

Town Taxes Take Two Mill Jump 69 Residential, 75.8 Commercial

Milton taxpayers, warned a week ago that the 1965 tax rate would climb by one and a half mills, got even more bad news Monday when council set the mill rate at 69 mills residential, and 75.8 mills industrial-commercial. The rate is a two mill jump over last year, and for the average local ratepayer with \$4,500 assessment, it means a \$10 increase in their 1965 taxes.

Last week's definite one and a half mill increase was upped this week when the auditor discovered an error in the high school board's budget amounting to \$10,000, or just over one mill. Council decided to budget for a \$640 deficit and keep the mill rate increase to an even two mills.

All for Education

Councillors noted that the entire two mill increase this year

went into education costs: a half mill for the high school and one and a half for the public school. Total expenditures this year are estimated at \$910,582.29, of which direct taxes will raise \$668,391. Grants from Department of Highways, the Provincial per capita grant, welfare and other grants will account for \$59,075, while \$127,167 is covered in public school grants and \$183,000 in high school grants. The balance of the funds is derived from miscellaneous revenues, sale of licences etc.

Spending is broken down in the following manner:

The Breakdown:
Education is again the big cost, accounting for \$317,303 or over one-third of all the monies to be raised, and 33.11 of the mills of the total.
Debt service charges this year to

\$163,241 and account for 20 mills.

County rate is 5.5 mills and will raise \$51,599.

Public works and sanitation is set at \$123,784; general government \$92,877; protection to persons and property \$77,989; recreation and community services \$33,237; conservation of health

and welfare \$15,600; and miscellaneous reserves and capital expenditure \$34,951.

The education rate for separate school supporters was set at 20.05 residential and 22.28 commercial, the same rates as apply for public school supporters. Council has changed its tax penalty and rebate methods, effective this year, to come more in line with neighboring municipalities. A one per cent rebate will be granted if the taxes are paid in full by the first due date, May 7. One per cent per month will be added on overdue taxes.

Due dates for the four payments this year are May 7, July 2, Sept. 3 and Nov. 5.

Town to Sell Garbage Bags Buy 50,000; Sell at Cost

Despite objections that council was "going into the retail business in opposition to local merchants" council, by a 5-3 vote at Monday's meeting, decided to purchase 50,000 plastic garbage bags to be sold to Milton citizens at almost their cost.

The town and KCL Packaging of Canada, Woodstock, recently conducted a two-week test in the north Milton area to see how residents liked stuffing their garbage into the plastic bags instead of the weighty, smelly garbage cans. The company supplied the bags free, and six were given to each of 130 households in the designated area.

People Like Them
Questionnaires filled out by the residents showed the people liked them and are prepared to buy them at a nominal cost. The town likes them because they: (1) take less time for the pick-up crews to collect; (2) keep the garbage disposal area neater because the refuse would be tightly enclosed in the bags; and (3) might save costs on garbage pick-up and could even prevent the town from having to buy a second garbage paker for pick-ups.

It was pointed out that if every householder in town used the bags, the saving on the tax bill would equal the cost of the bags and the residents would get the extra benefits the bags provide.

at no cost. "They cut our time in almost half," said one councillor.

Sell for \$2.25
Councillor Charles Best, chairman of sewers and sanitation committee, displayed a box of 50 bags with ties, that the town could purchase for \$2.11 if they purchased 50,000 bags on one order. Council finally agreed to his proposal that the 50,000 be purchased and sold at \$2.25 (four and a half cent a bag) through the town hall clerk's office, but it took an hour's argument before the matter was finally settled.

Objectors pointed out this put the town into competition with local merchants, who had to buy in such small quantities, they sold similar bags for nearly 10 cents each. Some councillors favored having a Scout group or service club take over the bag project and charge a 50 cent delivery fee to deliver the bags to householders' doors. It was argued this was upping the cost of the bags and the extra 50 cents might discourage residents from buying—and the whole point of supplying inexpensive bags was to get as many residents using them as possible.

Councillor Gerry Addison wondered what service club would make 1,000 house calls to sell all the bags, for only \$125 profit on the transaction. Others suggested

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At Centennial Dinner

Outline Pond Project, Announce Plan for '67 Historical Pageant

Plans for developing Milton's 1967 Centennial project were unveiled, along with an announcement of the local committee's plans for a centennial pageant at a dinner meeting of the Milton Centennial Committee, held Wednesday evening of last week at the Legion.

Other highlights of the evening included a school girl's speech on the mill pond which was chosen as the town's centennial project; presentation of the cash prize to the boy winning the slogan contest; a humorous look into the Milton of the year 1867; and promises of increased support from town councillors and other groups represented at the dinner.

Seek More Interest

The Centennial Committee was organized a year ago and has been actively planning a local project and a 1967 celebration to tie in with the Dominion's 100th birthday. Wednesday's dinner was planned to interest more local groups in participating and

several new groups were represented among the 43 persons in attendance.

Chairman Norman S. Pearce reviewed how the committee is accepting the Supersweet Formula Feeds' generous offer of the mill pond and plans to clean and dredge the pond, install new drainage facilities, and clean up the bush area surrounding the pond to make it into a more beautiful public parksite. The pond was an integral part of Milton's development, for Jasper Martin built the first mill around which Milton grew, and he dug the pond to harness the water that powered the mill in its early days.

A landscape architect from Guelph has become interested in

the project, Mr. Pearce said, and wants to work with the committee in developing the park. He suggests an island be built and linked with the shoreline by a bridge. The architect, Professor J. Weall, has also suggested a model should be built.

Better Project

Mr. Pearce called for representatives of every organization in town to come and join the committee, for "the more organizations and individuals we have associated, the better our project can be."

Sam Graham, who was director of several variety productions in Toronto before moving to Milton, outlined to the committee his plans for a centennial pageant

that would be organized and staged in Milton Arena during the summer of 1967. The plan calls for a specially-built stage, impressive scenery and costumes, a cost of up to 300 with dozens working in a backstage production crew, and a two-hour show that would use songs, dance routines and skits to portray the history of Milton from the days of the Indian tribes right through to 100 years into the future.

Mr. Graham is already assembling the production team and

cast, and hopes to put on a "pilot show" in 1966 to give the cast some experience and to promote Milton's activity during the centennial year.

Form Theatre Group

He expects that after the centennial, the people involved in the show would keep active as a "little theatre" group and schedule annual productions — making the pageant and its results a secondary project involving the pond.

The pageant would open on the Milton of today and flash back to the days of the Indians, progressing through the years with pioneers, travelling preachers, the gay 90's, the first world war, the depression of the 1930's, up to the town's own centennial in 1957 and through to the Milton of a century hence.

The director called for as much help as possible, and said there would be a job open for everybody interested in helping to stage such a production. Rehearsals should start this September for the pilot show, and the following fall for the 1967 pageant, he said.

Best Slogan

Michael Aikenhead of the Bruce St. school, who wrote the winning slogan in the committee's recent slogan contest, was present with his mother, Mrs. D. Aikenhead, to receive his cheque for \$10. Mr. Pearce presented the award and announced that Michael's slogan: "Take pride in the past; start today and build for the future" would be used in connection with Milton's celebration.

Members of the slogan contest committee, Roy Downs, Alex Cooke and Doug Cruickshank, expressed appreciation to close to 100 students who submitted entries in the competition. The two honorable mention \$5 winners were Karen McEachern of

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Seek Riding Names "East, West Halton"

Halton County Council endorsed "any move to have the Provincial government name voting areas in this county as East and West Halton", during its meeting Tuesday.

There was no debate on the motion presented by Deputy Reeve R. Goodwin of Acton. At the last meeting Mr. Goodwin had presented the motion but agreed to consider it notice of motion for consideration at this meeting.

Under the announced plan to split Halton into two ridings for Provincial voting, the divided riding formerly known as Halton was designated Burlington and Oakville. The county move is to have the designations East Halton and West Halton.

Storm-Snarled 401 Policeman's Nightmare

Winter's third fierce snowstorm (the last, it is hoped) lashed the Milton area Wednesday afternoon and evening of last week and caused innumerable headaches for motorists and snow clearing crews.

O.P.P. reported the worst traffic tie-up in their history on Highway 401 just west of the Highway 25 overpass, where an estimated 200 cars were held up for several hours following a rash of accidents.

The accidents saw two persons hurt, while 38 vehicles were involved. Five O.P.P. officers rushed to the scene to sort out the snarled traffic and begin the tedious job of investigating what appeared to be 16 different accidents, and when it was all over, they totalled up \$24,857 in property damages.

During the rash of accidents, a police cruiser was damaged,

when a transport ran out of control and struck it after colliding with five other vehicles. Constable Jim Redpath, who had just parked the cruiser on the side of the road, was still in the car when the truck collided with it, but he was unhurt.

Area residents involved in the accidents included Arthur Smith of Campbellville, Cyril Bishop of Acton and Elizabeth Smith of R. R. 1, Campbellville.

The storm cancelled meetings of the library board, arena board and North Halton Urban Board.

The two men who were to introduce and thank the guest speaker at the Centennial Committee's dinner meeting at the Legion that evening weren't able to make it through the storm to the meeting. But it didn't matter. The speaker, Professor John Weall of Guelph couldn't be there either.

MICHAEL AIKENHEAD, son of Dr. and Mrs. D. Aikenhead and a student at Bruce St. Public School, was judged winner of the Milton Centennial Committee's recent slogan contest. He accepted a cheque for \$10 from Centennial Committee chairman Norm Pearce at a dinner meeting of the committee held last week at the Legion Hall. Mike's winning slogan was "Take pride in the past; start today, and build for the future". It will be used in connection with Milton's part of the Canadian centennial in 1967.

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Budgets

This week's issue contains news of budget-setting meetings. At a glance, the budgets mean:

● County Council: \$2,690,409 total expenditures, on a 5.75 mill rate (same as last year).

● Milton Council: A two mill increase to 69 residential and 75.80 industrial-commercial, for \$910,582 total expenditures. Of this the town ratepayers will raise \$668,391.

● High School Board: 406,500 total spending, an increase of nearly \$50,000 over last year. Milton raises \$122,516 of this figure.

● Halton Region Conservation Authority: A 7c per capita increase with \$740,620 total spending. Nine local councils share \$175,048 of this amount.

Further details in budget stories in this issue.

Other features this week are Sports on Pages 4 and 5, Classifieds 6 and 7, Junior hockey series B1, Women's News B6, Editorials C1, Farm News C2 and C3, High School Highlights C4.

Asked 50, Got 30

Approve 30-Bed Hospital Addition

Approval for a 30-bed addition for Milton District Hospital has been granted by the Ontario Hospital Services Commission, hospital board of directors chairman John W. Ostler announced today. The expansion will allow 10 more active treatment beds in the medical-surgical (general) section of the hospital, and a 20-bed chronic care unit. Formal approval by the Commission will enable the board to proceed with a building program that has been in the planning stages for close to two years.

Second Floor?
Although it is not definitely decided, the addition could mean a second floor for the present 52-bed one-storey hospital on 10 Sideroad south of town.

Hospital officials were hesitant to guess at the cost of the addition until a study can be made of construction costs. Earlier, a 50-bed addition was estimated to cost \$600,000 with active treatment beds estimated at \$15,000 and chronic beds at \$11,000. Based on these figures, the approved addition could cost close to \$400,000.

Halton County Council has tentatively approved grants of \$4,000 for each active treatment bed and \$6,000 for chronic beds.

The board originally went to the O.H.S.C. last fall to ask for 50 beds, made up of 15 active treatment beds and a 35-bed chronic wing. It was expected the chronic bed wing would

handle all chronically ill in the county, as the Milton hospital is centrally located for Oakville, Burlington, Georgetown and Acton.

The hospital has been especially busy and quite overcrowded in the past eight or nine months, with several overflow beds to be found in corridors on most days. There is a waiting period for elective surgery.

The Commission originally approved a 15-bed chronic addition, but when the board protested, the Commission sent two of its doctors to view the hospital and interview the medical staff. Today's decision followed their tour and talks with the local staff.

Set 5.75 Halton Tax Rate Milton's Share is \$51,599

Halton County Council Tuesday budgeted for expenditures of \$1,474,865 for its general operations and \$1,215,544 for road purposes, when it approved the 1965 county budget. The rate of 5.75 mills remains unchanged from the previous year.

Major expenditures in the county budget are \$70,050 for debt charges and repayment; \$259,400 for public welfare; \$200,251 for protection to persons and property; and \$193,397 for general government.

Main source of revenue, other than taxation, is in grants and subsidies from the federal and provincial governments making up \$226,519.

The 5.75 mills is made up of 4.1 for the general levy and 1.65 for the roads.

Road expenditures in the county will total an estimated \$1,215,544. Of this total the county levy of 1.65 mills will raise \$452,420, with the balance coming from the Department of Highways and a surplus from 1964 of \$93,483.

Oakville will contribute the largest amount to the county with its levy making up \$699,473; Burlington is next with \$610,374; Georgetown will pay \$91,204; Esqueping \$57,698; Milton \$51,599; Acton \$41,693; and Nassagaweya \$24,573.

In addition to the general and

road rates, the north Halton municipalities pay special levies totalling \$102,174 on debentures issued by the county for high school construction during the years of the former North Halton District High School Board.

Members of the county council reviewed the budget in the afternoon session and paid special tribute to treasurer Miss M. Maxted for her work. Deputy Clerk Jim Andrews was also praised for his efforts during the illness of county clerk Garfield Brown. In a final gesture, members awarded both an additional three days' vacation for the extra work they had been doing.

Set New Salary Schedule

High School Budget \$406,500

Expenditures for 1965 have been estimated at \$406,500 by the Milton District High School Board in their annual budget. Of the total, Milton taxpayers will raise \$122,514, Esqueping \$44,564 and Nassagaweya \$38,304. Provincial grants will contribute an estimated \$183,000.

Major expenditure in the budget is for the cost of instruction including salaries, estimated at \$245,000 compared with 1964 expenditures of \$207,220.

Other major expenditures include \$30,000 for instructional supplies; \$28,000 for plant operation; \$40,000 for capital outlays; \$20,000 for transportation; \$11,000 in fees to other boards; \$17,500 for administration; \$5,000 for plant

maintenance; \$3,500 for auxiliary services and \$6,500 for extraneous payments. The \$406,500 total compares with last year's actual expenditures of \$357,081.

This year's levy is reduced by a surplus from the previous year of \$11,469; and the anticipated sale of the Martin St. school at \$37,400. This reduces the amount levied for in taxes to \$166,631 compared with last year's levy of \$175,127.

Since the school is a district school, Milton pays 57.64 per cent of the costs, Esqueping 22.78 per cent and Nassagaweya 19.58 per cent.

During the Monday meeting of the Board, members approved a salary schedule including minimums and maximums in four groups depending on the qualifications of the individual teachers. The range in group one is from \$5,300 to \$8,500; in group two from \$5,300 to \$8,900; in group three from \$5,900 to \$10,000 and in group four from \$6,400 to \$10,400.

Negotiations between the Board and the teachers' representatives also promised a retirement gratuity plan would be established with a draft to be prepared before the September term. Payment for

department heads was increased by \$100.

The Board accepted with regret the resignations of Edward T. Price, Mrs. M. Gray and Miss Betty Karpinechik. The contract of Miss Bonnie Ferguson was approved and she will join the staff in September with responsibilities in Library and Junior English.

Effective in September William Tom will serve as acting vice principal, the Board announced.

Collect \$1,730 For Red Cross

"A success beyond all expectations", was the way Milton Red Cross campaign chairman Dr. Paul Kent described Monday night's Red Cross blitz. More than 150 canvassers visited Milton homes and collected \$1,730 and it is expected the figure will reach \$2,000 when all the receipts have been turned in.

The figure is considerably higher than the \$1,500 goal set by Milton's campaign committee. The Milton Red Cross Society has just recently been re-organized.



IN RECOGNITION OF 14 years of service as congregational and budget treasurer of Knox Presbyterian Church, officials made a presentation Sunday to Cec. Dobie. Clerk of Session K. Y. Dick, Mr. Dobie, Rev. J. K. L. McGown and Mr. Dobie's successor Ken Hassard are shown in the photo, as Mr. Dobie accepts the gold watch from the minister. Mr. McGown praised the bank manager for accepting this "very onerous and responsible task" and told the congregation Mr. Dobie was "a faithful steward with the talents he has given," before retiring from the post earlier this year.