



SALUTING THE BAND

The Georgetown Girls Pipe Band was saluted last Tuesday night by the local Lions Club for their fine service which Halton residents have enjoyed since 1910. Membership in the band numbers about 18 today, many of whom were given service pins at the Lions dinner held in their honor. Pictured in the

front row (left to right) are Janet Robertson, Linda Pilgrim and Margaret Hoggett; second row Lynn Dan Boyle, Virginia Hulme, Jane Cartwright, Marilyn Gryllo, Diane Teller, Gail Bennett, Sue Gaterell, Patsy Arthurs and Lynn Stan Callaghan.

Sewage plant now paid off

Halton regional council will issue \$160,000 worth of additional debentures to cover the cost of expanding the Georgetown water pollution control plant three years ago.

Originally, council issued debentures amounting to \$3.6 million in 1976 to pay for the \$5.6 million expansion, which now enables the plant to handle the sewage outflow of a community of 30,000 people—the anticipated population of Georgetown by the year 2000. (Debenture financing means issuing certificates similar to bonds to borrow money.)

While Ontario's ministry of environment gave the region a \$1,763,314 subsidy for the expansion, an additional \$160,000 is needed to complete payment of the expansion's actual costs.

Halton's equalized sewer rates—jeopardized recently by council's strong Burlington lobby wishing to return to a "chargeback" basis of collecting sewer revenue—mean that residents throughout the entire region share in paying for the Georgetown facility in their sewer bills.

Wells rejects deficit inquiry

Halton region's bungled operating budget and the \$600,000 deficit it created last summer do not warrant a public inquiry, Ontario's inter-governmental affairs minister, Tom Wells, told the Legislature during a question period last Tuesday.

Pointing out that the region has acted quickly to recover all but \$37,000 of the deficit through departmental savings, project deferrals and cut-backs, Mr. Wells said that there was not enough evidence of criminal or administrative negligence to justify an inquiry.

Mr. Wells indicated that the region's own efforts to investigate its administration are satisfactory. Heckling.

Sewer rates to rise

Continued from page A1 Burlington's nine member council contingent and some Oakville representatives, each of Halton's four municipalities would pay the region for service, but Halton Hills would lose the benefit of larger, region-wide tax base to help pay for the Georgetown plant's expansion.

Industrial and commercial consumers will be the hardest hit by the region's attempts to cover the deficit and forthcoming costs. Sewer rate increases for them will hover between 30 to 40 per cent next year.

ONE YEAR Although sewer rate increases were anticipated by the Price-Waterhouse Consultants' report on Halton's sewer surcharge system, Mr. Perlin said that the region would prefer to have the increase fall in one year, rather than over the two-year time frame proposed by the consultants.

Special provincial assistance grants of \$684,000, which the region has been using for the last couple of years to keep the rates low, will be consumed next year as well, Mr. Perlin said.

Presented to council 20 minutes after it was approved by the finance committee, the recommendation to increase rates in 1981 was immediately confronted by Burlington Coun. Joan Allingham's proposal calling on council to dump the surcharge system in favor of the reinstating the "chargeback" method of paying for Halton's sewer costs.

Coun. Allingham's motion met with confusion as representatives charged that it had been introduced at the wrong point in proceedings. In a 13-10 vote, council ruled it out of order.

Expressing grave concerns about what effect the 50 per cent rate hike will have on Halton's industry, Coun. Allingham said the sewer revenue picture for the future is still unclear because there are no guarantees that rates will not increase again in 1982.

Oakville Coun. Mac Anderson, whose 26-year career in municipal politics ended when he was defeated in the Nov. 10 election, urged council to increase the sewer rates to deal with the deficit and anticipated expenditures quickly.

"We've run out of magical solutions," he said. "This situation won't go away and hide."

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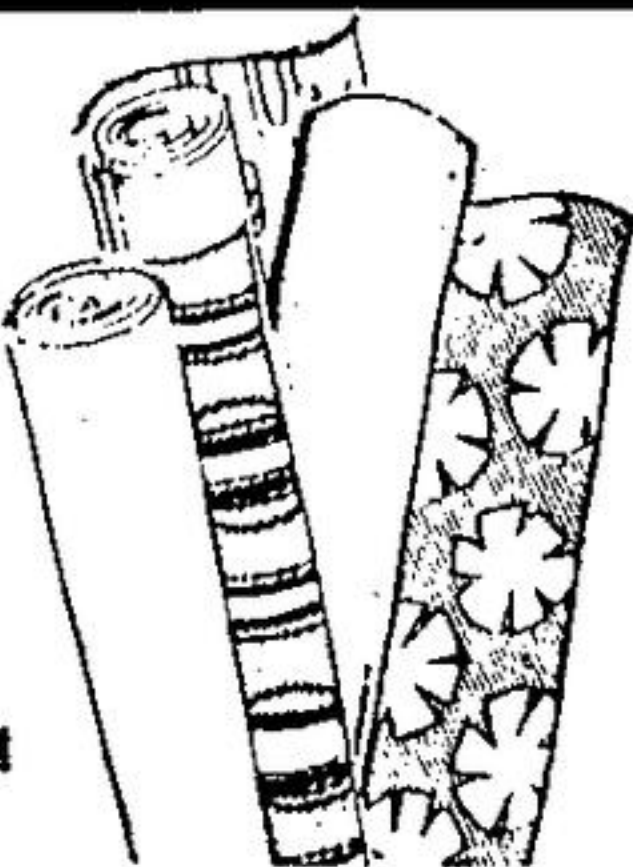
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