Budgetary help for seniors

By JULIAN REED, M.P.P. Halton-Burlington

You will recall that when the Provincial Budget was brought down April 22 it included some new initiatives of interest to senior citizens.

For older people living in their own homes, rapidly rising property taxes are proving to be a serious problem. Prior to this year's budget, senior citizens were able to claim Ontario Property, Sales and Pensioner Tax Credits on income tax returns. For people over 65, these tax credits are to be replaced by the new Property and Sales Tax Grants, which for 1960 will be paid in the fall of this year.

These grants will be paid each year to Ontario residents 65 years of age or older who pay property tax or rent for their principal residence.

Only one grant will be paid to a married couple, whether one or both spouses are 65 years of nge or older. In the same way, only one grant will be paid to unmarried senior citizens who share accommodation.

People in the eligible age bracket who reside in homes for the aged, nursing homes or other such institutions will not qualify to receive this grant.

Property Tax Grant will be equal to occupancy cost or \$500, whichever is less. For those who rent living

accommodation, occupancy

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cost is 20 per cent of the rent. For homeowners, occupancy cost is equivalent to property

The maximum grant is \$500 per residential unit. If more than one eligible senior or senior couple reside in the same residential unit as their principal residence, the grant will be apportioned according to rent or property tax paid.

When non-eligible persons reside in the same principal residence, rent or property tax must be apportioned according to amounts paid. Application formts for the

grants will be mailed by the Ministry of Revenue to all recipients of the Old Age Security pension in late August. These application forms will also be available to other Ontario senior citizens' who rent or own their homes.

Grants will be paid upon receipt of completed applications by the Ministry of Revenue. Senior citizens are

asked to complete the applications carefully and thoroughly to ensure that applications can be processed quickly and the grant issued with the minimum of delay

Beginning in 1981, and for all subsequent years, senior citizens who were eligible in the previous year and continue-to be eligible will automatically receive one half of their previous year's entitlement in the spring. No application will be required for this instalment. In the fall, application forms will be sent to senior citizens for

Senior citizens who rent accommodation will be required to submit receipts with their applications, Bearing this in mind, those who rent should lose no time in making arrangements to obtain such

the final instalment of their

receipts from their landlords. Homeowners will not be required to provide receipts for property tax payments

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because eligibility can be verified through property tax records.

In addition to the property tax or occupancy cost grant, every senior citizen will be entitled to a \$50 Sales Tax Grant, Those people who receive Old Age Security will not be required to submit an application. The cheques for 1980 will be issued automatic-

ally in September. Those senior citizens who do not receive Old Age Security for one reason or another should contact the Information Centre of the Ministry of Revenue after September 1st

for details on securing receipt of the grant.

Some important facts should be borne in mind.

The Pensioner Tax Credit which was previously claimed under the Ontario Tax Credit System is repealed.

For 1900 and subsequent years, senior citizens will not be entitled to claim Ontario Property and Sales Tax Credits.

Don't forget that send a citizens who do not have occupancy costs are still eligible for the \$50 Sales Tax

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF HALTON



PUBLIC

TO RECONSTRUCT AND ALTER REGIONAL ROAD NO. 3 (Trafelgar Road) FROM MAPLE AVENUE, NORTH OF HIGHWAY 7, HALTON HILLS

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 443 and 446 of The Municipal Act, being Chapter 284 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario 1970, that the Council of The Regional Municipality of Halton, at its meeting to be held in the Regional Administration Building, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 17, 1980, to pass a by-lew to after, widen and reconstruct Regional Road No. 3 (Trafalger Road) from Maple Avenue, North of Highway 7, Halton Hills.

A plan showing the lands required for this project and the proposed by-law may be seen in the Regional Public Works Department Offices, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario.

On Wednesday, September 10, 1980 at \$:00 a.m., Regional Council, by its Public Works Committee, will hear in person or by his Counsel any person who claims that his lands will be prejudicially affected by the said by-law and who applies to be heard. Any such person who wishes to be heard should, as soon as possible, make application to:

Mr. Garfield Brown, Regional Clerk. The Regional Municipality of Helton, 1151 Bronte Road, P.O. Box 7000, Qakville, Ontario L7J6E1

Dated at Oskville this 29th day of July, 1980.

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Garfield Brown Regional Clerk

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 26th, 1980

between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon

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Bus roules are posted at main entrance of all schools.

C. G. Byrnes

Director of Education

(Herald photo)

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