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It's Worth the Drive to Acton!

\$33 increase expected for '87 budget

By ANI PEDEHIAN
Herald Staff

It looks as if the town portion of your tax bill will be about \$403 this year, an extra \$33 more, if you live in the urban area.

Those in the rural area, who don't pay urban service charges for municipal garbage collection and street lighting, may be paying \$322, an extra \$23 over last year.

After several lengthy meetings, the budget committee wrapped up its work Monday night, settling on a 7.9 per cent increase over last year's budget.

The budget now goes to the town council for final approval Monday night.

Not all councillors were happy with the 7.9 per cent increase and what it buys for the town.

Coun. Norman Elliott was upset \$57,800 intended for upgrading the books and audiovisual collection of the Halton Hills Public Libraries was cut back to \$10,000.

He called the move a slap in the face for library board members and

a "thorough disregard" for their work and concerns.

Chief Librarian Betsy Cornwell said that the \$10,000 would be absorbed in replacing book losses to theft and vandalism over a couple of years and would mean no incremental gain to the library's collection.

"In reality that \$10,000 is your replacement value for books?" Coun. Pam Sheldon asked.

"It's close," Mrs. Cornwell nodded emphatically.

Halton Hills is being singled out by the other libraries in the Central Library System as being parasitical, Coun. Elliott said. They're saying Halton Hills isn't carrying its share of the load. The councillor thought cuts could be made elsewhere in the budget.

Coun. Sheldon was another one unhappy with the cuts.

"We keep saying 7.8 per cent is a guideline. When we get to the crunch, all of a sudden it becomes carved in stone and no longer a guideline," she said. "Did anybody take that 7.8 per cent figure and look at what it does to our level of service?"

Coun. Sheldon was concerned about the cuts to grading, snowplowing, asphalt resurfacing and hot patching, all of which affect rural drivers.

The budget process, of having staff suggest the cuts also left her dissatisfied. She said it was difficult to defend a project when staff had suggested it be cut.

The new staff being added in this budget concerned Coun. Pam Johnston.

"They will have enormous impact on next year's budget," she said. "It's going to be a lot of money that's going to stay with us in future years. We'd better start thinking of what this is going to cost us next year and in succeeding years."

The 1987 budget adds two full-time recreation department staff, one



WORM COOKIES?

What do you say to worm cookies? Or how about gum for breakfast, lunch and supper? That's what Ellen Louise Matthews, 9, a Harrison Public School student thinks will be the food of the future.

All the vitamins you need will be in the gum you chew, she explained Thursday while taking part in the Georgetown Public Library's "Autropol" forecasting fun. (Herald photo)

Ambulance reponse time unacceptable

By ANI PEDEHIAN
Herald Staff

The average 10.25 minute wait for an ambulance that Acton residents now have has been called "unacceptable" by the Halton District Health Council.

The Health Council's recent Emergency Health Services Report for the Region shows Acton has the highest response time for ambulance services in all of Halton.

By sharp contrast, ambulance response times are the Region's best for Georgetown residents, at 5.28 minutes. The average ambulance response time in Halton is 7.66 minutes—this is again unacceptable to the Health Council.

Among its 13 recommendations, the Health Council's report states an ambulance wait longer than seven minutes is unacceptable in an emergency.

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller has brought these facts to the attention of the Ministry of Health in a letter to Murray Elston last week. He wants ambulance service for Acton reviewed and response time improved.

Coun. Rick Bonnette brought his concerns over how long Acton residents have to wait for an ambulance up last spring at the Region.

The recent Health Council report backs him up. Looking at the response times, Coun. Bonnette pointed out they were done in March and April.

"What happens in February, with the worst snow conditions," Coun. Bonnette demanded. Instead of 10.25 minutes, Acton residents will surely have to wait longer for an ambulance to come to their aid.

With development slated for both Georgetown and Acton, the Georgetown Ambulance Service will be further hard pressed to meet the needs of the two communities.

"Dr. Knight (Halton-Burlington MPP) will have to play a very important role in this for us to get a better ambulance service in Acton," Coun. Bonnette said.

Mr. Knight is on holiday and unable to comment. The Herald was told Tuesday morning by his office.

What has happened as a result of the long response time is that Acton

residents are relying more and more on the Acton firefighters to turn up for emergencies. As the town's fire chief said last month, rescuator calls to the fire department have increased considerably, putting a heavier workload on the volunteer firefighters.

Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service Vice-President Bob Crawford said his 35 volunteers do a great deal of work with the Acton firefighters compared with the Georgetown firefighters. That's mainly because of the distance involved in getting to an Acton call.

"They (Acton firefighters) respond to many of our patients and to motor vehicle collisions," Mr. Crawford said. "They will do first aid and have helped stabilize a patient until we've gotten there."

Three to five minutes is the crucial time if breathing or a heartbeat stops, Mr. Crawford said, and it can be too late by the time an ambulance arrives, even with minimal response time.

However, if a person is in trouble, firefighters can do a lot to stabilize his condition till the ambulance service arrives.

"The Acton firefighters do a very good job. We're working more and more with them," Mr. Crawford said. "I don't think we could do without their help."

The two groups are sharing training, so that each organization's volunteers know and respect what the other one's volunteers can and will do. Familiarity will foster better co-operation between them, Mr. Crawford said.

The Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service was started in 1957. It covers all of Halton Hills, which is an area about 100 square miles, with a population of 35,000.

"Certainly, to get to Acton from our Georgetown base, 10 minutes isn't a bad response time," Mr. Crawford said.

He said the Health Council's recommendation for seven minutes ambulance response time is "a nice number."

"I wish we could get everywhere within seven minutes, too," he said. "It depends on road conditions and other conditions too."

IN THE HILLS

Map unveiled

After months of preparing, Tremaine's 1858 map of Halton County will finally be unveiled. April 8 at 7:30 p.m. the Equestrian Historical Society will unveil the map in the presence of the department of the Georgetown Public Library. The unveiling will be followed by a talk on "The Irish in Canada" by Cecil Houston of Erindale College.

Knox but once

Opportunity—Knox! Don't miss the roast beef dinner and chole con-cent at Knox Presbyterian Church in Georgetown. The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. March 28. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by calling 877-5063. Money raised will be donated to the Cliff Hills Conference Centre Building Fund.

Injured workers

The North Halton Association of Injured Workers will meet tonight (Wednesday) at 7:30 p.m. at the Optimists Hall on Commercial Street in Milton. For more information, call 877-9697 or write to P.O. Box 444, Milton.

Social time

Physically Handicapped Citizens Association is hosting a social evening Friday, May 1. Tickets are \$3 per person or \$3 per couple. Inquiries call 877-1436.

Also, anyone wishing to book the ActiVan please do so as soon as possible.

Stop smoking

Are you smoking more and enjoying it less? The Halton Lung Association is offering a five-week "taper-off" smoking cessation clinic. The clinic is being held at Oakville Central Library from April 27 - May 27, 7 - 8:30 p.m. It will operate every first and third Monday, and every Wednesday, at a cost of \$73. To register, call 833-9406.

ABC meeting

The Association for Bright Children will be holding a meeting on March 30 at 7:30 p.m. at Brantwood public school 221 Allen Street North, Oakville. The topic is I.R.P.C.'s and Road Policies on Gifted. The speakers are: Garry Crossman, Superintendent of Special Education/Services for Halton; Board of Education, Ellen Schoepkeberger, Consultant for Gifted for Halton; Roman Catholic School Board, Jerri Corby, Primary Junior Consultant (Halton).

For additional information call 885-5062 or 877-5001. Everyone is welcome.

Corrigan contract

Corrigan Instrumentation Services Ltd. of Georgetown has received a \$787,000 Government of Canada contract to supply airport security equipment to Transport Canada.

Corrigan Instrumentation will supply X-ray baggage inspection equipment and metal detectors for installation at Canada's airports.

Bottle drive

Save your returnable bottles and cans. The Glen Williams Ventures will be doing a bottle drive in the town, Saturday April 4 from 9 a.m. to noon.



Norm Elliott

senior planner, one computer programmer, and one engineering technologist. Most are to be hired late in the year, so their salaries won't impact on the 1987 budget.

Even with this, department heads are left unsatisfied. Town Engineering Director Bob Austin said compared to other towns the size of Halton Hills, he's short about six staff. Planning Director Ian Keith said Halton Hills is unique in its proximity to Toronto and the number of rural and urban planning issues it must deal with compared to other municipalities of the same size.

Some highlights from the 1987 town budget include:

- A \$25,000 reserve for computer replacement was cut.
- Road improvement work to Armstrong Avenue was cut by \$28,800 leaving \$69,475 for ditching, sodding, gravel shoulders and culverts.
- An emergency power system for the fire department worth \$28,000 stays in the budget.
- Bairdow Crescent gets \$65,000 for storm sewers, and Brucewood Street does without those improvement dollars for another year.
- Maple Avenue East reconstruction gets cut from \$10,000 to \$5,000.
- A \$20,300 reserve for a sand and salt dome was cut.
- There's \$10,000 to replace the leaking Georgetown Memorial Arena lobby and canopy roof.
- Improvements to the Cedarvale roadway and parking area will have to wait for another year.
- The Acton Arena will have to do without a new condenser.
- The Gordon Alcott Arena gets a new ice resurfacer and a brine pump control.
- There'll be \$15,000 for a new roof at the Cedarvale Community Centre but no money to make structural repairs to the Cedarvale Cottage.
- Mill Street and Cobblehill Road intersection improvements were put off.
- There's \$3,800 to replace a culvert at Sideroad 52.
- \$4,500 left in for parking lot improvements at Hornby Park.
- Blue boxes to encourage recycling of tin, glass and newspaper aren't being bought this year, saving the town \$24,375.
- \$5,000 for creative play equipment has been cut.
- There's \$10,000 for tourism promotion.
- \$20,000 for Wildwood Road phase 1 construction, but nothing for pre-engineering Wildwood's phase 2 reconstruction.

Penrice tops list for new Chamber job

Doug Penrice beat out 30 other applicants for the new general manager's position offered by the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber director and selection committee chairman Dave Whiting made the announcement Monday.

Mr. Penrice is a former Chamber of Commerce president who served from 1980-83.

The general manager post is a full-time position. This is the first time the Chamber has hired a permanent full-time staff person to help with promoting business and tourism within the community, along with other duties.

A vote was taken by the full board of directors and the choice of Mr. Penrice was a unanimous decision.

A Chamber director for over 10 years, Mr. Penrice will be eased into the job on a part-time basis beginning sometime in May, said Mr. Whiting. He will then take on full-time duties "around the end of the summer."

Mr. Penrice was considered the top candidate because of his knowledge of the local area, businesses, the town and the Chamber, said Mr. Whiting.

"We had a number of good candidates, but most were from out of town," Mr. Whiting said.

Mr. Penrice is a past president of the Jaycees service club and is a life-long resident of Georgetown. He lives on Casa Court with wife Dianne and children Sandra, 16 and Christopher, 12.

He is the former president of the Beaumont Knitting Company of Glen Williams, which was sold to Rennie Industries of Guelph. Rennie

Doug Penrice



purchased the knitting company from Mr. Penrice and offered him a position with his textile division.

The new general manager said he was quite happy with the decision, was looking forward to the change and considered the position a "fun job."

"I've had a long-term relationship with the Chamber and have time to devote to the job," he said.

It is an interesting time for the Chamber with the town set to grow in population, he said. Business will have to be aggressive, he said. A key role will be in the areas of tourism and business promotion, he said.

Members of the selection committee include Dave Whiting, Murray Lawton, Rick West, David Page, Walt Dixon, Marg Tanas and Joe Simon, the administrator-clerk for the Town of Halton Hills.

The next goal of the committee is to select a site for a Chamber office, probably within the next two weeks, said Mr. Whiting.

"Then, as Murray Lawton says, we'll have all our ducks in a row," he said.

Acton couple wins \$10,000

A trip to the variety store made an Acton couple \$10,000 richer last week.

Bill and Eva Watt of Acton won \$10,000 in the Scratch and Win lottery on their second try. The tickets were bought at the Royal Mini-Mart on Queen Street.

It was a good omen for the retired couple who moved to Acton only a month ago, from Toronto. They moved to Acton to be closer to Mrs. Watt's sister Anita Ockenden.

"She (Mrs. Watt) bought one, and told me to go in and get another one," Mr. Watt said. "She borrowed one cent from me to scratch it with, and I haven't got it back yet."

The couple plans to use the money to travel to Edmonton to visit their daughter. They have another daughter in Toronto.

Thief enters occupied homes

The residents of three Georgetown homes were surprised early Thursday morning when they discovered an intruder in their midst. Police suspect the same person is responsible for all three incidents.

The first break and enter was at 1:45 a.m. on Mountainview Road. The screen to the kitchen window was removed and the intruder entered the home. Someone from upstairs came down to the first floor and the intruder fled. Damage to the screen was \$50.

Just 25 minutes later a person sitting in their kitchen in a Gibbons Place home was startled when someone entered. The intruder ran when he discovered someone at home. Entry to the home was through an unlocked side door, police said.

The same night at 2:45 a.m. people in a Gray Gate home were woken up when their bedroom light was switched on.

Problems with signage inadequate directions

Daryl Giberson, on the Volunteer Ambulance Service executive, says he hasn't heard any complaints about the Ambulance Service taking too long to arrive.

"I'd say, 99 per cent of the time, usually when we get there, they want to know how we got there so fast," Mr. Giberson said.

Naturally, it takes longer to drive to a call that's halfway between Rockwood and Acton than to one in Georgetown. One major problem of the ambulance service experiences is with road signs missing, down, or twisted, or road names that have been changed, he said.

Then there are those city folk who've moved out into the country who don't really know where they live. They don't know their concession or lot number or what rural road they live on, or even whether it's Peel, Esquimaux, or Erasmus Township, Mr. Giberson said.

That can slow down the arrival of the ambulance, as it's forced to creep along looking for a red house with two trees out front.



How many did she bake? Even Betty Filkkema doesn't know. The Moultry Crescent, Georgetown, woman was up at 4:30 a.m. Friday morning baking 37 loaves of currant raisin bread for the Georgetown and District Christian School spring bazaar Saturday at the school. The bazaar starts at 10:30 a.m. with an auction at 3:30 p.m. Mrs. Filkkema has already sold 50 loaves of her currant raisin bread to friends and neighbors. (Herald photo)

FOCUS '87: Read about business in Halton in today's paper