

County treasurer 33 years Margaret Maxted retiring

By Roy Downs

For a woman who spends as much as \$6,500,000 of the taxpayers' money in a year, Margaret Maxted is a rather quiet, unassuming woman. She doesn't really look like the type of hard-headed businesswoman it takes to operate a fast-growing county's financial department. But she is.



MISS MARGARET MAXTED, treasurer of Halton County for the past 33 years, is retiring Dec. 31 but doesn't plan to quit work entirely at the end of the year. She will be back at her office on a part time basis for a few months, helping the county staff prepare the 1971 budget for the county.—(Staff Photo)

gem of information: the county's debenture debt was \$700,000 in 1937 while today it is \$6,500,000, but for a few months in the early 1950's the county stood absolutely free of debenture debt. Then the big developments came along and the debt has risen each year.

Serves health unit

Since 1947 Miss Maxted has also served as secretary-treasurer for Halton County Health Unit. She was also deputy clerk of the county for several of those earlier years, until the job was split into a separate clerk and treasurer.

While she talks little of her personal life, Miss Maxted has also been active in Grace Anglican Church. She was organist during in the 1930's—a job she was not particularly enthusiastic about—and has assisted organists at the church over the years. She also taught Sunday School there for many years although lately she has found herself too busy to carry on that work. She is also an avid gardener and enjoys sewing.

Miss Maxted lives on Thomas St. in Milton with her 101-year-old father John Maxted. He is a retired builder and a former councillor and mayor of the town.

Will miss it

One of only three or four women who have held the post of treasurer in the province, Miss Maxted looks forward to her retirement with mixed feelings. "I'm sure I will miss the work," she said.

Fortunately it will be a gradual switch from permanent work to retirement, as she will likely be working half-days from now until March at least. After that, she can start relaxing and spending more time thinking about her gardening and her church work, and less and less about payrolls, debentures and tax payments. Her excellent work has not gone unnoticed, either. Recently Halton County Council presented a gold watch, the Halton Clerks and Treasurers Association made a presentation, and the Halco Social Club also honored her with a gift. In 1967 she received a Centennial Medal for outstanding service.

Stays for budget

Although her retirement is "official" on Thursday of this week, she doesn't plan to suddenly end her daily trips to the treasurer's office in the Halton County Administration Building in Milton. The county has engaged her on a part time basis in the new year to help her successors prepare the 1971 county budget.

After a third of a century as the county's main financial advisor and custodian of the county's funds, Miss Maxted won't be replaced with another woman, or even a man. Her responsibilities will be assumed by deputy clerk Jim McQueen, whose new title will be deputy clerk, treasurer. And the county has purchased a new computer which will handle all the accounting and payroll work for county departments and Halton County Health Unit.

No special training

Asked what she liked most about her work, Miss Maxted couldn't put her finger on one particular part of it. "I have enjoyed everything really," she replied. She mentioned the county's auditors have been a great help. Her only regret was that she never had any courses or special training for her work. She took on the job when the work was light and sort of grew with the job, year by year over the past 33 years.

It was one job Miss Maxted never expected to get. She had been born in Milton and educated in the town, then went to Toronto for a one year general business course. She worked there for a few months at Moore Type Foundry as a stenographer until one day in 1922 W. I. Dick, who was Halton Crown Attorney and a neighbor, asked if she would like to come back to Milton and work for him. She did part time work for both him and David Hutcheon, the county treasurer.

Asked to apply

Working part time for Mr. Hutcheon's successor Harry Pettit, Miss Maxted sort of fell heir to the job when Mr. Pettit became ill. He was off sick for six months, then he died and Mr. Dick told the young woman she should apply for the job. "I thought there would be no use, they would never give it to me," she said, but she won the job in June, 1937 over other applicants and has held it ever since.

In the 1930's the mill rate was four mills (it's now six) worth about \$127,655 (today's taxes are

close to \$2,000,000). In 1937 taxes were levied on \$31,913,780 worth of assessment in Halton while today's rates are levied on \$440,684,294 worth.

Miss Maxted recalls that during the 1930's equalized

assessment was a really contentious issue. It remained the same for about 12 years and it finally took a court case to make any changes in the amount of assessment on which the county spending was based. Another

Nothing new

Swanborough also likes region for Halton only

Reeve-elect Jim Swanborough of Burlington wasn't telling Milton Council anything new when he wrote them last week to suggest Halton County is ready for a regional government containing only Halton, including Burlington.

That's exactly what Milton Council has been saying all along, so the new reeve didn't have any trouble gathering Milton's support for his ideas. At the suggestion of Mayor Brian Best the clerk will write Mr. Swanborough and tell him the town supports him, at the same time enclosing a copy of Milton's brief to Minister of Municipal Affairs Darcy McKeough which recommended the same thing.

Strong unit here

Swanborough, in a letter to McKeough, admitted he had earlier supported the "very unpopular" alignment of Burlington with Wentworth and Hamilton when the only other choice was Peel and Halton in a merger.

However "I am thoroughly convinced the people of Burlington do not want to be a part of government with either the Peel-Mississauga area or the Hamilton-Wentworth area; I am also convinced that Halton County is a viable unit and we can put our house in good shape and

be a strong unit as one of your new regions," he wrote the minister.

—Don't mix gas with alcohol—if you're driving over the holidays make that "One for the road" tea or coffee.

Greetings and Good Wishes

Happy New Year! And thanks so much for being such true and loyal friends!

TED FIGG PLUMBING
393 GEORGE ST. MILTON



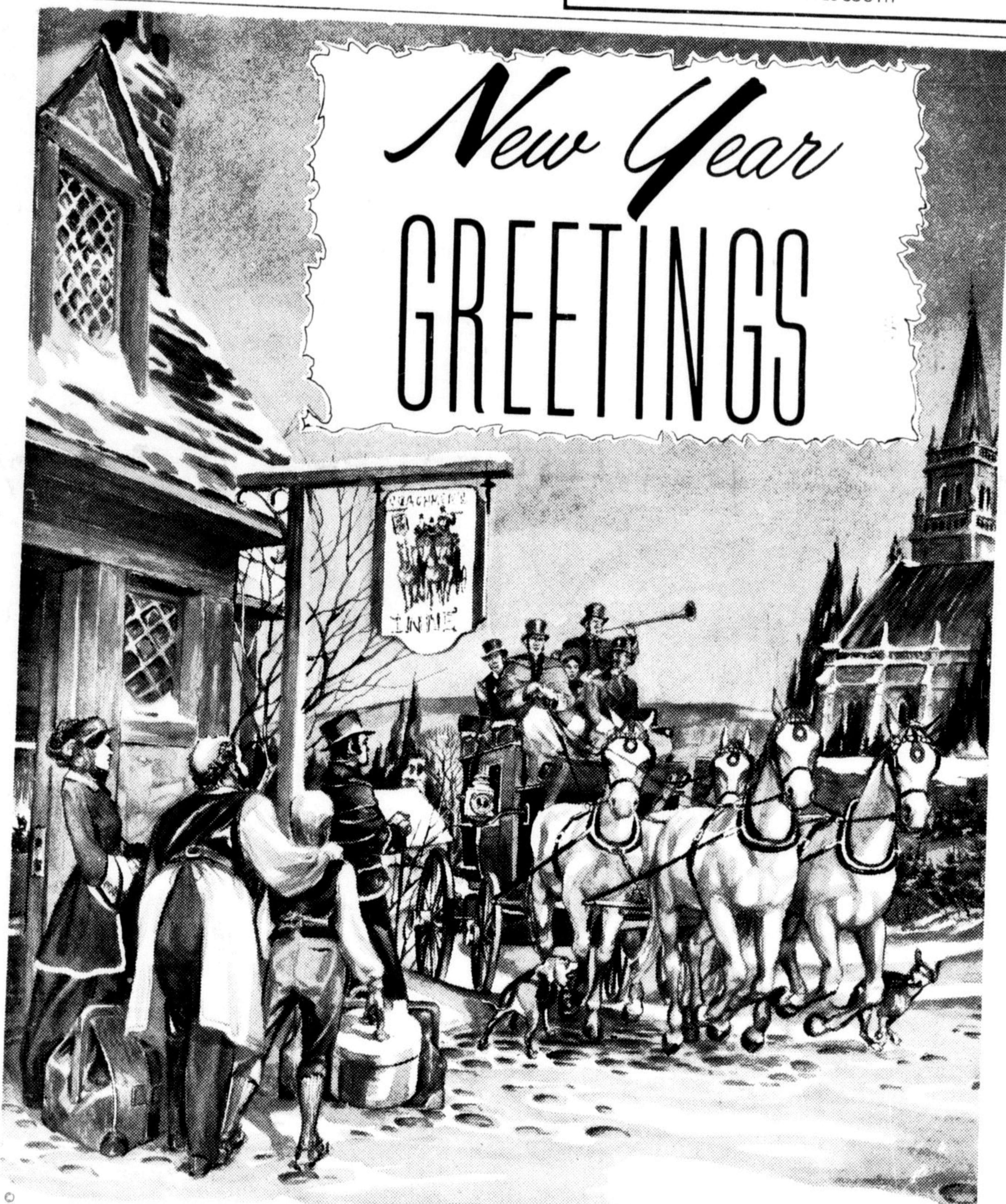
MIKE BOUGHTON was just one of the many youngsters who met St. Nick at the Dutch Canadian Christmas party on Sunday. Youngsters were treated to goodies and a gift after watching a Christmas movie and taking part in a sing-song.—(Staff Photo)

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New Year GREETINGS

Between this scene of a coach and four arriving at a country inn and the marvels of the space age, there are many contrasts. As we greet our friends at the New Year, we would wish for today's world the best of both times—wholehearted acceptance of new challenges, with continued appreciation for the "old-fashioned" ways of warm cordiality. We greatly value the generous share of such cordiality we enjoy in our pleasant association with our customers, and it is a constant support to us in our endeavors. Happy New Year!

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DECEMBER 1970
MILTON CHRISTMAS SHOPPING HOURS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		2	3	4	5
	6 P.M.	6 P.M.	9 P.M.	9 P.M.	6
		9	10	11	12
	6 P.M.	6 P.M.	9 P.M.	9 P.M.	6 P.M.
		16	17	18	19
	9 P.M.	9 P.M.	9 P.M.	9 P.M.	6 P.M.
	2	23	24	25	26
	9 P.M.	9 P.M.	6 P.M.	CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY	CLOSED BOXING DAY
28	29	30	31	1 JANUARY	2 JANUARY
6 P.M.	6 P.M.	6 P.M.	6 P.M.	CLOSED NEW YEARS DAY	6 P.M.