

# North Halton reassessment could start in fall

Do you know the market value of your home or farm? Residents of North Halton may know more accurately following the visits of teams of assessors into Acton, Milton, Georgetown, Esquering and Nassagaweya in late fall or the early part of next year.

Halton-Peel assessment commissioner R. H. Beach told this newspaper at a press conference in Brampton Monday that teams of 21 men would move into the various North Halton municipalities following the reassessment program in Brampton. He expected this would take up most of this year, but it was quite possible work would start in North Halton in the late fall.

All assessment in the province of Ontario will be based on market values starting in 1975.

Prime objective of the reassessment program is to bring equity to the taxation system, said Carl Madgett, assessment director for this area covering Halton, Peel, York, Ontario, Simcoe and Muskoka districts. There are about 417,000 properties in the area with 110 municipalities.

Mr. Madgett told the Brampton news conference that recent programs of assessing property at market value showed everyone is in favor of equity in assessment and taxation provided they don't have to pay more for it.

Mr. Madgett said he received a complaint from one homeowner whose assessment rose from around \$4,000 to nearly \$53,000 under market value assessment. His taxes rose from \$400 to \$1,000.

"That home owner was hopping mad. What he didn't appreciate was that, because of inadequacies in the old assessment system, he had been getting preferred treatment. Other home owners with similar properties worth as much had been paying taxes of close to

\$1,000 all along. "Obviously the other home owners should have been hopping mad on discovering that property owner hadn't been paying his fair share of local taxes in the past," Mr. Madgett declared.

"The program is essential if there is to be any equity in property assessment and local taxation," Madgett continued. "This means some people will pay less in taxes and others more. Unfortunately, we hear from those property owners whose assessment at market value indicates higher taxes. They prefer the old inequitable system which unintentionally concealed the special treatment they were getting."

A homeowner will know whether his assessment is realistic or not as he likely has a good idea of what his property is worth on the open market the assessment director said.

Who would set the market value of property? It would be based on the market value set by sales and resales of similar housing in a community. Updating would take place annually.

Asked if there was any relief for people forced out of homes by escalated assessment values, Mr. Madgett said this was not the responsibility of his department. They existed merely to equalize the assessment. However, he pointed out that people over 65 years of age could obtain relief from the Act with a lien against the estate.

Mayor Hazel McCallum of Streetsville contended there were no evictions necessary in Streetsville and pointed out there was often confusion between taxation and assessment. If a municipality does not attempt to raise more money the majority of home owners would pay approximately the same under the new system. The mill rate should drop according to the assessment.

The assessment office will have to juggle two sets of assessments until an entire county is assessed and then switch over to the newer system.

Ruth Bousfield, 44, of R. R. 4, Milton was treated in Milton District Hospital for injuries received in the collision.

Driver of the truck owned by Rothsay Concentrates of Elmira, Gordon Brubacher, 21, also of Elmira was uninjured but \$1,500 damage was done to his truck. Damage to the Bousfield vehicle was listed at \$2,500.

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## Speaker tells Rotary

### Still hiding crippled child

Only one county in Ontario — York — is completely reassessed and there were only two per cent in appeals.

Mrs. McCallum, who insisted she represented a Streetsville newspaper at the meeting, illustrated her point with an example of property she owned in Mississauga which had been reassessed. Value soared on the five acres and a house from \$1,500 to \$22,000 but her taxes were \$350 a year.

Appeals to the Assessment Review Court has been revised in order to provide more time — 29 days in all, instead of 14 — for the home owner to decide whether he wants to appeal his assessment.

Reassessment in Halton is expected to take two years.

The days of the hidden crippled child are not over, John Butler of the Ontario Society of Crippled Children told members of the Rotary Club last week.

He recounted visiting one home with the district nurse in a northern area. The mother denied there was a crippled child in the home but after agreeing to their entry a baby with a dislocated hip was found under the kitchen sink, hidden from view. The Society was able to help.

One of the primary objectives of the Ontario Society of the provision of care and treatment for needy crippled children. Mr. Butler pointed out too that costs in the work, supported by the Easter Seal campaign, were increasing. An artificial arm costs \$1,850 and the drugs alone

for a child with cystic fibrosis are \$225 monthly plus another \$239 for a mistogen tent for the child to sleep in. "This is where the Easter Seal dollars help", he told Rotarians.

He reported there are currently 22 thalidomide children living in Canada and the majority are in grade one, very intelligent and getting along well. He noted the development of artificial limbs for these children and the need to have them custom made.

The 1970 objective for the Easter Seal Campaign in Milton will be \$2,050. Mr. Butler told the Rotarians who sponsor the local drive. He noted this was an increase of six per cent which was in direct proportion to the need for additional funds to meet the budget.

## Interim billing will show on '70 tax bills

Milton's tax bills this year will indicate the interim billing and whether or not it is paid, Council agreed after reports that present equipment could not be used to show this. The information on the interim payment will have to be added manually.

The town investigated the possibility of using the hydro equipment in preparing the tax bills but found if this was done the town equipment would not receipt the bill.

The clerk suggested the solution this year would seem to be typing information regarding the interim billing on each account to avoid confusion. It was agreed this was desirable since regional government was imminent and the possibility

Police seized marijuana, hashish, LSD and a new drug known as "blue music" when they raided a party in a Georgetown house last week. They laid charges against 38 persons, three of them adults and the rest aged 15 to 21.

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