

COMMENT

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A good first step

Municipal councillors have made a first meaningful step in the direction of strict cost control by opting to steer for a one per cent operating budget tax increase in 1993.

While that will probably end up being not far off the pace of Greater Toronto Area inflation, the real significance of the move is not that it is a stand pat initiative. Revenues are dwindling and costs are going up in Milton, so some agonizing choices will have to be made if councillors choose to stay their budget course.

Something on the order of \$650,000 will have to be pared from expenditures or recouped in new user fees. We suspect it will be a combination of both methods.

There are many warning signs that it is time for Milton to closely control costs. Building permit fees are expected to drop off by \$100,000 in 1993. New property tax revenue estimates, the product of development, have been lowered to \$50,000. The 1992 figure was \$100,000, and may not be attainable, Town treasurer Jim McQueen said.

Mr. McQueen has also warned that it will be difficult to maintain current financial contributions to reserve funds, interest-bearing accounts held to generate income and use for major purchases. As well, he stressed that it will be tough to maintain the roughly \$1 million in annual taxes Milton customarily devotes to large-scale capital projects, such as the leisure centre or major road reconstruction.

It was somewhat refreshing to hear elected officials generally embrace councillor John Challinor's push to lower the proposed two per cent tax increase to half that Monday night. It showed there was a readiness, at this stage anyway, to contemplate one of the most onerous financial exercises any Milton council has faced in recent years.

But it is still very, very early in the process. It remains to be seen how firm the resolve among elected officials is. As budget discussions unfold, the coming months will provide a far better indicator of that than any of the discussion Monday night did.

Echoes of history

Today is Remembrance Day, the time set aside for formal reflection on the sacrifices made by Canadians and so many others in the unprecedented conflicts that have shaken the globe in this century.

Some historians see the First and Second World Wars as a seamless web, a European civil war that became global in scope, erupting once, then twice after a failed armistice.

That position points to the cause and effect relationship that can be traced throughout history, and that extends to the present from the global conflicts that began in 1914 and finally ended in 1945.

The echoes of those wars can be felt in the collapse of the eastern bloc and Soviet Union after years of bitter Cold War, sparked, though not caused, by Allied disagreement over German war compensation to be exacted in the late 1940s.

The profound forces that continue to shape much of the world trickle down in a multitude of other ways from those times, and bear testament to the enormity of the strifes and struggles, the sacrifices offered up by so many who fought in those wars. It's worth remembering that their time affected our time so deeply. Perhaps it puts their efforts in better perspective.

LOOKING BACK



The roaring '20s complete with the Charleston and flappers returned to Milton for a few days in September 1963 as part of community-wide "old fashioned days". Eleanor Hilson, all decked out in flapper regalia, shows a somewhat bewildered cowboy (Bob McCualg) how to do the dance of the '20s.

PAGES OF THE PAST

One Year Ago

From the November 13, 1991 issue

□ Charlie Speck, a welder from Milton, was being hailed a hero after he torched and cut metal for almost three hours in order to free a man's leg from a piece of machinery. Twenty-one-year-old Mark Schrader, an employee of the United co-op was trapped for more than four hours in a grain conveyer at the farm supplier's Bronte Street outlet. Firefighters, ambulance attendants, police and medical personnel were on the scene. Desperately seeking a way to free Mr. Schrader, rescuers contacted Mr. Speck, owner of Charlie Speck Welding Ltd. on Bronte Street. Mr. Speck rushed over and began cutting and torching holes through the grain conveyor to reach the victim's foot. Mr. Schrader was taken to Milton District Hospital and flown by air ambulance to Sunnybrook Medical Centre in Toronto for emergency surgery.

□ Although some positions in the municipal elections were hotly contested, several incumbents coasted back into office unopposed. Mayor Gord Krantz was again acclaimed as was Ward 2 regional councillor Brad Clements. Also acclaimed were Halton Board of Education Trustee Bob Clarke, Separate School Trustees Mary Lou Laughlin and Joe Deoni and hydro commissioners Bill Rowney, Jack Robertson and Murray Inglis. There were also some new faces; first-time incumbents were Ron Furik, John Challinor, Gerry Brooks and Marion Howard.

20 Years Ago

From the November 15, 1972 issue.

□ More than 300 people had gathered near the cenotaph at Victoria Park on November 11 for a cool

drizzly Remembrance Day service following a parade through town. Rev. R.W. Foster addressed the group and recalled the Canadian soldiers who gave their lives in the war. Com. Joe Waters played reveille and Frank Shannon was parade marshal. Milton Girls Pipe Band entertained and took part in the parade.

□ Four Milton Minor hockey teams would be travelling to Millis Mass. (near Boston) U.S.A. for the weekend to participate in a hockey tournament there. The trip was being sponsored by parents and players and a certain amount of the bus fare was being picked up through sales of hockey programs at the Junior games.

□ With the exception of the Separate School representative from Milton there would be no acclamations in the upcoming municipal elections. Eleven candidates were vying for six seats on the council. There was a two-way race for mayor, a three-way race for reeve and a two-way race for deputy reeve. Three men were seeking the seat on the hydro commission and two men were seeking the seat on the Halton County Board of Education. The mayors race was to see incumbent Brian Best being challenged by Reeve Ron Harris.

50 Years Ago

From the November 12, 1942 issue

□ There had been a Poppy Day in Milton. About \$120 dollars was raised through the sale of poppies throughout the town. The Legion was thanking everyone for their assistance.

□ Christmas tree lights were being banned until December 25.

□ A bunch of peas in blossom had been picked at the farm of Hugh Reid. The bunch was on view in the window of the Acton Free Press.

PUD

BY STEVE NEASE

