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Chester Faulkner, vice-president, (left) Jim Schneider, NDP candidate for Brant-Norfolk, and Norman Walpole, president of the H-N NDP Association, (right) discussed problems of regional government.

Water and sewage

Jarvis to pay \$3 more

Although Jarvis residents will pay an increase of \$3 on water and sewer rates per month, the Jarvis system will operate at a deficit of \$27,759 for sewer rates and \$5,800 for water.

The old water rates for Jarvis were \$3 for water and \$1 for sewer, per month, but the boost in rates will increase costs to \$5.25 for water and \$1.75 for sewer. Commercial rates for Jarvis have also risen — to the tune of \$8.75 for water per month, and a 33 per cent surcharge on sewage rates.

Regional Council approved rate increases of about \$3 a month for residential sewer and water users in Caledonia, Dunnville, Hagersville, Port Dover, Jarvis, Simcoe and Waterford last week. Despite this boost of

approximately \$36 per year for each user, the Haldimand-Norfolk region expects to be about \$340,000 short at the end of the year.

Regional treasurer Charles Douglas estimates that it will cost \$2,680,000 to operate the region's water and sewer system this year. Douglas also says, however, that the new rates will fall \$340,000 short of meeting the regional costs.

It is expected that the province will make good the deficit. "The province feels we have a problem and they are willing to help us," Douglas told council, "but the province wants to assess our overall financial position and then see what they have to do to keep our overall tax bill down."

The first budget, presented to council last

month by Mr. Douglas, projected operating costs at \$2,870,000. If that amount were to be raised by the region, the water and sewage rates for many residents would have been tripled. Jarvis would have seen an increase of up to \$18.

In an attempt to cut costs, the regional engineering committee has since laid off 11 men in the water and sewer department, and have removed six trucks from service. This action cut costs by \$190,000.

Mr. Douglas estimated that the costs to the individual municipalities for operating water and sewer systems last year was \$1,956,000. This year's boost in rates represents an increase of 37 per cent.

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Schneider blasts Tories

By Trisha Banks

Premier Bill Davis will fade into the sunset in 1975, Jim Schneider, provincial New Democratic candidate for Brant-Norfolk, told the Haldimand-Norfolk NDP association Saturday night.

Mr. Schneider told his audience of 17, "We will not run a media saturation campaign in the last two weeks before the election. We will not show cute film clips of Stephen Lewis walking down a beach with his dog as the sun goes down. The NDP's have more integrity than that."

In fact, Mr. Schneider predicted that Bill Davis would fade into the sunset permanently in 1975.

"Financially," says Mr. Schneider, "this party will never be rich, although this may be a strength, rather than a weakness. We now have the hardest working and most competent caucus in Queen's Park."

NDP policies, Mr. Schneider feels, are more coherent, more comprehensive, and more relevant than ever before. "Many of our policies are more feasible than those presented by the other parties," he claims.

With reference to the leadership of Robert Nixon and Bill Davis, Mr. Schneider said, "Politics can never be a one-man show. The NDP's would never accept a leader who decided all policies and who ran the show. The idea behind the New Democratic Party is that there must be participation in the policy deciding process."

"Our leader, Stephen

Lewis, is truly impressive," said Mr. Schneider. "His job is impossible, yet he is able to move forward and get things done. Even Bob Nixon has admitted that Stephen Lewis did a good job on his asbestos stand."

Mr. Schneider cited a poll done by an advertising agency for the Progressive Conservatives, to substantiate his claims. "In a poll which asked the people, 'Who do you think would make the best Premier for Ontario', Bob Nixon ran a poor third, Bill Davis a close second, and Stephen Lewis a victorious first."

Mr. Schneider said that the NDP's have alternatives to offer people to the Conservative policies, "and this will place us in a good position for the next election."

On government, Mr. Schneider told the audience that the original concept was accepted by all three parties, but that the concept has not been carried out by the Conservatives.

"The concept was to reform local government in Ontario so it would be stronger, more viable, and better equipped to meet local needs, and be more easily manageable by local people," he said.

"The Conservatives, however, chose their own people, did their own studies, and they consulted local people, only after they had already determined what they were going to do."

"In the few instances where the studies reflected local desires such as Hamilton-Wentworth — they rejected the studies and went ahead with their own plans. Across the province, regional government has been imposed from the outside."

In contrast, said Mr.

Schneider, "it is very clear now why the Tories never did want to reform local government to make it more viable and easily accessible, stronger financially and more effective in developing services."

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O.H.A.P.

The Haldimand-Norfolk region will receive housing study grants totalling \$65,700 from the Ontario Housing Action Program (HAP). The grants will be used to prepare a regional housing policy statement and to evaluate existing plans and zoning by-laws. The announcement was made Monday by provincial housing minister Donald Irvine.

Housing shortages will result over the next three years as a result of a new steel company by Stelco and a new oil refinery from Texaco, being placed in the area. Substantial population growth is expected because of these new industries.

Port Dover, Caledonia, and Simcoe will receive the majority of study to establish the capability of each urban community to accommodate additional growth at a rate which will not be too strenuous for each community.

Housing Minister Irvine hopes that both short and long-term housing policies will receive the same treatment under the study.

The results of the study grants will include a statement of housing policy requirements for the next 10 to 20 years, plus alternate strategies which the regional municipalities may have to use.

Indian townline scene of tragedy

Two area residents are dead as the result of a Sunday broadside collision when a semi-trailer tanker, owned by Keith Hall, Burford, drove over top of a 1965 convertible on the Indian town line between Hagersville and the Cockshutt Road.

Dead are Gene Wayne Martin, 15, of R.R. 6, Hagersville, and Norman Leslie McNaughton, 24, of R.R. 1, Scotland.

The tanker, driven by John David Thompson, 24, of Main Street, Waterford, rested on top of the convertible, which was wedged under the front portion of the truck.

Constable Gaal, investigating officer, said it was impossible to determine who was the driver of the second vehicle, which was completely demolished. The car was travelling eastbound, and the tanker westbound, when the accident occurred at 1 p.m.

The driver of the semi-tanker, Mr. Davidson, left the scene of the accident on crutches. Damage to the rig amounted to \$30,000, and was described as a "write-off". The tanker was carrying a load of milk.

Cause of the accident is still unknown, although spectators who saw the accident, said "It appeared that the car was out of control."

