policing or recreation."

"I'm sorry my comments were taken the way they were," Coun. Patterson said. "My big complaint is with the provincial government, who thrust us into a regional system the rural people don't want. My comments were not meant to be a reflection on regional council members."

Owens land adjacent

Julian questions need for bridge

It looks like the proposed new bridge north of Highway 7 in Norval will be cut from the regional budget, and at least one Norval resident will be happy to see the project brought to a temporary halt.

Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed, who owns the property on either side of the road where the present bridge is located, is concerned about the effect a new two-lane bridge might have on the character of the community.

Mr. Reed, who emphasized that he is speaking as a private citizen and long-time Norval resident, and not as an MPP, told The Herald he has a number of concerns about the proposed bridge.

Mr. Reed said that as far as he knows, no one has ever justified the proposed two-lane bridge in terms of traffic flow along that route. In fact, a regional engineer said at one meeting that "there is no traffic reason for putting in the new bridge," according to Mr. Reed.

"Therefore we have to ask why they're putting one in. Is it because the present bridge is unsafe?"

The existing bridge has never been properly maintained, Mr. Reed said. Only one end has been shored up, and the other end has wooden piers supporting it.

"It's true that whatever side of the road they decide to widen on, they'll have to buy property from me to do it," Mr. Reed said. "I'm not saying anything at all about whether I will or will not sell. I want some things spelled out very clearly to me and the future of the village is one of them."

"If a large bridge is put in, it will be the first step leading to pressure to put in a large, graduated curve at the top of the hill, which will make the road a major traffic route through the village from the north," Mr. Reed said. "Is it legitimate to make a decision to sacrifice the village of Norval for expediency?"

"I need answers before I make any decision of acceptance or rejection."

He has not been approached yet by the region to open negotiations for the sale of his property, although Halton officials are aware they must buy land from him to proceed with the bridge.

"The character of the village has been decimated by the straightening of Highway 7, and it's going to have to be proven to me that the present bridge is unsafe, and that's it's necessary," Mr. Reed said. "If you can prove to me that it's necessary, then it's necessary."

"I happen to be very proud of my little balliwick, and I like my neighbors, and I don't see the necessity of seeing my village sacrificed for expediency."

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Grass fires keep firemen busy, seven times in four days

Firefighters from Area 2 (Georgetown) were kept busy during the past week with seven grass fires in four days.

Firefighters were called out to a major grass fire on property behind Georgetown District Memorial Hospital on Saturday, as well as grass fires on Mountainview Road South, three in rural areas, and two in Glen Williams.

Fire Prevention Officer Larry Brassard warned that grass fires can easily get out of control at this time of year, particularly when the weather

has been dry.

"Anything in its path can go once it gets out of control: barns, houses, even fence posts are nothing to laugh at, because they're expensive to replace," Mr. Brassard said.

The fire department advises against burning grass off, and suggests cutting it instead. If the homeowner decides to go ahead anyway, the spot being burned should be no larger than three feet by three feet, and there should be a hose or some other source of water handy to extinguish the fire if

it shows signs of going out of control.

Mr. Brassard also warned against taking unnecessary

risks in putting out a grass fire. He said the fire department should be called immediately.



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