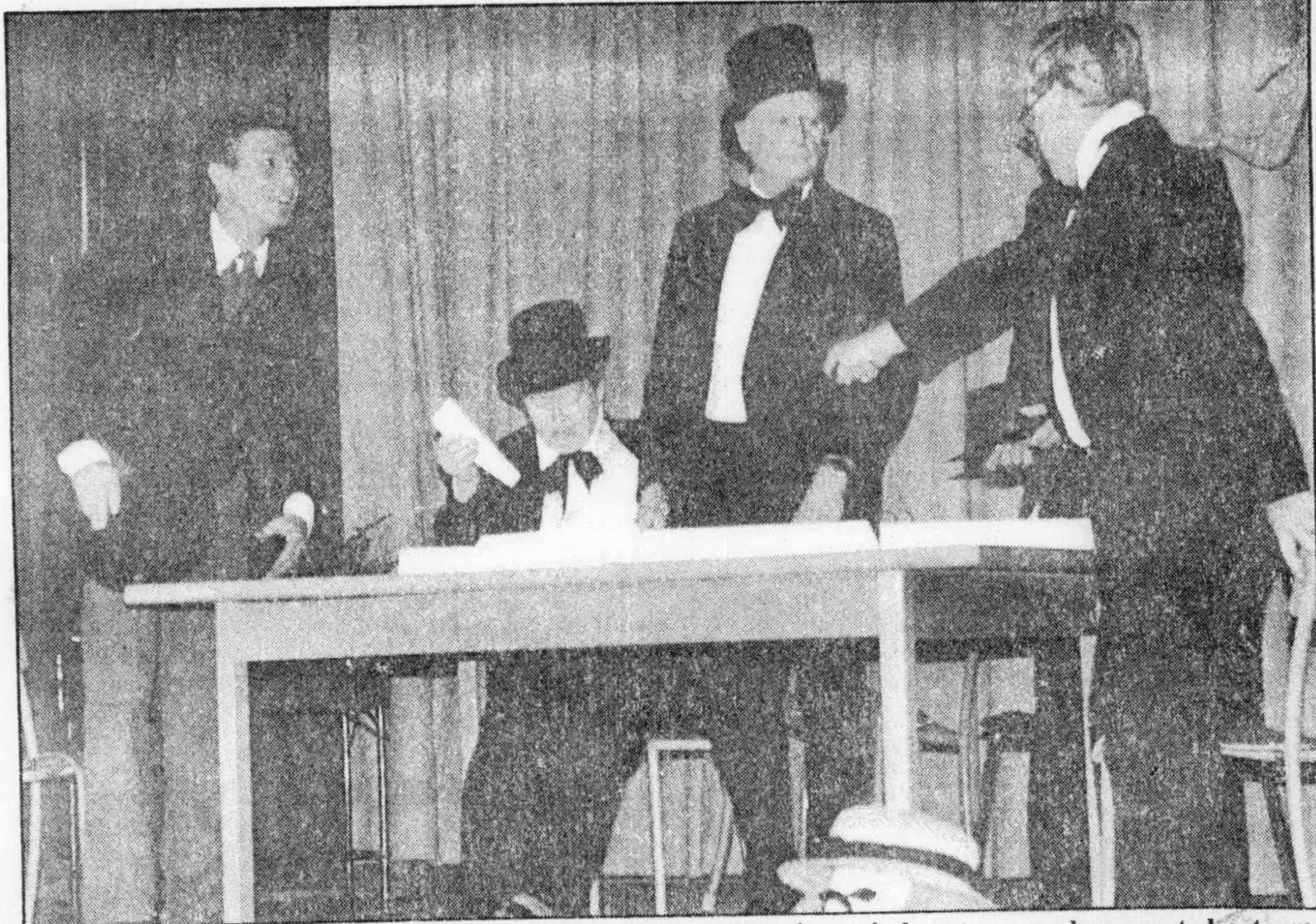


Embroy marks 100th anniversary of town hall

By MATTHEW SMITH

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Members of the Zorra Township Council got all dressed up in period costume and re-enacted a town council meeting the way it might have unfolded in 1892 when the Embroy Town Hall was built. (Matthew Smith photo)

Visitors to the Village of Embroy this past weekend might have thought they'd stepped through a time-warp as historical pageantry and a sense of civic pride marked the 100th anniversary of the village's town hall.

Arts and crafts, children's games, an antique car parade, and vintage fashion show were just a few of the events that drew visitors to the village from miles around.

The lot for the town hall was purchased from Walter Ross of Youngsville in 1892 for the grand sum of \$250.

The foundation of the town hall actually goes farther back than 1892. The site had been home to a three-storey store owned by George Forrest. Forrest's store burned down in 1877 but the south foundation of the old store became the north wall of the new town hall.

The decision to build a town hall was not an entirely easy one. In a celebratory booklet on the hall, articles from the Woodstock Sentinel-Review recount some of the struggle to build Embroy's new hall.

A vote on the town hall was taken in May of 1892 with 69 votes cast in favor of the hall and 30 against. In June, a site was to be selected.

"The village has been in a very exciting state for the past week," reads one letter-to-the-editor of the era, "owing to the council selecting a site for the town hall which did not suit some chronic kickers, who want the whole earth for their own special benefit, and if they can't get it they squeal."

The 100th anniversary of the town hall was marked on the weekend and to help recall the storied past, members of Zorra Township Council dressed in period costume to re-enact what an Embroy council meeting might have been like, way back in the 1890s.

Needless to say, the real thing might have been a little more restrained and reserved than the carryings-on acted out - all in good fun, of course - by the current township council.



Lillian McKinnon, of the Embroy Town Hall centennial committee, receives a plaque presented by Oxford MPP Kimble Sutherland on behalf of the Province of Ontario. (Matthew Smith photo)



Embroy Town Hall centennial committee chairperson Harold Arbuckle receives a cheque for \$2,000 from Embroy Royal Bank manager Sandy Darling. The money will go toward town hall renovations. (Matthew Smith photo)