# Despite double charge, no rebate will be paid

Council has voted not to

nesday's pay the rebates now and then hike the sewer surcharge by 20 per cent in payers for forgiveness in lease to be included in the

next water-sewer bill. lengthy about the principle of double billing Council decision boiled down to the result of the

recovery costs political inexpedience forced the region's sewer rate committee to balk at issuing sewer surresidential

meeting held last Mon-

committee

the form of a press re- recommended to council that the rebate program

be rejected since it would result in a 20 per cent rise in utility bills in July.

The price of the rebate been \$621,000 but would have approached \$700,000 when anticipated increases in administrative costs were included to accommodate the heavy workload of the rebate

The \$700,000 loss from the budget would have summer rates, according to Regional

However, the committee also agreed that

water consumption is at its highest.

Regional council instructed staff to review the implementation of the billing arrangement of the new sewer surcharge system, which went into effect on Jan. 1, in light of hundreds of were being

system sewer usage was residents,

through annual municipal taxes. However, the residents claim there is a duplicacharged under the new sewer surcharge rate as

far back as October. "There are two kinds of nightmares—the kind you dream of and the kind you dream up," said Burlington councillor David LaCombe. "Sewer surcharges are the kind you dream up."

LaCombe, who said the issuing of rebates is described

costs on to the consumer

to raise the shortfall

Regional Council has

clearly told taxpayers

that there will be no

sewer charges in the 1980

mill rate, but that all

charges will be in the

A further point con-

sidered was the number

of complaints received.

The highest percentage

(about 5 per cent) of con-

sumers in Oakville con-

tacted the Region or its

About 1-1fb2 per cent of

Burlington consumers

initiate a rebate system

221 Lakeshore Rd. E

274-6025

billing agencies.

Ed Wood's motion, reject the rebate program, as being "short-

"I believe they have a concern that if they (the residents) took it to the courts they would win," said LaCombe. "Prin ciple is washed out by that is a tragic thing." Milton councillor Gus

LaCombe. "How we got in this position is immaterial.' he said. "I'm opposed to the motion. We should

rebate. At this point of

Sewer

alternatives - to issue re-

sumer would later have

processing costs) or to

reconfirm the present

The recommendation

not to issue rebates was

in the

knowledge that it would

result in less cost to the

consumers in the Region,

and this was the deter-

However, the Sewer

Rate Committee was

unanimous in its opinion

that the Region's public

information program on

enough, and believes that

billing method.

mining factor.

the Sewer Rate Com- consumers later this year

mittee was reluctant to caused some concern at

in the form of future rate Committee faced two

Another possibility was bates which the con-

through the tax levy, but to pay for (including

pass high borrowing the committee.

the summer. Goutouski agreed with

right," said Wood.

"It doesn't make sense. It's ludicrous."

think you make a mess better by adding to it,' added Oakville councillor Bonnie Brown.

can't see the justification of rebates," said Oakville councillor Carol Gooding. "It's just too costly. We may have to look at things differently and talk about start up costs. Maybe what we need to do is go back to the taxpayers and say here was the problem and here's how we dealt with it. I'm not the implemenation of the prepared to build in costs filed complaints. To system was not clear here just to get around a political issue."

residents) are looking at it as a matter of prin-

felt the issuing of rebates would only result in a "give and take" situation which could eventually cause further problems when rates escalate in

"You're taking it out of the left pocket and putting it back in their

"It's a mess and I don't

If enacted rebates would be issued to about 5 per cent of the population claims totalling less than \$15, according to Regional Treasurer Don Farmer.

Farmer added, the higher summer rates would only pertain to about three water bills or once the rebate costs have been recovered.

In refusing the rebate

## The official Region no-rebate story

Rate Committee Chairman Joan Allingham will be sending out a press release to all Halton ratepayers on the reason why there has been double billing in the new rates and why rebates will not be paid.

The release is to be included in all public utilities bills throughout the Region in an effort to clear up many questions which are being called Regional head-

Reprinted is a copy of that release, which in Mrs. Allingham's words, probably best describe

By Frank Kelly

College's Fashion and

program have added an

extra challenge to their

already busy schedule.

designing a three-piece

spring ensemble for Lilly

Canada's Governor-Gen-

ordinator of the Oakville

initiated the promotional

project to increase public

Sheridan College and its

students have to offer.

conventional ensemble.

which is being designed

by students in the three,

classes, will be a unique

talking point for "the

first lady of the land" in

her travels as Canada's

good-will ambassador.

prove to be a great con-

versation piece in her

travels abroad when she

can tell people it was

made by Sheridan stud-

"It will show the high

calibre of the fashion

course and the fact that

people can expect the

Gwyer wrote Mrs.

Schreyer early in the

year telling her about the

course and asking if the

ents," said Gwyer.

best from Sheridan.

"The ensemble should

Schreyer, wife

Design

campus

second-year

Students of Sheridan

Techniques

currently

program,

move to equalized, "user pay" billing systems. In October of 1979.

Regional Council adopted a sanitary sewer surcharge system as the basis for financing sanitary sewer service on a Regional basis in Halton commencing with the

The system was introduced on the basis of a surcharge on all utility bills issued in 1980, to cover all costs of operating the system in 1980. Thus the six bi-monthly or twelve monthly bills provide the revenue needed for a twelve-month period (the cost of operating the since the Region opted to system in 1980) regard-

Governor-General's wife

wearing Sheridan design

students may design an

promptly replied saying

Two weeks ago Gwyer

and Joy Morgan, another

for Mrs. Schreyer's

residence, at Ottawa's

Rideau Hall, to take her

measurements. Over tea,

in Mrs. Schreyer about

Gwyer was happy to fill

Sheridan life and the

fashion course, which she

"We were scheduled

and ended by

personally feels is the

for a 30 minute appoint-

staying for two hours,

graciously modern

"She's an absolutely

about her. She was very

interested in the college

During the visit, the

color and style were

discussed. Gwyer claims

the "attractive lady can

"The color had to be

wear most any design"

ensemble's prospective her

"best in Canada."

said Gwyer.

charming

wool skirt.

her red hair.

she'd be "delighted."

Schreyer

outfit for her.

less of the exact meterreading dates on these

Unfortunately, public information which the Region provided to its consumers did clearly explain the billing method, and complaints were lodged by some consumers. In response to this concern, the Sewer Rate Committee was asked to re-examine the billing method to see if a financing different method could be found, and several options were

The option of rebating sewer surcharges based 1979 water consumption only to those consumers who

carefully selected. We

decided on a young,

silvery green, almost a

dried sage or eucalyp-

Another consideration

in the ensemble's design

is Mrs. Schrever's hectic

travelling life, which

often has her climbing in

crease resitant skirt will

have added fullness for

easy movement and the

top fashion jacket should

Schreyer becomes too

though she admits they

may be a little nervous in

the final construction.

be easy to slip off if Mrs.

warm, according

said Gwyer.

tus," she said.

complained was rejected immediately. The Sewer

Committee concluded that any rebate system must treat all consumers

The Committee then considered a rebate to all residential consumers, based on bills for 1979 water consumption. Discussions with the

Region's billing agencies indicated that any rebates would have to be processed manually. They could not be pro-

grammed into future utility bills as a credit, nor could the calculations for the 1979 portions of the affected bills be done using the present computer programs. The estimated cost of the reprocessing the rebates and issuing the cheques of \$50,000, for a total of \$671,000. Most individual rebates would range between \$3.00 and \$15.00.

Because the 1980 sewage budget was based on receiving all the costs of operating the system in the 1980 year, this would have meant that the \$671,000 would have had to be recovered during

recover amount, an increase of approximately 20 per cent over the present rates would have to be implemented July 1st, and stay in effect for the balance of 1980. Not only would con-

"I feel what we'll come up with is a first class sumers face a rate inensemble-not that we crease, but it would occur don't think she doesn't at the time of year when currently dress well," water consumption is heaviest, and water bills "It will be in very good the highest.

Consideration was also befitting her office. given to the rebates We're not seeking to system described, but without increasing the make it avante garde." Gwyer is confident in rates in July.

This would necessitate carrying deficits forward. Because of the highest rates prevailing,

#### criticsm of its advertiswhich would result in a 20 ing compaign is justified. per cent increase to all Now! Vacuum your home the easiest way possible!

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564 Kerr St.

844-4736

also decided that brochures be included with

residents and the reason why the committee has refused rebates.

Gordon said the rebate said.

program the committee could take the form of a reduced monthly usage requirement or charge a portion of the sewer surcharge on the mill rate However, he offered a third option.

"Take our lumps. Let's face it we blew it. That's the third choice," he

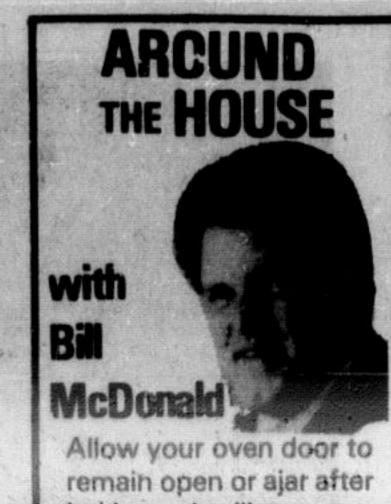


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baking, broiling, etc. This lets all the rustmoisture to

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They decided on a knit jacket, silk blouse and Gwyer attempted to furnish her students with a "word picture" of Mrs. Schreyer, saying that color consideration was important to complement

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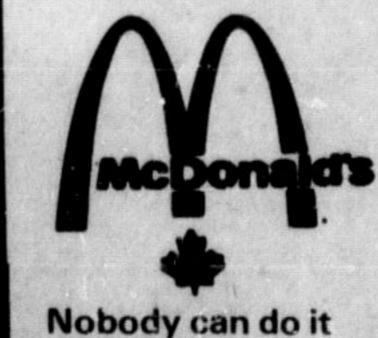
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