

Protest Pickering high school budget

Pickering Twp. — It was "under protest" that Pickering Township Council accepted the Pickering District High School rate of 32.6 mills residential and 36.2 commercial.

A copy of the protest resolution will be sent to Education Minister William G. Davis.

The high school rate, on a total township assessment of \$32,417,095, will raise \$1,297,296.43.

The only thing that was achieved, Deputy Reeve Ron Chatten remarked, by the three municipalities in the High School District

meeting with the Hon. Mr. Davis, was the province increasing the revenue paid to the school board, thus reducing the rate by two mills. No attempt was made by the school board to reduce its operating costs.

Reeve John Williams said that the three municipalities suggested to the Board that the budget be reduced by some means which would enable the municipalities to incur a 15 per cent increase in the mill rate.

"At the meeting we suggested we needed an addi-

tional \$176,000," he said. By some queer episode, they came up with \$120,000 of money which we were already entitled to, and which the high school Board had not included."

Mr. Williams said the Board had received \$130,000 more in 1967 than they had budgeted for, but all the surplus they had was \$10,000.

Councillor John Kruger observed that estimates were just that — estimates.

"This is their last budget," said Councillor Don Kitchen, "To their credit

they have maintained what appears to be the highest educational levies in the country. Perhaps they do not feel the responsibilities an elected board would such as problems of the ratepayers being able to afford the facilities they give to the children. The new board, because it is elected, will consider not only the educational facilities, but also the ability of the taxpayer to pay for them."

"It may remotely be possible that our taxes may not go up next year," he added.

Missionary convention

By EVELYN MILSTED GORMLEY — The annual Missionary Convention is planned for the United Missionary Church from April 16 to 20.

Sympathy is expressed Mr. and Mrs. Norman Johnston in the death of his father at Orillia. Mr. Johnston was in his 88th year.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Morrison and Jonathon of Bancroft spent the weekend with her parents, Mr.

and Mrs. Carl Reesor. The ladies of the U.M. Church met all day Tuesday at the Sewing Circle in the Fellowship Hall.

The W.M.S. of the U.M. Church will meet on Thursday at the home of Miss G. Bruce.

On Sunday, April 7 at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the U.M. Church Rev. and Mrs. Richard Ohlman, directors of the Willow Springs Bible Camp of the Canadian Sunday School

Mission will bring the messages and present duet numbers.

The Intermediate Sewing Circle of the Heise Hill Church met on Monday night April 1 at the home of Mrs. Russell Heise.

Christ Crusaders will meet on Friday night at Heise Hill Church.

Rev. and Mrs. Wm. Vander Bent of Richmond Hill, Mr. and Mrs. J. Groot and daughter Archer of Amsterdam, Holland, had dinner on Monday night with the Misses Henderson.



A lazy daisy on skates

This pretty flower is a Lazy Daisy. That's the part 14 year old Sandra Reid, Main Street South, will play in the Markham Ice Skating Show, Friday and Saturday nights in the Markham Arena.

Rural rate drops in Pickering Twp.

PICKERING TWP. — It pays to live north of the third concession Pickering Township. Residents in this rural region of the municipality will enjoy a tax decrease of 1.8 mills in 1968. In 1967, the rate was 85.6 mills. In 1968, it will be 83.8 mills.

In layman's terms, a home-owner in School Area 1 with a house assessed at \$5,000 will pay taxes of \$419. Of this, 55.5% is for schools; 22.7 for county and the balance, the general rate over which the council has control. The part of School Area 1 that lies south of conc. 3 will add 1 mill to its rate.

It's a much more serious story in the urban area of the township and the cost of education has been blamed. For example the mill rate in Bay Ridge is 124.6 mills, compared with 117.7 in 1967. A Bay Ridge's house with an assessment of \$5,000 will be \$623. In 1967, it was \$598.50.

In West Rouge, the rate

is higher still-up to 128.1 mills.

Reeve John Williams said he was pleased that the council had been able to keep its spending down to the bare bone. He noted that there had been no increases in mill rates or taxes under the responsibility of council and declared that this result had been possible through the diligent work of each council member.

Councillor Don Kitchen said that council was responsible for some decrease in the public school budget, and told how it had worked with Area 2 Board, which was originally faced with an increase of from 4 to 8 mills. Funds realized from the sale of the Base Line School to the township offset the higher mill rate to some degree.

Reeve Williams observed that this was the smallest increase Area 2 ever presented to council, and said that it did the school board credit.

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16 oz. Sugg. List \$1.45

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