

**Money available in reserves**

## Region struggles to regain budget control



**PIPE BAND MARCHES ON TORONTO**

The highly-acclaimed Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band was among 11,000 marchers at the Canadian National Exhibition's Warriors' Day parade in Toronto Saturday. The band is led by Pipe Major Virginia Hulme. Many Halton Hills residents have been visiting the exhibition since it

opened, as tourists and to compete in various competitions. More stories and photos about local residents involvement at the CNE will appear in next week's edition of The Herald. (Toronto bureau photo)

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
 Herald Staff Writer  
 As much as \$440,826 of Halton's current \$660,341 1980 operating budget deficit could be recovered from established reserves within the region's treasury if council approves an administration and finance committee recommendation made last Wednesday.

Deputy regional treasurer James Stewart told The Herald two weeks ago that his department would do everything possible to prevent the 1980 deficit from being carried over into 1981; it will not likely raise taxes this year, he said. Mr. Stewart said that \$320,402 could be drawn from the reserve for working funds, and a further \$120,424 from the reserve for road construction. He called the reserve funds a "cushion for day-to-day operations."

But even with the reserve funds, the region still has to scratch up \$159,515 from somewhere within the operating budget before the end of the year; otherwise, Halton taxpayers may be chipping a little more into the region's till.

**OTHER SAVINGS**  
 A report on how the region might make up the extra \$159,515 is expected before the administration committee by next Wednesday, but the treasury department is already looking at savings made in the health services, general welfare assistance, day care, Centennial Manor and police protection as possible sources for budgetary patching.

The region remains haunted by other inaccuracies in the budget. A review is currently underway to discover if \$103,191 may have been incorrectly accounted in the section of the operating budget dealing with charges for building inspections in new housing developments and payments already made by developers.

Chief administrator officer Ernie Reid, whose future at the region has been in doubt

since the deficit was first revealed three weeks ago, has asked council to carefully review upcoming projects for this year, weeding out those which might be postponed until 1981. Some projects which have already been approved by council may be deferred until next year.

Meanwhile, the administra-

tion committee has decided that quarterly reports from regional departments would help officials keep track of their annual budgets and enable quick action on a budgetary problem.

Council decided that financial reports four times a year would suffice for the region.

## 'Junior Miss' new idea for fall fair

The "beauty contest", already a staple of the annual Acton Fall Fair, will finally become a part of the Georgetown Fall Fair activities this October 3 and 4, but there'll be one big difference: the contestants will be three to five years old.

While still following the traditional format of judging contestants in evening gown and bathing suit competitions, and possibly a talent competition, the new contest to choose Miss Halton Hills will be placing the youngest of the young misses on a pedestal, much to the delight of their proud parents.

Contest organizers Jim and Rita Barrett are convinced the competition can revitalize the Georgetown Fall Fair and turn it into one of the better exhibitions in Ontario. A similar competition is held each year in Moncton, N.B., according to Mr. Barrett, and is immensely popular with spectators and sponsors alike.

"Akers and Clark Real Estate are donating the main trophy and the winner will get a replica to take home," Mr. Barrett said. "And, the girls will be appearing in the Acton and Brampton Fall Fairs in 1981."

"We'd like to see all the fairs in Ontario carry on the same kind of contest."

This year, the contestants will be sponsored by different service clubs in town, but Mr. Barrett expressed hope that next year, the competition will be open, allowing mothers to register their daughters at the fair itself.

The Georgetown Optimists, air cadets, Lions Club Klismen and Jaycoos have already committed themselves to sponsoring a contestant and other clubs will be holding meetings to decide on their participation in the event.

Parents interested in entering their daughters in the competition must get in touch with one of the clubs to have the child entered.

Along with the club sponsorship, ten town merchants have committed themselves to prize donations and another six are interested in taking part as well.

The Barretts are also organizing the baby contest for this year's fall fair. Parents can register their babies in one of three classes: one to three months old, four to eight months and nine months to one year.

"We've approached five possible judges already," Mr. Barrett said, adding that they will be making some announcements on this later. The Barretts are still looking for a guest master of ceremonies for the baby contest, but have chosen Blake Stansfield, a distinguished school teacher and actor from Georgetown, to host the beauty contest.

"The important thing is," Mr. Barrett said, "and this goes for all the activities in the fall fair this year, we still need volunteers to make the Georgetown fair one of the biggest and the best."

If you want further information on the beauty or the baby contest, you can reach the Barretts at 877-6640.



It's a new concept, admits Jim Barrett, but hopes his idea of having a Miss Halton Hills Beauty Pageant with competitors ranging in age from three years to five will prove very popular with fans at the Georgetown Fall Fair October 3 and 4. Mr. Barrett, shown here with his three and a half year old daughter Bernadette (who is not eligible for this year's event) came to Georgetown from Moncton, N.B., where a similar beauty contest has gained in popularity over the years. (Herald photo)

## MAN CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED RAPE

A 29-year-old Georgetown man has been charged with indecent assault and breaking and entering with intent to commit rape.

James Gordon Anderson of 22 Dayfoot Drive will appear in provincial court today (Wednesday) for a bail hearing to decide whether he will be remanded in custody.

Mr. Anderson was charged with breaking and entering with intent to commit rape, two charges of being unlawfully in a dwelling house, and one charge of indecent assault.

The charges were laid following an investigation into several complaints from women that they had been indecently assaulted.



**90 YEARS YOUNG**

Emily Bessey celebrated her 90th birthday last Wednesday at Kincoart with open house for her friends and family in the afternoon and evening. She has lived in an apartment at Kincoart for ten years, and prior to that was a receptionist at the McClure-Jones Funeral Home for ten years. (Herald photo)

## Ratepayers respond to deficit fiasco: 'don't know how it could happen'

In curbside interviews conducted in Georgetown and Acton Monday, The Herald asked ratepayers for their reaction to the Halton region budget deficit which may climb to \$700,000.

Some people felt the fiasco in Oakville is just another nail in the regional coffin. Others are baffled by the intricacies of municipal budgets anyway, let alone muddled ones, and still others said that, fresh from vacation, the deficit had taken them completely by surprise. Here's a sampling of opinion:

Leslie and Mamie Kula, Georgetown:

"I don't know how it could have happened," Mamie Kula told The Herald, fearing that the money may have been "wasted."

"They've got to think down there," she said, adding that "disappointed" isn't quite strong enough to describe the way she feels about the deficit issue.



**JULIE FARRUGAN**

"There should be some kind of investigation," Leslie Kula said. "If it had happened to any ordinary guy they would have put him in jail and thrown away the key." Julie Farrugan of Georgetown said she wasn't quite



**LESLIE AND MAMIE KULA**

sure of all the details but admitted that she was "kind of surprised" by the news of the deficit.

"We're pretty good about keeping track of finances in north Halton," she said, "but how can they do that down there, (at regional head-



**GEORGE MARKOU**

quarters in Oakville). George Markou finds the prospects of a \$700,000 deficit a little hard to swallow.

"Ultimately the councillors are to blame," he said, "because they have to take



the responsibilities for the actions of the regional administration."

"Tighter financial controls should be implemented, and if they are already there, they should be strictly adhered to."

## Two couples win dinner in the park in Actario lottery's early bird draw

Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Frueler and Mr. and Mrs. Doug Mason will be enjoying a dinner for two at the Inn on the Prospect Park tonight (Wednesday) as winners of the second early bird draw in the Actario Lottery.

Mr. and Mrs. Frueler will enjoy a dinner in Acton's main park, served by members of the Actario committee. Winner of the first early bird draw, Kay James, won a ride in Acton's Rainbow Airlines' flagship, a hot air balloon.

Tickets are selling well, sales chairman Jake Kulken said, with an average sale of 50 tickets a week over the past two weeks. The committee has sold 350 tickets so far, and has to sell 400 tickets to break even. Proceeds from ticket

sales will go towards the public share of restoring the old Acton town hall.

Tickets for the lottery, which cost \$100 for the year, are now available at The Herald office

at 45 Guelph Street in Georgetown. The tickets can be purchased with cash or with

four post-dated cheques of \$25. Proceeds from the lottery will pay the public share of restoring the former Acton town hall.

Draws for the lottery will be held every Saturday beginning September 6. The main draw each month will be for a trip.

Every Saturday there will be a draw for \$350 in cash. The ticket-holder need not be present to win either of these prizes.

There will be special bonus draws each Saturday in addition to the draw for \$350, but the ticket-holder must be present to win the bonus draw.

Tickets are returned to the drum each week so that each participant has 52 chances to win in the lottery.

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