

**OUR READERS WRITE:**

**No "free ride" in Esqueusing**

Dear Sir:  
I take objection to Darcy McKeough's statement at the Halton Regional Council meeting whereby he stated that "Esqueusing residents have enjoyed a free ride for years... have used recreation services, school, fire and police facilities that are largely paid for by the urban dwellers... the guy in urban Oakville has subsidized the guy in Esqueusing and the guy in Esqueusing has had pretty damn good service."

Prior to his lashing out at Councillor Howitt he should have investigated our position. Some politicians seem to take great delight in making portions of the public believe that they are carrying the load for others, thereby creating unnecessary dissension. Mr. McKeough is a man with a responsible position, sounding off in a very irresponsible way. He gives the impression that the rural residents are free loaders, paying little and taking all. Perhaps that is indicative of the rural area of Chatham where he resides, but the "free ride" just does not exist here.

Each and every rural dweller (we are no longer "Esqueusing" residents) of Halton Hills must, above all, be self-sufficient. We are totally responsible for the disposition of our garbage, arranging for and maintaining our water supply and sewage disposal and renting streetlights. We do not have hydrants, paved roads, sidewalks or storm sewers.

Regarding fire protection. Capable and able as our local fire departments are, when one lives so far from the fire hall and there are no hydrants available, you can consider your house and its contents a write off. We "freeloaders" also have to pay more for fire insurance because we are several miles from the nearest fire hall and the lack of hydrants.

With regards to police protection, we are pretty well on our own and have to protect ourselves. Until August 1975, we called on the Ontario Provincial Police based at Milton which is about 15 miles from our home. There have been numerous crimes committed in our area. Some of these crimes weren't reported to the police because of the distances involved and there were just too few police available for us to bother.

We are personally in a good position to compare taxes versus facilities and services in the urban and rural areas. We moved from an urban area several years ago. The tax on that house was \$150 less than what we paid on moving into this house. Upon purchasing this land, the taxes were immediately raised 400 percent and

that was before any improvements e.g. the building of our home. We now pay \$600 yearly and when you include the burden put on the rural resident to pay and maintain for all of those things that McKeough's urban resident takes for granted, it is not the "free ride" that he so boldly claims.

Not relating to taxes, but to make Mr. McKeough mindful that we pay our way, I would like to point out further expenses that we have. Rural hydro is more expensive, keeping in mind also that hydro is used every time we get a glass of water, flush a toilet or that the sump pump is in operation. An electric pump also is responsible for the drainage of water from our laundry room sinks.

Bell Telephone rates are exorbitant. For a private line, the cost of a single telephone is \$17 a month and because there is no bus service, we are on our own for transportation. Most of us have to own and maintain two vehicles. We did not move to the rural area to save costs. We knew it would be an expensive undertaking, one that would involve more of ourselves than urban living.

Because of this government, there are some of us who cannot dispose of part of our land in order to reduce taxes because the land is "frozen". The Conservation Authority is a dictatorship who says you cannot sell your land, yet they do not offer to buy it from you. The Niagara Escarpment Commission works along the same principle. Never before have we been so governed and so manipulated.

On the plus side, we have a good school to send our children. But to this school the children board a bus which must seat 3 and 4 per seat because the bus routes have been doubled up "to save money" at the expense of the children's safety.

We so called "Esqueusing" residents are at the receiving end of one thing only and that is the provincial government's powerful control over us. They can tax our small acreages to the point where we bleed, yet they toss "authorities" and "commissions" at us to prevent us from getting rid of part of our land to reduce the tax load.

A large number of Halton Region's taxpayers live in the Oakville area. A large number of eligible voters also live there. It is reasonable to presume that Mr. McKeough is a politician first and a finance minister second. I wish he would tell it like it really is. We haven't been given a ride, we are being taken for one!

(Mrs.) S. Moore,  
R. R. 1, Limehouse.

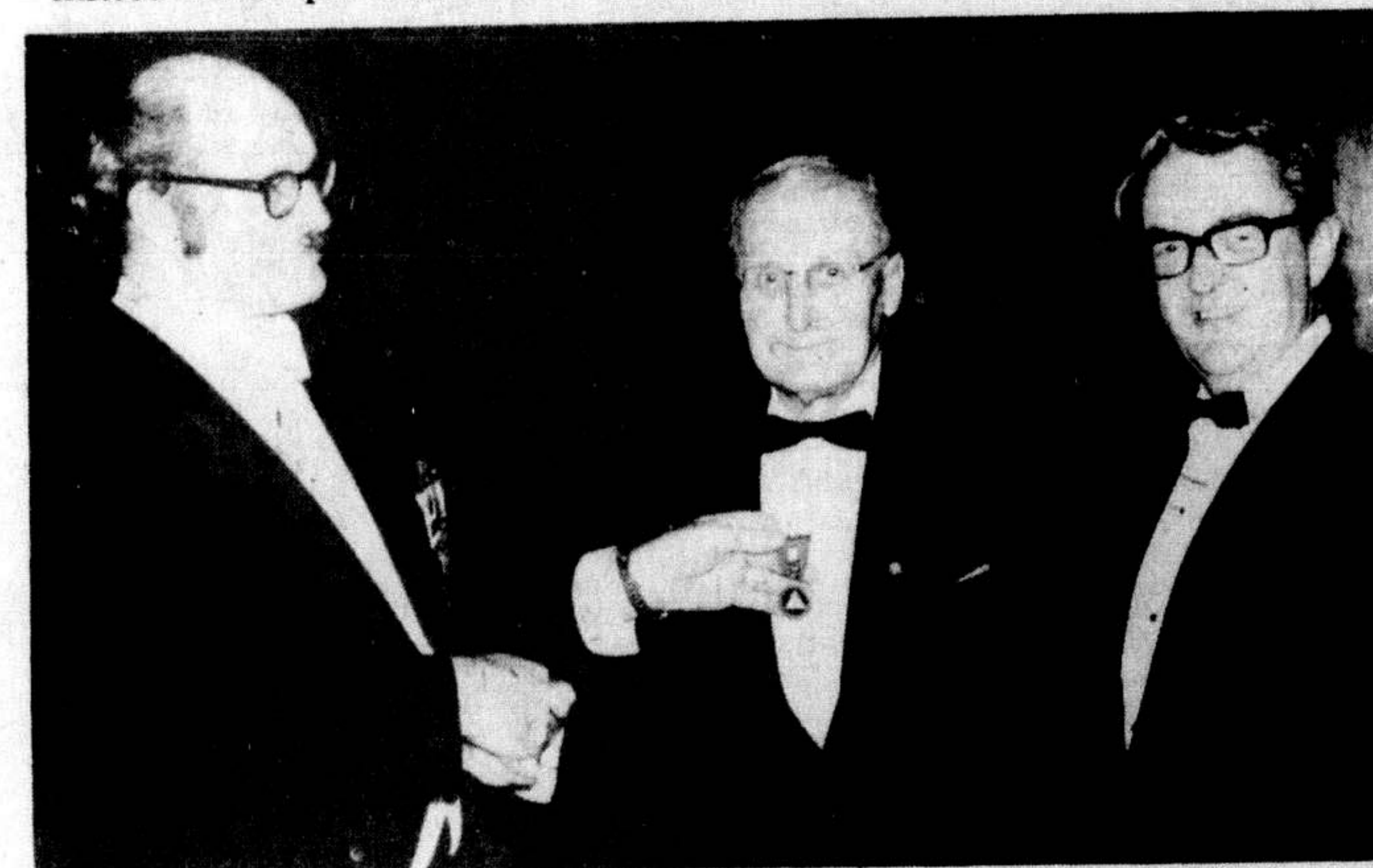
executive lounge for the elite, the Chairperson will have a new office, there will be provision for a board-room, and an innovation of which I personally disapprove strongly, a kind of bearpit where secretaries, typists, etc. will toil away under the supervision of their masters, a sort of new open concept. In these times of austerity when we are asked to tighten our belts, I think the executive lounge could be dispensed with and the space put to better use. The board-room could be dealt with similarly. Any large groups could meet in the auditorium

of the nearby school. In my opinion our children come first, not administrator and executive comforts.  
What amazes me is we already have one administrator to every six teachers in Halton. The old adage of too many Chiefs and not enough Indians applies well here.  
I think our elected representatives should start 'culling' the administration by making the first goal one administrator to 10 teachers, with further reductions in the near future.

William A. Johnson  
R. R. 2, Rockwood



ST. CLAIR MASONIC LODGE recently donated a beautiful Caravelle pendulum clock and two electric clocks to Milton Central Library and Librarian Shelagh Conway accepted their gifts from Masons Bill Randell, Frank Thompson and Joe Willmott. Mr. Thompson chaired the committee which purchased the clocks for the library.



A 60 YEAR NUMERAL was presented Thursday to John MacMillan of 226 Queen St., Milton, for his record membership in St. Clair Chapter, Royal Arch Masons. J. Woodrow Fulkerson, Grand Superintendent of Hamilton District (left) and St. Clair's First Principal Edwin Joyce (right) made the presentation. Mr. MacMillan is the first member of the Chapter to receive a 60 year membership award. The Chapter, founded in Milton in 1876, will be celebrating its 100th anniversary next year.



M. A. DEGREE  
Douglas M. Swallow received his M.A. Degree at McMaster University on Nov. 14. Doug is in his second year toward a Ph. D. in History. His wife Janice (Eaton) is a psychologist at Mohawk.

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The Canadian Cancer Society works through the help of thousands of volunteers dedicated to the fight against cancer. Through the annual campaign, these volunteers provide the major source of funds for research in Canada; their year-round services help cancer patients and their educational programs urge the public to learn more about the disease. If you would like more information about cancer, or if you would like to join the volunteer group, contact your local unit of the Canadian Cancer Society.

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*It has been brought to our attention that some of our members may be having problems processing claims for weekly indemnity.*

*If anyone has outstanding claims or any such problems, please contact*

- PETE EDGE**
- CHARLIE MILLS**
- JACK ZANATTA**
- HUCK KELMAN**
- GLEN GILBERT**

**Education: All is not well**

It is obvious to me that all is not well in Halton's educational system. As a candidate in the last provincial election, I received input on education from educators, parents, students, and from taxpayers who help finance the system but have no one at school.

Concern regarding our educational system was so great that I decided to accept the responsibility of coordinating all those mentioned above into the newly formed Halton Education Action League. There are, and have been, other groups formed in Halton. The weaknesses of these groups have been that they support and present the views of only one segment of those mentioned, i.e. parents, elementary school teachers, secondary school teachers, or whatever.

The Renaissance Committee, that started off in great form, has seemed to bog down on sex education and the literary merits of certain books utilized within our schools.

The Halton Education Action League (HEAL) is concerned with all aspects of Halton's education system. We welcome input from all groups, and on all subjects. There are many individuals and groups who have concerns about education, but for one reason or another cannot, or are reluctant to voice their concern. We invite these people to contact HEAL. We will discuss your problem, take it to the appropriate place, school, school board, or Ministry of Education and get you straight answers.

Currently HEAL is concerned about the expenditure of your tax dollars on a new addition to the Halton education building in Burlington. We are concerned because to date there have been three different explanations as to where the money came from. Even the exact amount of money being spent is doubtful, and the reason for the expenditure also varies. At a ratepayers meeting in Nassagaweya we were told the money (\$800,000, \$900,000 or \$1,000,000) was

money left over from the old municipalities (Esqueusing, Nassagaweya, etc.)

At an all Candidates' Meeting this money was surplus from our educational budgets over the years, and at the picketing of this new extension, we were told the money came from provincial grants. The point is, we as taxpayers should know exactly where this money came from.

The next concern is Halton boasts the lowest cost per elementary school student. If this is so, and this money has been skimmed off our elementary school budget, your kids, my kids, have, or are, being short-changed. No wonder they have trouble reading, writing, adding and subtracting.

The need for this new addition, as previously pointed out, varies. I was told by a trustee the extension was necessary for storage of materials bought in bulk, T.V. video equipment, etc. I was told that staff housed in portables had to go from the portables to the main office to research, or to use washroom facilities. My arguments on these counts were that we have quite a number of empty or near empty municipal buildings that could be used for storage, and that I would sooner see adults inconvenienced by using portable units than I would children, particularly in inclement weather, however I now learn that the new addition will provide space for a trustee's

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See you Saturday—at the Santa Claus Parade in Milton.

**THE ASSESSMENT ACT  
NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS AND TENANTS**

Due to the interruption of regular postal services, the Ministry of Revenue has extended the date for return of the assessment rolls from December 16, 1975 to **January 21, 1976** in all municipalities and localities across the province.

Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of The Assessment Act, assessment notices will be delivered to all assessed persons on January 6, 1976, 14 full days prior to the return of the rolls.

This extension affects the time period during which owners and tenants may appeal their assessments. Therefore, the final date for commencing an appeal to the Assessment Review Court has also been extended from January 6, 1976 to **February 11, 1976**.

Should the postal disruption continue into the month of January, the date for the return of assessment rolls may be further extended. A notice of any further extension will be published at a later date.

**NOTE: TOWNSHIP OF WICKSTEED—**  
These alternate arrangements will not be in effect for the Township of Wicksteed in the District of Algoma. Assessment notices will be delivered to owners and tenants on the regular date, December 1, 1975 and the assessment roll will be returned on December 16, 1975. The final date on which owners and tenants may commence an appeal to the Assessment Review Court in the Township of Wicksteed is January 6, 1976.

Ministry of Revenue  
Arthur Meen  
Minister of Revenue  
T.M. Russell  
Deputy Minister

Ontario

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