

# Sees handwriting on wall for merger of Halton, Peel

Assessing changes due in Ontario on Jan. 1 signify "the handwriting on the wall" for a merger of Peel and Halton counties, according to Milton's Mayor Brian Best. Changes in the provincial system of assessing were explained for members of Milton Council at their meeting Monday, by Milton's assessor Jack Charlton.

When Mr. Charlton explained Halton and Peel are being lumped in one regional assessing area with its headquarters likely to be situated in Brampton, the Mayor remarked "Halton and Peel are being welded together whether you want it or not. The handwriting is definitely on the wall."

The province has decided to take over all assessing and

decentralize it, promising a better than ever service for the entire province. A regional director, Carl Madgett has been named to oversee one region stretching from Halton to Bracebridge. "There won't be any local assessor in the town of Milton," the assessor predicted. If a sub-office is needed in Oakville or Burlington, nearer the centre of population.

Equalization of assessment practices will be one benefit of the provincial system, Mr. Charlton said. "They expect it will take a lot more help, but it's quite a good system from what I have seen of it." Several councillors figured it would cost a lot more, too.

Councillor Percy Barr said there should also be changes in

education taxation. He plumped for a shift of taxation from real property to income tax and said now would be an ideal time to launch the protest.

"Now is the time to take welfare out, too," added the mayor.

"All councils in Ontario should go on record and tell the province we're not going to collect education taxes after a certain date," said Councillor Barr. "Let them go out and collect their own tax."

The discussion ended without any definite action on his proposal.



TOPPLED BY TREE EXPERTS, some of Victoria Park's Elms lie across the grass after being felled by workmen Monday. Eight were dropped or cut down in sections, including one at the entrance to the cenotaph. The Elm rot took its toll

## Report from Ottawa

by rud whiting

The closing days of this session of Parliament were preceded by an uproar which could hardly be called dignified.

In the debate on the proposed rule changes, charges were made by the Opposition that the Government, in its effort to limit debate on legislation which comes before the House of Commons, was endangering free speech, that the quality of legislation would deteriorate and that these proposed rule changes would be a step towards dictatorship.

Had I, for one moment, felt that our liberties as Canadians were in any way in jeopardy, I would never have supported this legislation. But after having sat through a ten-month session of Parliament and after seeing and hearing how the business of Government is conducted, I know, and every Member of Parliament knows, there is need for reform and rule changes if Parliament is to get through its increasing volume of business.

The federal budget at the beginning of this century was a little more than \$46 million whereas today in Parliament we are dealing with 13 billion dollars. We know we are living in a new era and in a Canada facing new and pressing problems.

The honorable Mr. Diefenbaker realized this when he was our Prime Minister and at that time had this to say:

"I see no reason why debate should not be reduced so far as the number of days is concerned. Immediately, I suggest that the opposition will say that they are being throttled."

Mr. Stanley Knowles of the N.D.P. took an active lead in this debate and said at a meeting outside the House a few years ago:

"Parliamentarians start with a notion that freedom of speech somehow means freedom to talk forever. Cutting off debate is felt to be denial of a basic, democratic right. But the fact is that we do this in many ways in

Parliament. The 40-minute limit or the 30-minute limit or the 20-minute rule that we have are denials of unlimited free speech."

The debate went on for 12 days before the Government applied closure.

I have had relatively few calls or letters from my constituents on this subject and in discussion with other Members of Parliament I find that they too have received very little mail on this particular subject. If Canadians seriously thought that their liberties and freedom of speech were endangered by these rule changes, then I am very sure that Members of Parliament would have been deluged with letters and phone calls. This simply has not been the case.

My family and I will be leaving for a short vacation and we expect to be home again on the 10th of August.

J. R. Currie, O.D.

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# O.S.D. contingent flies to Yugoslavia

Six young athletes from O.S.D. Milton are flying to Yugoslavia today (Wednesday) to participate in the World Olympics for the Deaf. The Olympics start in 10 days' time. The six from the Milton school went to Belleville O.S.D. Friday of last week for final training before the Wednesday flight. Teacher Dennis Snider went along to coach the men's

volleyball team, and two Milton boys Brian Dymond and Wai Ming Seto are players on that team. Greg Crockford, Billy Whyte, Mike Smith and Linda Russell are competing in track and field events.

Many local residents will be following their trip with interest. The Halton and Peel Association for the Hearing Handicapped held two fund-raising events to

raise money to help send the Canadian contingent. Their 400-youth walkathon brought in \$5,500 and a swimathon at O.S.D. raised a further \$2,500.

Uterine cancer, a major cause of death among women, could be almost 100 per cent curable if discovered in time, says the Canadian Cancer Society. A simple, painless examination, the Pap test, makes it possible for the doctor to detect cancer of the uterus many months before any symptoms appear.

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