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Friday, February 6, 1981

Region tax increase may hit us the worst

Halton Hills residents could get stuck with the region's biggest tax hike, according to a draft operating budget presented Wednesday.

Chief administrative officer Dennis Perlin had some good news and some bad news for regional council, forecasting a 22 per cent increase in Halton's expenditures this year. In 1980, municipal services cost the

region \$34 million. The draft budget threatens to boost the average home's tax bill - which totalled \$121 last year - by another \$49 in Halton Hills. Don Farmer of the regional treasury department told The Herald, however, that he's optimistic about provincial grants reducing the town's tax hike substantially. The final results should be

known later this month once all calculations are completed. Council is expected to approve the revised budget in April.

The threat of a hefty tax hike isn't isolated in Halton Hills. Burlington and Milton ratepayers may have to pay an extra \$30, Oakville another \$39.

Mr. Perlin's good news is that a projected year-end deficit is less than expected. Cur-

rently estimated at \$345,000, the deficit could still grow or shrink pending results of an auditor's report.

Again, the biggest slice of the budget pie goes to the regional police force, even though the Halton Police Commission has yet to submit its budget requests. Officials estimate the police budget - set at \$12.5 million last year - will grow by \$1.8 million, with provisions made for staff salary increases in light of similar hikes in neighboring municipalities.

Because regional council deleted all road construction funds from last year's budget, Mr. Perlin warned, 1981 will be an expensive year for the public works department as works crews catch up on building and maintenance.

"There has been, and continues to be a need for more and more funds to bring the roads into shape," the CAO explained.

Mr. Perlin pointed out that individual department heads were ordered to use a "bare bones approach" in preparing their own budget recommendations, proposing or expanding programs only when necessary. Medical officer of health Peter Cole, for one, has indicated an urgent need to expand his department's staff.

Other additions to this year's draft budget include an extra \$800,000 in general welfare assistance to meet growing demand and lighter provincial standards, and another \$800,000 for Halton Centennial Manor; provincial subsidies are expected to provide most of the Manor's funds.

The Children's Aid Society wants another \$68,000 increase in its allocation - representing about 14 per cent more than last year - to ensure continued and effective program operation. Mr. Perlin pointed out that the Society's budget needs, like those of the Police Commission and Halton's two conservation authorities, are largely beyond the control of regional council.

Council's various committees will spend the next five weeks deliberating portions of the draft budget, then submit final recommendations to the finance and administration committee. A revised budget proposal will come before council early in April.

Raftis in hot water over CAO's extra pay

An unauthorized "lump sum" payment to one of Halton's top administrators has touched off a bitter regional council debate, including a call for regional chairman Jack Raftis to resign.

Accusing Mr. Raftis of having "exceeded his authority" in paying chief administrative officer Dennis Perlin extra salary last fall while he was both acting CAO and regional solicitor, Burlington Coun. Walter Mulkevic Wednesday refused to endorse an "after-the-fact" administration and committee recommendation approving the payment.

"The region should be run on laws, not arbitrary whims," Coun. Mulkevic said, arguing that council is the only body under the province's Municipal Act which may set salaries. Under the circumstances surrounding the payment, Coun. Mulkevic suggested the chairman should resign.

If the payment had been made properly, he explained, council should have received a report from the region's personnel director stating hiring policies and comparing CAO starting salaries among other regional municipalities. Coun. Mulkevic also warned council about endorsing the finance committee recommendation, saying it would "legalize an illegal action".

The committee suggested paying Mr. Perlin a lump sum equal to the difference between his salary as regional solicitor and the starting rate for a CAO. A similar request was approved by council last fall for acting regional treasurer James Stewart, who took over from former treasurer Don Farmer.

Continued on Page 3



TRILIGHT'S TAPESTRY

Several well-known composers from the past joined Toronto's Tapestry Singers Wednesday night during a crowd-pleasing performance before a large audience at Acton High School. The group's musical program included medieval folk music, classical Italian opera, Broadway, contemporary Canadian and lunch with Johann Strauss Jr. and Franz Lehar in Vienna's Demel's Cafe. Judging by the audience's warm reception to an encore by the group, the second part of the Halton Hills Arts Council's Musical Trilight series was a complete success. Look for a review of the Tapestry performance in next Wednesday's edition of The Herald.

Hockey 'showdown' at Winterfest '81

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

The Georgetown Newfoundland Club has come up with a last-minute entry for tomorrow's (Saturday's) Winterfest '81 events line-up.

Once in the morning and again in the afternoon, young hockey players who think they have the skills of a pro can test their talents against targets rigged between the goal posts. It's a scaled down version of the National Hockey League's "Showdown" and the club hopes it will be a success.

While some youngsters don't skate, others will compete in toboggan races around Fair-

ground Park's infields. The First Georgetown Scouts, under the direction of George

**Tomorrow's
broomball
schedule
inside**

Harrison, have offered to run this event. And there were other events confirmed during an all-club Winterfest meeting Tuesday night in the Glen Town Hall.

The Optimists will run the nail-driving and log-sawing contests, (the former offering the coveted McGibbon Hotel "Golden Spike" trophy).

The Jaycees (organizers of Winterfest) also announced that arrangements have been made for a horse-drawn wagon for free rides around the race-track.

Just before Mayor Pete Pomeroy officially opens Winterfest at 10 a.m., there may be a small parade of the clubs and groups taking part in the day's events. Considerable enthusiasm for the idea was expressed during Tuesday's meeting.

Continued on Page 3

Derek Sanderson coming after all - but just to talk

Derek Sanderson is finally coming to Georgetown! At 11 a.m. yesterday Hockey Heritage chairman Dave Kentner confirmed that Sanderson would be coming to the heritage dinner this Tues. Feb. 10. It must be one of the highlights for Raider general manager Kentner to finally land Sanderson in town. Kentner has tried since Nov. 5 to get Sanderson to play for his Georgetown Raiders.

Until last Wednesday, the Heritage Council had only arranged for Pierre Pilote, and Aggie Kukulowicz to speak at the prestigious awards dinner.

However, Sanderson called Kentner yesterday from Niagara Falls to confirm his presence at the dinner. Kentner now has his Niagara address and will be sending someone from Georgetown to pick up Sanderson.

Kentner credits his wife Gerry, for finally reaching Sanderson on the phone. Kentner said that Derek had an interest in the Raiders back in November, so the ice had been broken when he talked to Derek.

"If nothing else, twice in my life I've talked to Derek Sanderson," Kentner said. "I'm simply delighted to have such a controversial and identifiable figure to minor hockey."

Although Derek will not be playing for the Georgetown Raiders, this year, Kentner



DEREK SANDERSON

The idea to ask Sanderson was sparked when the two sports editors of the Herald and Independent were talking to Kentner Wednesday afternoon. Kentner was still looking for a prominent NHL guest star at this time. Unfortunately, all the Toronto Maple Leafs were out of town on a road trip.

The two sports editors jokingly said Derek Sanderson should be called since his name has caused such a controversy in Georgetown this winter. With a smile Kentner agreed and he was soon on the phone to Niagara Falls. The rest is history.

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