



Burning the Saturday oil. Councillors held a rare Saturday meeting to go over the 1981 town budget. During the meeting, they decided to chop \$712,000 from the \$2.3 million old court house and jail renovation.

Court house budget cut

Councillors held a rare Saturday meeting to try to pare the 1981 Milton budget down by \$1.5 million. Starting at 9 a.m., the work went on until about 1 p.m. when councillors were able to slice about \$1.2 million. The biggest cut of all was \$712,000 from the \$2,345,000 allocated this

year for the restoration of the old court house and jail into a municipal and tourist complex. Noting it would be a tough decision, Finance Director Don Loughheed said there are still hopes some of the cost will be picked up in grants, but nothing official has yet been received by the town.

He said there will be "no significant" grant from Historic Canada and there is not much hope in getting funding from Heritage Ontario. In short, if the councillors wanted to cut back on the budget, Mr. Loughheed said, they would have to look at the court house restoration as all other areas are

already cut back "to the bone." Councillor Brian Penman said he felt the town was committed to the project and it must be continued, even if some of the money would have to be cut. If the entire grant was cut, it would have meant a miniscule tax increase in the 1981 Milton budget.

Councillor Jim Watson said he thought the project "is just too rich for us." Mr. Watson said the project could be done more cheaply if it was contracted out on a tender basis. He said he had also been upset to hear a rumor the oak benches from the court rooms would be sold off at \$1 each.

More PD days are sought by teachers

By Eric Elstone
Giving Halton's elementary teachers more professional development days—the last days of the school year—is "a bid to appease" them.

That's the view of Oakville trustee and ex-Halton Board of Education chairman Bill Herd who criticised senior board staff for being generous with public funds.

A costly nuisance will be added to the woes of Halton taxpayers, indicated Herd, if the 1,275 public school teachers get the extra days.

Senior staff recommended during Thursday's board meeting at Burlington that elementary school teachers get nine professional development days starting this year. High school teachers get nine professional development days.

Elementary school teachers have for the last three years had seven professional activity days. Halton Elementary Teachers' Association (HETA), which represents all public school teachers in the region, failed last year to get the two days restored to them.

The provincial Education Relations Commission denied HETA's request for the extra time.

Herd wondered if the senior staff's recommendation was "a bid to appease" the elementary teachers.

HETA President Gerry Dunn indicated afterwards this is an exceptional year for elementary teachers because of the number of new programs which have to be worked into the schools.

"It wouldn't bother us to see them (Halton board staff) change the days next year," said Dunn.

"That's fine. Whatever they want," continued Dunn when asked if he meant going back to

seven days. Board staff, however, recommends a blanket nine days for elementary teachers. This year the two new days are June 29, a Monday and June 30.

Trustees vote on the question on April 23.

"It may be the considered opinion of the administrators and academics (to add the two days) but what about the considered opinion of the people who are footing the bill?" asked Herd.

Board superintendent of instruction Ray Stoness defended the addition. "It is the considered opinion of teacher representatives, principals, area superintendents and committee we need those

days in order to successfully and effectively implement the guidelines, curriculum and other policies of this board."

"The implementation of core curriculum is "always the reason, it seems, for professional development days", said Herd.

The timing of the additional two days this year, according to Stoness, is a matter of convenience to parents.

"I'm slightly confused," admitted Herd, "whether it is a matter of convenience to parents because it is the first of the week or whether it is a matter of convenience to teachers?"

There is a role for parents in professional activity days, according to staff documents.



From one to 100. Christopher Young, 1, sits on the knee of his great grandmother Mary Young at a party Thursday where fellow Halton Centennial Manors helped celebrate her 100th birthday. Christopher's father Robert Young is at his grandmother's side.

Mary 100 years Young

A rare occasion was cause for celebration at Halton Centennial Manor Thursday afternoon as 11-year resident Mary Young reached the 100 year mark.

For the centennarian it was the second party held in as many days and at its onset she was heard to say, "By the time all this is over I'm going to feel like 100."

The party was hosted by members of the Manor auxiliary and despite her modest attitude toward her long life, Mrs. Young appeared to enjoy the proceedings of the afternoon party in her honor.

Surrounded by family at the head table in the Manor auditorium she took time to greet those individuals who came to congratulate her.

She introduced her relatives in attendance as her son James, 67 (the youngest in the family), his wife Rosaline, 81-year-old daughter Alma Black, Grandson Robert Young, his wife Joyce and their one-year-old son Christopher. Grand daughter-in-law Joan Drake was also in attendance.

Joyce and Robert Young had 75 guests Sunday at their home as they hosted a party for their grandmother in Burlington.

The remark which was refuted, brought a sudden retort from Councillor Rick Day: "We are going to keep those fixtures... if we lose those we are a bunch of idiots," he said.

Mr. Day went further, saying that as far as he is concerned the council is moving out of the present building on Main St. and is going to be meeting in the old court house once the work is completed.

"We're moving out of this place," he said in reference to the current town hall.

In other decisions made on Saturday, councillors cut the position of plan examiner from the Building Department budget but will add a secretary at \$12,752 per year.

The Public Works Department will get another junior staff member for the remainder of 1981 at a salary of about \$9,000.

Council was to go back into budget session on personnel and salary Monday after the General Committee meeting.

Mr. Loughheed said he expects the draft budget should be ready for council to look at one more time by the end of next week.

He said if there are no major changes, he could have the bylaw ready for passage at that time.

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