

Really cookin' at the GDHS reunion



Maple Lodge Farms cooked up 1,650 half chickens for the giant barbecue at the Georgetown District High School centennial reunion Saturday night. The barbecue preceded a massive outdoor dance which drew close to 4,000 people. Here, chickens are sizzling and almost ready to serve. (Herald Photo)



CHICKEN BUFFET - They lined up for miles at the barbecue Saturday night at the Georgetown District High School reunion. But the line moved fast and after healthy servings of chicken party goers moved to the pool entrance area where they danced all night. (Herald Photo)

Tax reform highlights

MP's Report



John McDermid

Tax reform is one of the most important undertakings by the Mulroney government in this mandate. The White Paper presented by Finance Minister Michael Wilson has laid out the blueprint for a simpler, fairer, and more progressive tax system - the system that Canada needs to meet the challenges of today and the opportunities of tomorrow.

Let me give you a few highlights of what the tax reform package will achieve:

- a fairer system, with eight out of ten Canadian households paying less personal income tax, an average of \$475 less. Low and middle income people will pay less, high income people who have been avoiding tax and many corporations will pay more.

- a simpler system, with only three tax brackets and with tax exemptions and most deductions replaced with tax credits that are worth the same regardless of your income. Many loopholes and tax breaks have been eliminated or reduced. The result will be that 850,000 more low-income households will no longer pay any tax at all, and nine out of ten senior citizens will pay less.

- a better balanced system, with more revenue coming from high-income individuals and profitable corporations, and less from lower and middle-income working people. The less well-off regions of the country will pay less. Those who made extensive use of tax breaks in the past will pay more tax.

Tax reform will proceed in two stages. The personal income tax reform will come into effect in 1988, which means that most people will see their take-home pay go up next year. The corporate tax changes will

be phased in starting in 1988. The move to a new sales tax system will take place later, after discussions with the provinces and consultations with Canadians.

The tax reform package will serve to continue our outstanding performance in job creation - 840,000 jobs have been created by Canadians since September 1984. The deficit will continue to decline every year.

Most Canadians will pay less tax. Some are being asked to pay more because of the reduction of tax preferences. But these changes reflect the goals of greater fairness and competitiveness, and they are being phased in over time.

The tax reform package will be judged on whether we have given our senior citizens more peace of mind; whether we have given those in the greatest need a fairer and reduced tax burden; whether those that should pay more, do pay more; whether we give our youth a greater sense of opportunity and hope; whether we all have a greater incentive to try harder, to build our nation together, and to have greater freedom to enjoy the fruits of our labour.

I believe that we have met these tests. And I think you will too.

Fire sparks investigation

Police and fire officials are investigating a fire that razed an abandoned house on 10 Sideroad, east of Eighth Line, Saturday morning.

The house had been vacant for some time and was slated for demolition to make room for a housing development, according to Halton Hills Deputy Fire Chief Bob Hyde.

The house was destroyed, but it is difficult to put a value on a house that was going to be torn down, the Deputy Chief said.

The cause of the blaze has not yet been determined. Arson has not been ruled out, said Mr. Hyde. Area Two firefighters responded to the call at 4:15 a.m. after police Sergeant Cliffe found the house in flames while on patrol duty. The last fire truck left the scene at 9:17 a.m.

In the hills

Four fire alarms

Firefighters were busy last week responding to four fire alarms.

On July 3, at 8:31 p.m., Area One firefighters reached 7 Park Ave., Georgetown to find smoke, mistaken for a fire, in a home.

The fire department also responded to a call in Terra Cotta on July 4. At 7:09 p.m. firefighters extinguished a propane barbecue fire at a home on Isabella Street.

On Sunday, at 2:11 p.m., Acton firefighters were called to put out a car fire at 252 Queen St. The fire in the engine area was caused by an electrical failure. Damage to the 1982 Jeep Scrambler is estimated at \$100.

La Leche meeting

La Leche League of Acton welcomes all women interested in breastfeeding information to their next meeting on Monday July 13, at 7:30 p.m. at 16 Wilbur Street N. Discussion will include the art of breastfeeding and overcoming difficulties. For further information call 878-4732.

Houses okayed

The Niagara Escarpment Commission has offered no objections to Ian Duff's proposal to build two houses on 21.2 acres of land just west of Limehouse.

Mr. Duff went before the NEC June 23 to explain the proposal and request an amendment to the NEC plan which now designates the property as a Mineral Resource Extraction area.

Municipal and Regional councils have already given their support to the proposal.

Mr. Duff said the hearings are inconclusive on their own but the hearing officer must now report to the hearing officer and to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs who will then take the request before Provincial cabinet for approval.

"It will certainly be months (before final approval is given) but I hope that it will be done this year," Mr. Duff said.

Lily exhibit

Enjoy the beauty of lilies at the fifth annual lily exhibit at the gallery of the Halton Hills Library and Cultural Centre July 17 and 18 from 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. All lily stems will be for sale and a limited number of lily bulbs for October planting.

Immunizations

Halton Regional Health Department holds its monthly immunization clinic on the second Tuesday of each month, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. The clinic is held at the Health Department, 93 Main Street, South, Georgetown. For an appointment, call 877-2238.

\$75,000 project

It may cost upwards of \$75,000 to retrofit the Acton Library for handicapped access to both floors.

That's the price listed in the 1989 capital forecast and Acton Councillor Norm Elliott says that's not all that expensive considering the work involved on the 20-year-old building.

Possible additions include a ramp and an elevator to ensure access to both floors in the library, Coun. Elliott said.

As much as 50 per cent funding may be available in grants from the province, he said.

New Acton arena shelved as result of capital forecast cuts

Two major capital project proposals for Acton - a new arena and a new fire station - were derailed at Monday's capital forecast meeting for 1988 through 1991.

In attempts to drastically reduce tax levies and eliminate extensive borrowing councillors mixed a new \$18 million arena in Acton from the 1988 capital forecast.

Also eliminated, pending a study from Halton Hills Fire Chief Bill Cunningham was a proposed fire station in Acton - cutting the need for \$65,000 in architect's fees from the 1988 forecast. The new hall also carries a possible borrowing debt of \$650,000 in 1990.

Capital expenditure proposals topped \$5 million for 1988 with over \$1.9 million to come from raising taxes and \$1.2 million raised by borrowing from the region.

Town treasurer Ray King recommended \$368,000 in tax cuts from the 1988 capital forecast but councillors only managed to slash \$135,000 at Monday's meeting.

Forecasts for 1989 saw almost \$3.9 million in capital projects proposed with \$2.2 million to come from tax levies. Mr. King recommended slashing \$550,000 from those tax levies and councillors either slashed or deferred \$276,400 in tax hikes from 1989's capital forecast.

The four hour meeting did not cover 1990 or 1991 - both of which were discussed last night (Tuesday).

Aside from the financial expenses incurred in major capital projects like an arena or a fire station there

are major logistical problems. Town Administrator-Clerk Joe Simon said, "I don't believe that we have the administrative capacity at this point ... to do two projects like put up a new fire hall and arena in Acton."

The town has already received Ontario Municipal Board approval for the new town hall and excess borrowing does not sit well with councillors.

Also cut from 1988 capital forecast proposals was \$50,000 for a communications centre console for the fire department and \$20,000 in parking improvements and expansion at the Georgetown Fairgrounds.

Axed from proposed 1989 capital forecasts were \$100,000 each from gravel resurfacing and surface treatment of town roads and \$15,000 in parking changes at the fairgrounds.

Nursery development (a proposal to plant trees by the recreation department) was reduced from \$10,000 capital costs to \$5,000 and \$26,400 for a sidewalk on Maple Avenue was deferred to 1990.

Councillors still had a lot of work to do heading into last night's meeting with 1990 capital forecast proposals hitting \$6.6 million, with \$2.3 million to come from tax increases and \$650,000 to come from loans. The rest would come from various subsidies and contributions.

Mr. King has recommended tax levy cuts of \$540,000 from the 1990 forecast.

Councillors had it slightly easier when they discussed capital forecasts for 1991. Capital expenses

then are estimated at \$3.5 million with almost \$2 million to come from tax hikes. Mr. King has recommended cutting \$65,000 in tax levies from the 1991 forecast.

Playground plans proceed

Councillor Pam Sheldon admitted to play the grinch at Monday's Capital forecast meeting but her attempts failed.

Proposals to build creative playground structures at Greenore and Kingham Streets in Acton, at M.Z. Bennet School in Acton, at Harrison Public School in Georgetown, and in Glen Williams were left in the capital forecast after some debate.

The structure of Greenore and Kingham will cost \$12,000 but no burden will fall on the tax levy. The structure at M.Z. Bennet school will cost \$16,000 with council footing half the bill and the creative playground at Harrison will cost \$10,000 with council picking up a \$3,500 tab.

Council will pay half the cost of a \$10,000 structure in Glen Williams. The remaining funds will be supplied by local fundraising ef-

orts. "I've always voted against them (creative play structures)," Coun. Sheldon said.

"Spyside built their own creative playground structure and I think this is something the community can do," she said.

Coun. Sheldon moved to have expenditures on the proposed structures at M.Z. Bennet School, in Glen Williams and at Harrison School struck from the forecast but councillors defeated the motion and the funds remain earmarked for the three structures.

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