

Esqueuing protests - education tax for landowners higher than total tax last year

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MOUNTAIN UNION WOMEN'S INSTITUTE in Halton County, is pictured cutting the anniversary cake. Looking on at left is another speaker Mrs. E. Small of Essex, past provincial W.I. president, while Mountain Union president Mrs. Velma Norris looks on at right.—(Staff Photo)

Town's brief to McKeough

Halton one regional unit

Milton Council will continue to press for establishment of Halton County as a unit of regional government, it was agreed Monday as members reviewed a draft brief on the subject.

government including the south section of Nassagaweya to the 10th Sideroad. In Esqueuing the line would be continued to Ashgrove and then dip down the Seventh Line to the Fifth Sideroad and continue to the east boundary of the township.

case of voting power each municipality should have equal voting rights. The local or lower tier of government proposed for the Milton area would include a mayor elected at large, four councillors elected by the urban area and one councillor from south Esqueuing, south Nassagaweya, north Oakville and north Burlington.



FORD OF CANADA held a dinner for about 400 employees and their wives in Toronto Thursday, to honor employees who have made significant contributions in the field of community service.

Supporting maps to the town's brief, drafted by the Mayor after discussions at council outline the services originating from Milton to the surrounding rural areas. The areas of hydro, telephone, mail, fire and news services are outlined, in support of the proposed four lower tier units of government.

Milton would form a unit of

Halton Sportsmen

Stock 100 Rainbows in pond

Young anglers should have a hey-day at the Centennial Pond in Milton when trout season opens on April 26. Today (Wednesday) officials of the Halton Sportsmen's Association are stocking the pond with about 100 Rainbow Trout, each 11 or 12 inches in length.

Sportsmen made the arrangements for the stocking program. The fish were obtained from Ivan Cryderman's "Rainbow Ranch" at Moffat where the rainbows have been reared in spring-fed ponds from the egg stage.

No buses

No bus transportation is planned in Milton for grade 6, 7 and 8 students who will be attending the Martin St. Senior Public School next year, Assistant Director Douglas Lawless of the Halton County Board of Education confirmed to The Champion Tuesday.

Mr. Lawless confirmed no bus transportation is being planned within the town.

Dissent growing

Criticize province not us, says Armitage

"Rather than level accusations and criticism the Board and the municipalities should co-operate in a common concerted effort to urge those who are really responsible for our problems—that is, the provincial government—to implement effective remedies", County Board of Education Chairman F. Armitage said Tuesday.

The chairman was commenting as growing municipal dissent over education costs mounted.

"The Halton County Board of Education has established a budget for 1969 which it believes is reasonable and realistic, taking into account a significant increase in the number of pupils and increased cost of operation for 1969 when compared to 1968 costs", the chairman declared.

He stressed the board is responsible for its annual operating budget but has no control over provincial grants and the apportioning of the costs to the municipalities. "This is done in accordance with legislation enacted by the provincial government".

The chairman also noted the Board is forwarding a brief to the provincial government outlining its concern and advancing recommendations on the grant structure.

The cost per pupil for elementary education in Halton is \$587 and for secondary \$1,027. "Costs per pupil in most large urban municipalities and metro areas, providing comparable educational programs in 1968, exceeded \$600 for elementary pupils and \$1,100 for secondary pupils," the chairman pointed out.

This year 41 per cent of the total \$32,025,422 budget will be paid by the province. The balance of the costs, levied

J. Harkness architect for new library centre

Architects for the construction of a library resource centre at Milton's Martin St. Public School were appointed by the Halton County Board of Education during their regular meeting Tuesday.

The firm of John J. Harkness, Burlington received the commission. The same firm had been responsible for the addition of the auditorium.

The project was one of 10 for which architects were appointed on building programs to begin this year.

Close Heights school

Change school boundaries

The closing of the two-room Milton Heights school in September was reflected in across-the-county boundary changes for elementary school students adopted by the County Board of Education Thursday. The 100 students involved at the Milton Heights School will attend the J. M. Denyes Public School in Milton from kindergarten to grade five. Those in grades 6 to 8 will attend the Martin St. Public School.

The Martin St. School will include grades 6 to 8 for all pupils in Milton from the W. I. Dick, J. M. Denyes and Bruce St. School beginning in September. Previously the school had included only grades 7 and 8. Assistant Director D. Lawless, in presenting the recommendation, noted the Martin St. school had accommodation for 400 and was presently only occupied by about 200 students.

Kindergarten pupils in the Campbellville area will attend classes at Brookville Public School and no kindergarten will be operated in Campbellville. The kindergarten is presently operated in rented quarters in the village.

Those pupils living on or near the Nassagaweya-Esqueuing town line, north of No. 10 Sideroad will attend the Speyside Public School. Those pupils living on the town line south of

No. 10 Sideroad to the Base Line will attend the J. M. Denyes Public School in Milton or the Martin St. Public School, depending on grade.

Mr. Lawless told the board no consideration was being given to extending the south boundary of the Milton District High School at the present. He noted additional accommodation would be required by 1973 in the north of the county and it will be necessary to decide how the increase will be handled by that time.

Present grade 6 and 7 students enrolled in Percy W. Merry, Sniders, Falgarwood, Munn's, Sinningdale, Lorne Skuce and Palermo Public Schools will enrol in grades 7 and 8 at Montclair Public School. This shift will affect an estimated 410 students.

He suggested the Milton Heights school would be used either for audio visual material or for administration offices.

Changes in secondary school areas affected Burlington and Oakville schools only.

Total cost \$250,000

Seeking road improvements

A \$250,000 road improvement program has been submitted to the Department of Highways for approval by Milton Council.

The program for 1969, on a cost-sharing basis with the Department, would see Highway 25 redesignated along Ontario St. and the Base Line Rd., rather than through the downtown area of Milton. It would include installation of the traffic signals at the Main-Ontario St. intersection and the reconstruction of Main St. from Bruce to Martin.

Paving would also be undertaken on Queen St., Mary St. west, Thomas St., Sarah St.

from Hugh to Thomas, Brown St. from Main to King, Hugh St. from Mary to Robert, Sydney St. from Thomas to Commercial, and Garnet St. from Thomas to Lydia.

In day-long discussions with representatives of the Department, Councillor Colin Smillie outlined the town's acceptance of the redesignation of the Highway 25 route as one of the proposals outlined in a feasibility study. He noted costs of other proposals were prohibitive.

The re-designation will require an expenditure of approximately \$40,000 in improvements to sections of the present road that

are not standing up to traffic. The town's share of this work would be 10 per cent under the connecting link agreement.

Concern was expressed over the deteriorating condition of the Main St. from Bruce St. to Martin St. and it was stressed that reconstruction to the 40 foot width proposed by council was logical. This would not require purchase of any additional land. Estimated cost of the project is \$150,000 of which the town's share would be 50 per cent.

It is proposed that no construction work be undertaken this year on Mary St. west of Charles since the development of possible off-street parking in the area is unsettled.

Outlining the plan for a start on paving of some streets, Councillor Smillie pointed out those chosen for initiation of the project either had adequate surface drainage or existing storm drainage. The paving, it is suggested, will reduce surface maintenance costs annually and provide better streets.

The Councillor pointed out that past practise has been for the town's maintenance costs to exceed construction. "If during the next five years we reverse the formula we will have paved most, if not all, of our town's streets", he observed. This will in all probability be accomplished at no added overall cost.

The current budget does not allow for any expenditure on

Esqueuing Council is not about to accept proposed 1969 education tax increases without a fight.

Following the regular meeting in council chambers Monday night, letters of protest are being sent to Education Minister William Davis, Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough, Halton East MPP Jim Snow, Opposition leaders in the provincial legislature, members of the Halton County School Board, and all municipal councils in Halton.

The motion came after Clerk K. C. Lindsay reported taxes up a total of \$204,972 over last year, largely due to increases in the education budget under the new county board. He went on to cite actual figures on a number of farms and lots in the township under new assessment.

For a 300 acre farm where total taxes in 1968 were \$1,670.54, this year's education tax alone is \$1,839.66, an increase of \$169.12 over total taxes a year ago.

On a 100 acre farm, total taxes last year were \$773.77. This year the education tax alone is \$796.25, which is an increase of \$22.48 over total taxes last year.

For a lot with a house of average assessment, total taxes last year were \$425.95. The education tax alone this year is \$419.15, a difference of \$6.80. Total taxes in 1969 will be \$558.89 or a 31.94 per cent increase over last year.

"Quite obviously they are throwing the tax burden on the land owner," snapped Reeve George Currie. "How long are

(Continued on Page 3)



MILTON Municipal Council BRIEFS

Monday, Milton Councillors:

* Learned the town's new Official Plan will cost an estimated \$10,000 as opposed to an original estimate of \$8,000. A new base map of \$700 required will be extra. Revision of a previously drafted zoning by-law is estimated to cost \$2,000. Mayor B. Best reviewed the estimates after discussions with the planner as council saw its bills for the projects climbing above the estimates. Members indicated \$6,000 would be inserted in the current budget to cover the increase on the Official Plan, the Zoning by-law and the legal and board fees for finalization of the projects.



THE DRIVER WALKED AWAY, UNSCATHED, but the property damage toll went pretty high when this tractor-trailer dump truck loaded with sand tipped over in the centre of the narrow bridge on Highway 25 a mile south of town last Wednesday morning. Traffic was rerouted for several hours until the wreckage and the 20 ton load of spilled sand could be cleaned up. Driver Dorjan Luptak of

Muscillo Haulage, Oakville (shown at the left with the policeman) was unhurt. He said he managed to jump out of the cab as the trailer slowly tipped over. The vehicle struck the sides of the bridge and two tires were blown and the frame snapped in several places as the accident happened.—(Staff Photo)