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PLANS COMMUNITY CENTRE

Council Asks Sponsor For Complete Details

Haileybury Council meeting last Monday evening was asked to consider the building of a Community Centre for the District Town, at an estimated cost of \$163,500, less volunteer labor and donated materials.

Council, having heard the request before, without figures, withstood the shock admirably, heard the spokesman for the proponents through, and saw visions as he made an able presentation.

Norman Abrahams outlined a plan which included a skating arena with artificial ice, off-the-side buildings with rooms for various activities, town offices, and additional basement space, to be used for bowling alleys.

The rink, a steel beamed structure, would be 90 x 150 feet, and this would be available for summer as well as winter programs.

Mr. Abrahams reminded Council that there was no Centre available for a comprehensive youth program, and said that such a place would give the young people a place to go, and where healthful programs would be possible.

He thought that most of the operating costs for such a plant could be earned by rentals, and promised a full quota of hockey teams, and bowling clubs to take up most of the slack. He urged Council to present the case to the ratepayers by referendum.

John Salvail from Community Programs Branch of the Ontario Government told Council that they could expect a \$5,000 grant from the government to assist in building the plant, and additional monies to support an all-age recreation program in the town.

"The department," said Mr. Salvail, "will assist annually in the operation of such a plant, up to \$600, and will pay one third of the cost for leadership."

"We will also help you with your planning, drawing on the experience of the department, and of the hundreds of Ontario towns which have embarked on similar programs in the past ten years."

He urged however, that a complete study of the situation be made, a programming survey, that present facilities to be inventoried to prevent duplication, and present and future needs assessed. "When this has been done," he said, "you are ready to tackle the job of building what is needed."

Mr. Abrahams added the information that Haileybury had more than 400 teenagers, with time on their hands, that the townspeople had built and paid for a curling rink equal to most anywhere and was sure it could build the Centre and have little difficulty doing so.

Mayor Art Cooke thanked Mr. Abrahams, commented on the amount of research necessary to prepare the presentation, found out that Mr. Abrahams was spokesman for the recreation authority and other interested parties, and said:

"How feasible is such a plan for a small town?"

There was a general discussion amongst Council about the plan, mostly constructive, and Mr. Abrahams was asked to work on a brief which would give a complete picture of the need, the cost, and the uses to which the building could be put.

Said Mayor Cooke, "Bring us a plan we can take to the ratepayers."

And Councillor Neil Fleming quipped, "If it takes as long to

get this centre as I think it will, we will call it the Norman Abrahams Memorial Arena."

Council also heard a complaint from John Gilliard regarding the erosion of his driveway caused by improper drainage on the street. "I made a formal complaint about the condition," disclosed the ratepayer, "and was told that the condition had been the same for 23 years, and nothing could be done about it."

Mr. Gilliard explained what could be done, Council concurred, promised action, and gave no marks to the town foreman Tom Cragg as an effective public relations liaison between Council and the taxpayers.

Council received a request from R. A. Morissette for the closing of an unused part of Probyn Street so that a house might be built there. Council agreed that Mr. Morissette could speed the matter by obtaining an agreement to close the street from absentee landlord Mr. Norrie, who owns lots across the street.

Dick McFarland offered \$200 for a town-owned lot, but Council held out for \$300, the assessed value of the land.

Councillor J. Whelan brought to Council's attention the Mutual Aid Agreement between Haileybury, Cobalt and New Liskeard Fire Departments, with particular attention to the disastrous fire at North Cobalt.

He thought the agreement obligated Haileybury to service Cobalt's commitments in Bucke and Coleman Townships. Mayor Cooke didn't, and it was agreed that the Agreement should be given further study.

Councillor Charles Camsell told Council he would be spending about \$500 on the filtration plant equipment.

Two Interpretations of Mutual Aid Agreement

The Mutual Aid Agreement between Cobalt, Haileybury and New Liskeard Fire Department which has existed for several years, broke down last Saturday night when put to its first serious test.

Councils and Fire Departments of the three towns plan to review the agreement to see if there is any answer to the problem which delayed a run to the home of E. Therriault in North Cobalt. Mr. Therriault's frame home was destroyed.

Cobalt Fire Department is under contract to protect parts of Bucke and Coleman Townships. On Saturday the brigade was called to North Cobalt when a passing motorist noticed smoke pouring from a house located close to Highway 11. Harry Groom, owner of nearby Blue Top Cabins called the Cobalt Fire Department.

Cobalt Fire Department has two trucks, but only one carries a tank of water, and it was being repaired, and unable to make the run. The second truck and a pumper arrived at the scene to find that the nearest source of water was 100 yards away, and inaccessible.

An auxiliary pump was hurried

Northern Telephone Co. Reports Successful Year

At the 54th Annual Meeting of Northern Telephone Company Limited, held in New Liskeard on Monday afternoon, April 13, shareholders in the Company learned that capital expenditures for the 1958 period, more than \$1,500,000, had been spent on expansion and upgrading of the system.

The President and General Manager, Mr. D. McKelvie, told shareholders that the expansion and upgrading of plant would continue through 1961 and said, "The sale of \$1,000,000.00 of Preferred Stock and \$500,000.00 of Common Stock in 1959 and additional financing in 1960, will, we believe, be an end to our major financing." The total investment of the Company in plant and equipment has increased 100% in the past three years. A large amount of the new financ-

ing was and will be used for the conversion of manual exchanges to dial and the expansion of outside cable plant. It is expected that by the end of 1961, over 70% of the system will be dial operated.

The President pointed out that earnings were maintained during 1958, and that the net earnings before dividends were \$307,296.24, slightly under that of the previous year. After deduction of dividends of 5½% on Preference Stock and 10 cents per share on Common Stock, a balance of \$124,546.74 was carried to surplus account for reinvestment in the business.

The President also commented on the Company's success in obtaining rate increases in Ontario and Quebec, "It is expected that the additional revenues resulting from higher rates and upgrading of services will justify continued capital requirements," he said, "but new dial plant is so expensive to purchase and install, that higher rates were absolutely necessary to give an adequate return and insure the continuance of finding new money." He also pointed out that even with the increase in rates, they are still sub-

stantially lower than those generally in effect in Ontario and Quebec.

During the past three years, the Company was successful in securing and completing various installation contracts for defence projects from the coast of Labrador into Manitoba. The Company is also represented on an Engineering Group in Ottawa studying the needs and allocations for circuitry for a major defence project. It is expected that the Company will be asked to provide numerous circuits in that plan.

Mr. McKelvie also reported that as of April 1, 1959, a Subsidiary of the Company had secured a contract to maintain the telephone plant associated with the Pinetree Defence Line extending from coast to coast.

The President reported to the meeting on various highlights of its expansion programme. Among others, he mentioned providing radio telephone service into the new Anaconda Iron Property north of Nakina, Ontario, important mineral finds and developments along the Algoma Central Railway, a major expansion programme to (Continued on page four)

Recreation Group Reports On Hockey

At a meeting of the Recreation Committee Friday evening, the hockey season was officially closed. The committee would like to thank each and every person who in anyway helped make the Midget and Minor Hockey League a big success this season.

The supervision of over a hundred boys every Saturday morning was due to the fact that a number of men devoted a lot of their time to make this season a success.

It is hoped that next season, volunteers will be on hand in larger numbers to give the boys the help needed to become future big leaguers.

Quonta Festival Actors Present Clever Dramas

The New Liskeard Little Theatre group is sitting back catching its breath after successfully playing host to the second regional Quonta Drama Festival. The three day festival was highlighted by keen adjudication, enthusiastic participation by the actors and an appreciative audience.

The festival was officially opened by Honorary President J. McKay-Clements, on Thursday evening who welcomed the actors and commented on the cultural drive that they had contributed to Canada.

"Good characterization," "well managed stage effects," "She knew how to keep still when there was no need of moving," "Good climax work-up."

These were some of the commendations given by W. S. Milne, well known in theatrical activities, as he adjudicated the three plays that marked the opening of the second Quebec-Ontario one-act drama festival in New Liskeard Thursday night.

The plays presented included The Bishop's Candlesticks, an arrangement of a scene from the book, Les Miserables. This was the opening play given by the members of the Kirkland Lake Collegiate and Vocational Institute, with some excellent acting.

The second play was a light comedy by the New Liskeard Little Theatre Group, described by the adjudicator as a difficult type of play to present.

The third one, also a New Liskeard presentation The Cham's Diamond by the High School Drama Club, had good characterization, well managed stage effects, a likeable play.

Mr. Milne, whose easy, informal manner and humour won his audience immediately, expressed himself as well pleased with the

acting in all three plays.

His criticism, all of it kindly and constructive, stressed the need of more authentic costuming, off-centre arrangement of furniture, the ability to be petulant without being shrewish, stronger contrast in age groups and the selection of a play strong enough to justify the work put into it. "At times," said Mr. Milne, "you have to be unnaturally natural to appear natural."

Mrs. Queenie Douglas welcomed the audience and introduced Mr. J. McKay-Clements who formally declared the festival open. In consideration of the fact that the festival was competing with (Continued on page five)

The Weather

Much as we complain about the weather, spring is really here and according to Mr. George Holmes, the birds know when the season arrives and they come back regardless of the weather. He reports that a robin arrived at his home on View Street on April 5, exactly the same date that it arrived last year.

Also a huge, beautifully colored butterfly has made its appearance and has taken up lodging in his sunporch until the atmosphere turns a bit more balmy.

Now Mr. Holmes is awaiting the arrival of the swifts, or swallows, who invariably are seen on April 18.

Week ending April 14, 1959.

| | Max. | Min. |
|-----------|------|------|
| Wednesday | 46 | 30 |
| Thursday | 39 | 24 |
| Friday | 46 | 20 |
| Saturday | 37 | 24 |
| Sunday | 43 | 18 |
| Monday | 49 | 26 |
| Tuesday | 49 | 28 |