



Mayor to run key committee?

Council reps gain top posts

By CHRIS AAGAARD
 Herald Staff Writer

Adding weight to a former cabinet minister's statement made several years ago that Halton region's leadership comes from the north, Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy and two town councillors have been elected to head regional committees for the next two years.

White the unofficial elections held among members of the incoming 1980-82 council Monday afternoon await ratification Dec. 10 Mayor Pomeroy has, at least temporarily, assumed the key chairmanship of the region's finance and administration committee.

"I've tentatively accepted the chairmanship," Mayor Pomeroy told The Herald Tuesday morning. "It's the toughest job at the region... and I really haven't made up my mind about taking it yet because of other commitments."

Meanwhile, Ward 3 regional Councillor Roy Booth will start his second term as planning committee chairman and Ward 2's Russ Miller has once again been chosen to head the solid waste management committee, one of the region's most prog-

ressive administrative body. Commenting on his re-election to the planning chairmanship, Councillor Booth said that no changes are proposed for Halton's planning policies in the immediate future.

"I'm rather gratified," he said, "because I'll be able to continue with programs which we have been working on for the last two years."

Especially pleased that fellow Halton Hills Councillor Mike Armstrong has joined his committee, Councillor Booth said it

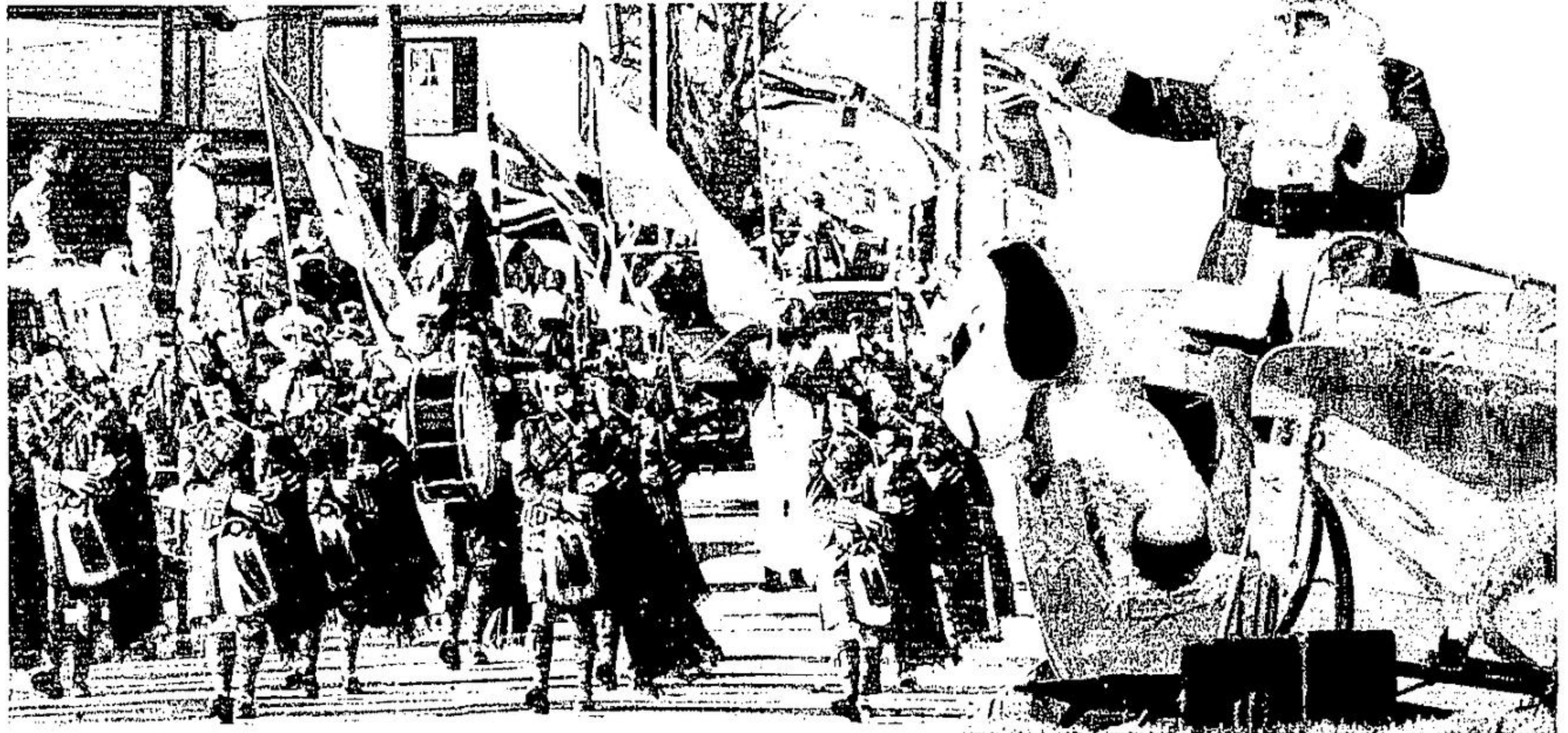
may now be easier to explain the town's position on rural land issues to a largely urban-oriented council.

Rookie Oakville Councillor Anne Mulvale, who ousted former finance committee chairman Mac Anderson in the Nov. 10 elections, has also joined the planning committee, along with Burlington councillors Vern Connell and David Lacombe and Milton's Brad Clemente, who defeated Gus Goutowski.

It will be business as usual for the region's solid waste management committee, according to chairman Miller, who was unopposed in his bid for a second term as the committee's head. He replaced Oakville Councillor Terry Mannell as chairman midway through the last term.

The largest forthcoming project the committee faces is a plan to separate recyclable garbage from household trash and turn it into fuel or other useful products.

The source separation proposal, Councillor Miller hopefully said, will be ready by next spring.



ST. NICK ARRIVES AMIDST POMP AND PAGEANTRY

The Georgetown Lions Club has been sponsoring the community's annual Santa Claus parade since 1930, and informed sources tell us that St. Nick thinks it's one of the best of the festive season. With his charming "ho-ho-ho", he delighted hundreds of kids — young and old — who turned out in droves as the parade wound its way from Moore Park through the downtown core to

Zeller's in the Georgetown Market Place. And as always, the Georgetown Girls Pipe Band proved a favorite feature of the parade leading the entourage with a seasonal repertoire of Christmas music. Results of the judging for best float, service club entry and best non-commercial float will be carried in next week's Herald. See page A2 for more photos.

Move to offset deficit

Sewer rates rising 25 per cent?

By CHRIS AAGAARD
 Herald Staff Writer

Weathering yet another proposal to dismantle Halton's sewer surcharge system,

regional council has approved a 25 per cent sewer rate increase, effective Jan. 1, to offset a \$500,000 shortfall in the 1980 sewer budget.

The rate hike, which will increase the average homeowner's sewer service costs by \$5 or \$6 a month next year, was approved last Wednesday

after regional solicitor Dennis Perlin warned that Halton's 1980-82 council could legally sue the outgoing council unless correct action was taken to correct the deficit.

First discovered last March, the shortfall was incurred by underestimating expenditures for 1980 and receiving insufficient government funding for sewer works projects. Mr. Perlin said that raising the

sewer rates would recover the deficit as well as provide enough money for 1981 expenditures of \$10.5 million (including inflation) planned for next year's sewer works program.

Although the chance of the incoming council taking its "predecessor" to court is extremely slim (17 of the 24 incumbents were returned to office Nov. 10), Mr. Perlin told

IMPROVE SYSTEM

Comprised of members of regional and local staffs, the committee will also study improvements to the present system proposed in a consultant's study released to council last month.

Under the present surcharge system, residents and industries pay only for water they consume. The year-old system's attempt to equalize rates across the region has angered Burlington and Oakville consumers because they pay more in order to subsidize service improvements being carried out in north Halton.

However, if the current system is scrapped, as Burlington councillors have attempted to do on three previous occasions, residents of Halton Hills would be faced with an enormous tax hike to pay for the 1977-78 \$5 million expansion of the Georgetown sewage treatment plant. Under the former "charge-back" system, preferred by

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SANTA'S MAILBAG

Again this year, a special delivery letter from the North Pole has arrived on the editor's desk seeking The Herald's assistance in conveying the Christmas wishes of Halton Hills youngsters to old St. Nick.

Children of all ages are invited to jot down their message to Santa along with their Christmas wish list, and we at The Herald will do our best to get them up north in time for Mr. Claus to respond accordingly.

All letters received before December 19 at The Herald, 45 Guelph St., Georgetown, will be promptly dispatched to the North Pole and, space and time allowing, as many letters as possible will be printed, along with Santa's responses, in this newspaper during the weeks before Christmas. The earlier the better, kids, so start writing.

Raftis returns for second term despite Burlington opposition

Despite strong and bitter opposition from Burlington's nine-member contingent, regional chairman Jack Raftis managed to hang onto his job during Monday's regional chairmanship election.

Challenged for the \$40,000-a-year post by Oakville Councillor Terry Mannell and Burlington Councillor Walter Mulkeiwich, Mr. Raftis was lambasted for his past performance as chairman in a letter written

by Burlington Mayor Roly Bird.

Mr. Raftis' support for Halton's sewer surcharge system has angered Burlington representatives, who wish to scrap the system by which they help subsidize sewer works programs in north Halton.

Three ballots were required before Mr. Raftis finally secured a victory in the election, the results of which remain unofficial until the incoming council approves

them at its inaugural meeting Dec. 10.

With no clear majority after the first ballot (Mr. Raftis picked up 10 votes, Councillor Mulkeiwich eight and Councillor Mannell six), a second vote was held, eliminating Councillor Mannell as the lowest contender.

But the second ballot resulted in a tie between Mr. Raftis and Councillor Mulkeiwich, requiring a third vote after a short, ten-minute recess and some hasty lobbying.

Although Burlington's hefty voting bloc went solidly against Mr. Raftis, he barely managed to pull away from his opponent in a 15-9 vote.

Commenting on the uncomplimentary letter drafted by Mayor Bird to quash Mr. Raftis' bid to return to office, Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy said it was uncalled for and in "very, very poor taste."

"It doesn't say much for a man in Roly Bird's position," he added.

Reed cries 'doublecross'

Ontario citizens have been doublecrossed by the province's Conservative government, according to Halton-Burlington (Liberal) MPP Julian Reed.

In a statement issued from his Queen's Park office Tuesday morning, Mr. Reed condemned energy minister Robert Welch for failing to make good on the government's promise to eliminate inequities in rural-urban hydro rates.

Mr. Reed was responding to Mr. Welch's own statement to the Legislature yesterday that, in his view, the province's largest differential for revised rural hydro rates should be set at only half that foreseen by the government's Nov. 13 mini-budget.

The move was intended to bring rural rates on a par with those in the urban areas, but according to Mr. Reed, will instead "be seen by the rural residents of Ontario as a doublecross."

"One wonders about the credibility of the promise to assist with home heating costs for people on fixed incomes, since the working there is even less straightforward," he commented. "The upcoming election should signal to the government how the people of Ontario view this sort of irresponsibility."

Councillor fires a parting shot

For a fleeting moment it looked as if the 1978-80 council was about to wrap up its final meeting last Wednesday with true camaraderie, comiserating with the seven members who lost their seats in the Nov. 10 election.

But shortly after joining defeated fellow Oakville councillors Bonnie Brown, Mac Anderson and Ron Planché as well as Halton Hills' Ed Wood and Milton's Mayor Don Gordon and Councillor Gus Goutowski to accept Halton crest rings, Councillor Laurie Mannell rallied for a parting broadside at regional government.

"I still feel that there is something drastically and radically wrong with the finances of the region," Councillor Mannell said.

Earlier, when he accepted his token ring from regional chairman Jack Raftis, Councillor Mannell said he has no regrets about the outcome of the election, which left him out of the municipal political arena after a 40-year involvement.

Other councillors were a little more generous in their reflections as they bowed out of the regional political scene.

Councillor Wood, whose defeat as Acton's regional rep by Dave Whiting proved to be the only upset in the Halton Hills election, said serving on council had been a pleasure and a privilege.

"I think I'm leaving a better person than I was when I first walked in the door," he said. "I certainly wish you all the best in the next two years."



Mrs. Wray Youmans was in her living room Monday afternoon when she had an unexpected visitor drop in, in the form of this dump truck. The truck went out of control on the hill as it approached Norval on Highway 7, and slid into the house. Mrs.

Youmans was uninjured, but the driver of the truck, Harold Hoffman, suffered a broken sternum and was taken to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital for treatment. (Herald photo)

Housewife has narrow escape as dumptruck crashes into home

Mrs. Wray Youmans had a narrow escape Monday afternoon when a dump truck crashed into the corner of her Norval home only feet from where she was sitting in her living room.

The driver of the truck, Harold Hoffman, 53, of RRI, Norval, was taken to Georgetown and District

Memorial Hospital, where he is being treated for injuries which include a broken sternum.

Mrs. Youmans said she was in the living room doing some knitting when the truck crashed into the wall, and she was so frightened, she

jumped up and ran out the back door of the house, carrying the knitting with her.

Mrs. Youmans, who was alone in the house at the time of the accident, was not injured. Damage in the accident is estimated at \$29,000.



ACT OF GODDO

Toronto-based rock trio Goddo thundered into the Georgetown District High School cafeteria Friday night to entertain some 330 young fans. Band members Greg Godovitz (seen here in midflight), Gino Scarpelli and Doug Ingalls have recorded three albums together, achieved national recognition and will open the New Year's Eve show at Maple Leaf Gardens for Max Webster. Warming up for Goddo was Fable, a new Mississauga band. GDHS correspondent Jack Harlow reports that both bands were well received. Goddo shared a bill with the Battered Wives at Norval's Way-Jay Club last year.

(Photo by Harold Branch)