

# Budget, like everything, 'on the up'

Mayor Ron Bellisle's comment Monday evening during the release of the 1981 budget, "It's unfortunate that these days everything seems to be on the up", seemed to sum up the new budget.

In dollars and cents, a residential property owner who is a public school supporter with a \$3,500 assessment, can expect to pay around \$58 in extra tax this year.

The same person with a \$4,500 assessment will pay around an extra \$73. And a public

school supporter with a \$6,000 assessment can expect to pay about \$97.

Councillor Lionel Dion told council that at first he objected to the size of the budget because it was not large enough.

Through the 1981 budget the town will raise \$2,597,293 this year.


## Mayor says

Councillor Dion was concerned on one hand that the burden of taxation would fall on the younger residents of the town, those "who have enough to contend with without a higher mill rate".

But he also felt that the amount of money budgeted for public works was not sufficient.

Following a discussion with town staff, from which he emerged with the assurance that the town staff feel that they can work within the budget, he decided to withdraw his objection.

The mill rate for residential and farm public school supporters is 190.91 mills; for residential and farm separate school supporters, 190.91 mills; and for residential and farm Roman Catholic Separate School supporters, 186.79 mills.



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### Live at the Centre

Patients at the Mental Health Centre were joined by members of the public outside at the Mental Health Centre on Saturday

evening to watch Project People perform. The 18 member group based in Kitchener

sang songs from country and western through Broadway to rock and roll.

## Difficult year for budget makers, says chairman

The budget for the town for the coming year was approved by the town council during Monday's meeting of council. Reeve Art Stewart, chairman of the town council's Administration and finance committee, made the following comments on the budget.

Responsible for the budget, in addition to Stewart, were Deputy Reeve St. Amant, Councillors Klug and McNee, Mayor Bellisle, the town's treasurer and deputy-treasurer.

"In my capacity as chairman of the finance committee, I would like to present to the members of council and the ratepayers of the municipality, our 1981 current budget.

"This has been an especially difficult year for the finance committee to produce a budget that is within reason and not affect the ratepayers too hard. The finance committee has had to curtail many planned projects for 1981 as the funds are simply not there to initiate them and instead have decided to clear up the many capital projects that were embarked upon

in late 1979 and 1980, namely the balance of the aerial fire truck, the police and fire buildings, the north-end study, phases VII and VIII of the west end sewers, the hotel-motel feasibility study and Memorial Park improvements.

"The finance committee has also included an \$80,000 contingency reserve in the budget to assist our working fund reserve which has not been increased in 20 years and is not logical in this day and ago.

"This should help our cash flow and should alleviate some of our interim borrowing at the bank, with interest rates not at an overwhelming 19½ per cent (prime).

"The finance committee is also reviewing our tax due dates in hope of advancing them to further suit our financial needs.

"With all the cleanup measures taken this year, council should be able to start 1982 with a clean slate and once again initiate more capital projects to provide more services to our ratepayers.

"Our total gross expenditures for the year 1981 are \$2,597,293 in comparison to

1980 expenditures of \$2,660,536, the difference being the Wolfe Street project which was included in the 1980 budget and was heavily subsidized by Neighbourhood Improvement Programs and Ministry of Transportation and Communications subsidies.

"The budget document submitted tonight provides for an increase in mill rate from 174.71 to 190.91 for Residential Public School Supporters. This reflects an increase of 16.20 mills or 9.27 per cent. On an average assessment of \$3500 this would mean an increase of \$56.70.

"This overall increase seems very reasonable considering the schools alone increased by 11 per cent and before any budget cuts we were facing an increase of 17 per cent, had all planned projects been approved.

"I wish to thank the Finance Committee members and Senior Staff Members for their diligence in preparing the 1981 Budget. I have no hesitation in submitting this document to Council for their approval."

### Citizen briefly

#### News for disturbed sleepers

Local citizens disturbed by the wailing of the town's fire siren at 4:45 a.m. Monday morning may be interested to learn that a plan is afoot to replace the siren with pocket pagers that will be carried by firemen.

Late Monday morning Fire Chief Ted Light said he might have a sample pocket pager in his hands by the end of June.

Firemen were called to the Penetanguishene arena by a false alarm. The source was a malfunction in Bell Canada telephone lines, Chief Light said.

#### Taylor is minister's aide



George Taylor

George Taylor, Simcoe Centre's MPP, has been appointed parliamentary assistant to Attorney-General Roy McMurtry.

The appointment means an extra \$6,500 in income for MPP Taylor, in addition to his basic MPP's salary of \$24,500 and a tax-free expense allowance of \$8,000.

Taylor was one of 11 MP's who were appointed parliamentary assistants by Premier William Davis last week. A record high 20 MPPs are currently parliamentary assistants to Cabinet ministers.

#### How to buy its building the question for SCBE

The continuing question of how the Simcoe County Board of Education should go about buying the building it occupies, and which it leases, will be debated in private session at tonight's board meeting.

The building could be purchased for around \$450,000, says trustee Alvin Gravelle. The problem in the past has been that the trustees has not felt the board could afford to buy the building outright.

One line of discussion expected tonight will be the choice of the board putting aside a certain amount of money each year towards the purchase price.

A delegation from the Concerned Citizens for Bilingual Unity is also scheduled on tonight's agenda.

#### Cases of beer taken

Investigation continues into the theft some time late Friday or early Saturday of a number of cases of beer from the Penetanguishene Brewer's/Retail store.

And following an accident at Main Street and Robert Street last Saturday at 10 a.m., Nancy Swales of 49 Harriet Street was charged with making an unsafe lane change.

The other driver was from Scarborough. And at around 11 p.m. last Friday Brian Cadeau, 26, of 4 Cambridge Street, was charged with causing a disturbance after police received a report of a disturbance on Cambridge Street.

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