

S.H.A.R.E

Lending a helping hand

BY BETTY BROWNRIDGE
SOUTH ESQUESING

S.H.A.R.E. Agricultural Foundation was founded by a small group of leaders in agriculture from Peel County, Ontario in 1976. The Canadian Government recognized it as a charitable organization at that time.

S.H.A.R.E. stands for Sending Help and Resources Everywhere. It is non-sectarian, providing agricultural and/or technical services to less developed areas. Those receiving assistance must agree to help others through the "pass on" principle. For example, if a person receives an animal, then the first female offspring will be passed on to another person.

Requests come to S.H.A.R.E from church and non-government organizations that are already established and are usually involved in the leadership and responsibility for the projects.

S.H.A.R.E. makes an on-site evaluation of requests before making any commitment. They have just returned to El Salvador after their projects there were put on hold during the civil war. Agriculture accounts for 10 per cent of the GDP and employs 30 per cent of the population. Education is compulsory but illiteracy is 27 per cent among adults and wages are low. S.H.A.R.E is working with a group in that country called ANITA, (La Association National de Trabajadores Agropecuarios).

Bob and Mary Thomas met Secretary-General Carlos Rodriques and driver/technician Rafael, and visited a

S.H.A.R.E. dairy project at Hacienda Manguara in the District of San Miguel (an area that sustained heavy fighting during the civil war). They received 12 cows and funding for an irrigation canal from the Cuscatlan dam and a hydro generating station is supplying water to a variety of crops in fertile valleys.

Bob, Mary and their escorts drove to Santa Anna, a hilly remote site where 33 families have legal title to three acres each, which border on two spring-fed streams. Their proposal to S.H.A.R.E. is for 30 cows and for funding to produce vegetables. A dam built by the previous landowner could be utilized and they are interested in solar pumps. They already cultivate small garden plots, a coffee tree nursery, and other minor crops. Their request is realistic.

S.H.A.R.E. thanks contributors for their financial support, making a difference in the lives of people in developing countries. Special mention to CIDA - the Canadian International Development Agency for their support in funding projects. Individual donations are matched by CIDA, doubling the value.

Contributions or requests for information may be sent to:

S.H.A.R.E Agricultural Foundation
1544 Countryside Drive,
R.R. #4
Brampton, Ontario
L6T 3S1

A receipt will be issued for tax purposes.

The Town of Halton Hills News by Councillor Kevin Kuiack

Milton vs. Town of Halton Hills Softball Challenge: On Wednesday, August 5th, 6:00 p.m. at Hornby Park - Diamond #1 (Steeles Avenue and Sixth Line, South), a softball game between the councils of the Town of Milton and the Town of Halton Hills has been scheduled. The winnings, donations and 50/50 draw proceeds will go to benefit each Town's respective Senior's Centres. We hope to see many of you there.

Taxes: In late August, your tax bills are expected to be ready. Current Value Assessment and the Who Does What changes impact this year's assessment. It is estimated that 49% of residential taxes for Ward 2 properties, on average, will increase by about \$329.00, while 51% of residential taxes will decrease, on average, by \$448.00. The Region of Halton is easing the burden for those residences whose taxes are increasing by over \$300. For those affected, they are covering the increase over \$300 for the first year and the increase over the next \$300 for the following year. The Town of Halton Hills, as well, offers a monthly Pre-Authorized Payment Plan for those taxpayers who wish to use it.

Roads: Speed Limits are expected to change on the Line North from Hwy 7 to 32 Sideroad. Presently, they are 60 km/hr for approximately the first 750 metres and then 80 km/hr for the remainder. They now will be 60 km/hr from Hwy 7 to approx. 1.3 km north and then change from 80 km/hr to 70 km/hr. to the 32 Sideroad.

Dog Licensing Changes: The Town is continuing its licensing program of paying your \$20 annual fees, as well as now offering the opportunity to have your dog identified with a microchip. This microchip is placed just under the loose skin between the shoulder blades by a veterinarian and lasts your pet's lifetime. The Town licensing cost is a one time fee of only \$40.00, plus the initial cost of the vet to implant the microchip which is approximately \$60.00. If you have your dog microchipped, you are not required to license annually, but you must maintain rabies vaccinations.

North Halton Transportation Study: The Region of Halton is undertaking a North Halton Transportation Study to investigate needs within Halton Hills. If you have any concerns or questions regarding regional roads, please forward your comments to the Region of Halton for their study.

Your representatives: Rick Bonnette, 519-853-4203; Kathy Gastle, 905-877-7509; Kevin Kuiack, 905-877-8963

Milton Council Recap by Cindy Lunau

Taxes! The Inevitable has not gone away; it's just been delayed again and again - as Municipalities struggle with new tax policies from the Province. Here's where we are in this continuing saga.

Your final tax bill for 1998 will be sent out by September 6th with payments due on September 30th and October 30th. However, the 1998 appeal deadline for the Provincial Assessment is August 31st for Regular Notices, and September 9th for Amended Notices.

You may wish to do some quick calculations to see where YOU stand before these appeal deadlines. The Total Tax Rates for Milton follow. Residential & Farm: 1.32%. Commercial: 3.34%. Industrial: 5.4%. Farmlands: .34%. Apply these percentages to the amounts shown on your Property Assessment Notice sent by the province.

There are a number of sub-classes within these classes, but this should allow you to judge whether you are among those whose taxes will be going up or down in time to consider filing an appeal with the Province. These percentages do not consider the impact of the 1998 budgets of the Town and the Region, as well as School taxes, but will give you a reasonable estimate of where you stand. (The Town's tax levy was actually down 1%. Provincial downloading added approximately 5% to the Region's taxes.)

Appeals can be made in two ways. A "Reconsideration" form is informal, and will be dealt with quickly (I'm told within two weeks) and has no fee attached; if you do not agree with that ruling (or prefer to go direct to the final step) you may file a Formal Appeal with the Assessment Review Board. The cost is \$20 for residential, farm and forest properties (\$50 for other properties) and can take several years. Keep the deadlines in mind. Assessment is a provincial matter, but the Town (as well as Councillors) have forms and phone numbers available, and can help with some questions.

You may also wish to see if you would qualify for other programs which may reduce your total assessment, such as Managed Forest, Conservation Land, or Farmlands.

In Ward 3 (Nassagaweya) 800 parcels (43%) of residential lands will have a tax increase with an average of \$294, while 1,061 parcels (57%) will have a tax decrease of an average of \$472. There is a two year phase-in program if your tax increase is over 15% or \$300. Tax decreases will be immediate.

Two hundred, twenty-four Farmlands in Ward 3 will have an average increase of \$146, while 20 parcels will see a decrease averaging \$225. This assessment replaces the former Farmland rebate program.

The most difficult changes are to Commercial and Industrial assessments in Ward 3. If you have this class shown on your assessment, pay attention. A total of 93 Commercial parcels will see an average increase of \$3,431 while 6 parcels will decrease an average of \$2,872. Nine Industrial parcels will see an increase of \$6,634 with two being reduced by \$2,464. This assessment is intended to replace Business taxes previously paid separately. Only you can judge if this appears to be a fair trade in your case. A rebate program will help businesses adjust to their new rates with a maximum increase of 13% or \$1500 in each of three years.

Low income seniors and the disabled may be eligible for a tax deferral program which would see tax increases postponed to the sale of the property.

Your Current Value Assessment (CVA) is based on what your property, as it stands today, would have been worth on June 30, 1996. This assessment will apply until the Year 2001 when property values will be updated to June, 1999.

Your representatives,
Your questions, comments, concerns are important. Please call us.
Lieven Gevaert (519) 856-4529; Barry Lee (519) 824-0679 or (519) 853-5790;
Cindy Lunau (519) 853-3772



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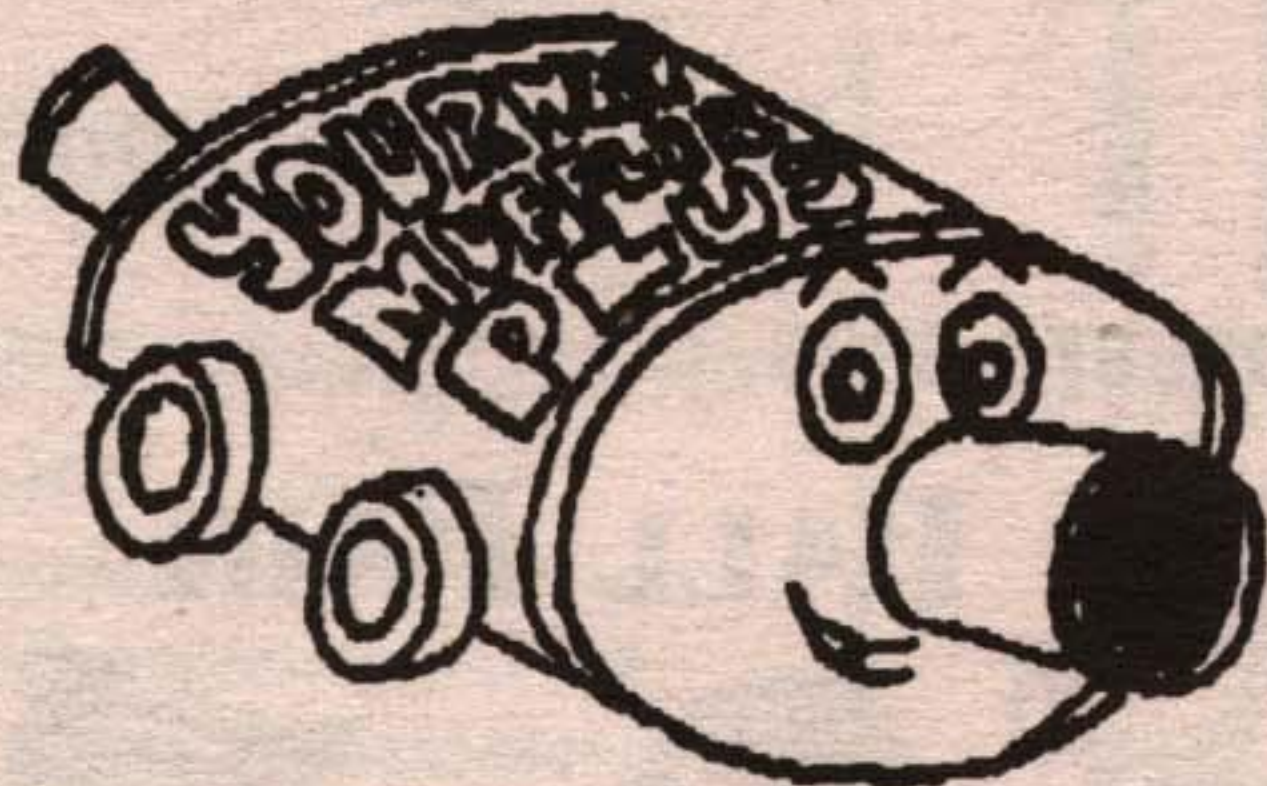
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