

Council turns down proposal to renovate cells

Acton council turned down a resolution which would have renovated jail cells in the old town hall for emergency overnight accommodations.

In a prolonged debate, which erupted into heated words on one occasion between Reeve Frank Oakes and Councillor Peter Marks, councillors lined up on both sides of the issue. Voting at Tuesday's meeting for the transformation for the unused cells were Councillors Marks, Coats and Elliott. Against were the mayor, reeve, deputy reeve and councillors Greer and Chapman. Councillor Masales was absent.

Overnight cells
Councillor Marks, who sponsored the resolution and committee recommendation, said the intention was to use the cells as a hostel for overnight accommodation for travellers or youths who had been "kicked out" of home. Situations arose, he said, which required emergency accommodation six to 12 times a month during summer months and as high as three times a

month during the winter. Other municipalities have even higher incidence but they also have emergency accommodation, Mr. Marks declared. He said the intention of the resolution was to minimize the potential hazard — get users in sleeping instead of on the streets where they could get in trouble. He emphasized the committee would raise the money and get volunteer help to renovate the cells.

Not used
Grilled by the deputy-reeve, Mr. Marks said the cells were not being used now, that it was against the law to lock people up in them. Prisoners are taken to Milton, he said. "There's a need there and we should fill it," he told council, stressing use would be "just for emergencies." Mr. Marks stressed there was no intention of using the cells as a youth hostel and if the idea didn't work then it would be terminated. Councillor Coats told council they would depend on the police force to administer the ac-

commodation and it would only be as successful or unsuccessful as the police chose to make it.

Doesn't appeal
The idea didn't appeal to Reeve Frank Oakes one bit.

"I'm against it all the way," he asserted. "It might, as Councillor Chapman has suggested, introduce undesirables to the community." The reeve stressed that the committee had not been unanimous on the proposal. He also foresaw an influx of visitors once the word was abroad there was accommodation available. Councillor Greer agreed. He suggested visitors to the cells could do a lot of vandalism and "wreck the joint when half high on drugs." Police, he said, could not be there all the time to administer such a proposal unlike other places where adequate supervision was available.

Well covered
Mr. Marks admitted there was a chance of some vandalism. However, he assured council the building was adequately covered by insurance if the eventuality arose. But, he countered, it would

be much better to have someone high on drugs sleeping there than roaming around.

Mr. Greer said from his experience the place for a drug user was in the hospital, not sleeping in the cells. The deputy-reeve wasn't convinced that police did not still use the cells on occasion when violent people must be calmed. The reeve also said council would be imposing on police if they asked them to do this type of work on top of their regular duties. "We just paid another \$9,000 a year for another constable to police the town and he wouldn't support a move to have him do other work as well."

The mayor said council's first consideration should be local people before spending money on transients. Councillor Norm Elliott said he was sympathetic to Mr. Marks' reasons for wanting accommodation but didn't go along with any hostel ideas. He saw the question as two parts and later proposed an amendment which added to the motion would state administration of the cells would

be at the discretion of the police. He recognized the need for some emergency accommodation.

Noised abroad
Mayor Doby reminded council they had turned down downtown washrooms because they would be the target for vandalism, and felt this fitted the same pigeonhole. Travellers would get to know about the place and head for it, he feared.

"If there was no place to go, young people might think twice before getting kicked out," commented Councillor Greer. "I've looked at 10 or 12 town budgets and they are all up," agreed the reeve, "I don't want to spend money to service this kind of stuff."

"It won't cost taxpayers a cent," replied Mr. Marks testily. The reeve disagreed. "It will need servicing," he retorted angrily. Mr. Greer, committee of the whole chairman, rapped his gavel. "Enough," he said.

Later in the meeting Councillor Coats reintroduced the discussion

before the vote, asking councillors to consider carefully before making a negative decision. The impression was given it is always young people who are at fault when they are ejected from home. This is not always true, Mr. Coats said. There are cases where the parents are at fault and they turn young people out on the street with nowhere to go.

Second he said it was not enough in this day and age to hand police a billy and a gun and send them out on the street. He felt police could be much more effective in prevention.

"If police felt the resolution would help rather than hinder their work we should accept the committee's recommendation," he said.

Councillor Chapman replied, however, that he got a different impression from police than Councillor Coats and Marks. Their comments didn't support the resolution, he said.

When the vote was taken only three councillors supported the motion — Coats, Marks and Elliott.



HUGS AND KISSES came in great quantity for Bob Blake when he was elected Halton East Liberals' choice to go against Conservative MPP and newly appointed cabinet minister Jim Snow and NDP William Gillies. A comely supporter offers her congratulations.—(Staff Photo)

450 "Shorty" Lowin joins bowling charmed circle



GEORGE "SHORTY" LOWIN displays the form it takes to roll a perfect game of five pins, which he did Friday night at the Acton Lanes.—(Photo by Jim Jennings)

Every bowler's dream—a perfect 450 game — rolled by George (Shorty) Lowin at Acton Bowling Lanes during regular play of the Acton Mixed League set the building rocking Friday night.

It is only the second perfect game in the 24 year history of Acton Lanes. Mrs. Frances Crooks rolled the first one, bowling in the Beardmore League, in 1962.

"Shorty" candidly admits he never thought he'd make that charmed circle few bowlers ever roll in five pins. "I just kept bowling until I threw the last strike," he chuckled.

Highest game he ever bowled before was at Georgetown, where he chalked up a 400.

Heart-stopping
Acton Lanes proprietor Ken Hulford who smelled a perfect game around the ninth frame was looking intently over Shorty's shoulder, glasses awry, along with almost the entire gang of Mixed Leaguers. They cheered as he threw that last and all important 12th strike.

"For a minute I thought he was going to be robbed when the corner pin just rocked back and forth despite a perfect hit — but it went down," said Ken.

It was a heart-stopping moment until that corner pin went down. Then there was pandemonium.

Shorty was the target for much

hand-shaking, back slapping and the bubbly that accompanies rare feats in the bowling world. For this one he'll receive a \$100 cheque from Acton Lanes and it is quite possible he'll be in line for other awards as well.

Good year
It's been a good year all-round for the 15-year bowler who hails from Georgetown. He also bowls in the Industrial-Commercial League at the Acton Lanes, currently holding down a 234 average. His Mixed League average is 231.

Averages this year run around 15 to 20 points higher than he ever bowled before. Shorty attributes some of this success to "lessons I take from brothers Jack and Bob".

Lanes proprietor Hulford also chimes in with a commercial. "Don't forget the good equipment."

\$950 damage car-truck collision

Approximately \$950 damage resulted from a collision involving a car and a pickup truck on Highway 25 just south of Acton, Monday morning about 8:45.

The car, driven by Jan Speaker, 116 Mill Street W., Acton, received an estimated \$900 damage to the right rear fender and trunk.

Damage to the tailgate of the pickup truck, driven by Harold Harris, R. R. 4 Acton, was estimated at \$50.

Unusual collision

An unusual accident on 401 Highway near Highway 27 involved two cars from Acton and sent one resident of town to hospital for treatment.

A new car driven by M. A. Karmel of 167 Tidy Ave. spun out of control when it hit an icy patch and resulted in a collision with another vehicle driven by Klaus Schroeder of Elizabeth Drive. Both cars were eastbound.

Mrs. Schroeder was taken by ambulance to hospital where she was treated for cuts on her forehead and legs before being released.

Tracing delivery delay

The Free Press has been receiving complaints from mail subscribers concerning delivery of the paper, especially in Toronto and area. Some subscribers have been receiving the paper almost a week after publication. Some weeks they have not been received at all.

This newspaper is published every Wednesday afternoon and papers leave the plant for the post office soon after they are printed.

The Acton postmaster was contacted and assures the Free Press papers leave Acton post office the same day they are received — Wednesday. Efforts are being made to trace where the delay in delivery is taking place.

We apologize for any delays but assure subscribers every effort is made to ensure prompt delivery at this end. The delay is obviously between Acton and Toronto, or in Toronto.

Plan drive for members

At the last regular meeting of Acton Chamber of Commerce, John Secord reported a membership drive would soon be started to augment the strength of the Chamber.

President Roy Goodwin and Paul Nielsen, meanwhile, will be meeting with Acton council to discuss parking and a liquor plebiscite.

Alan Eastwood reported that the next dinner meeting would be held at the Dominion Hotel March 24, with the speaker, Dr. Jack Pasternack, of Pollution Probe. The meeting is for members of the Chamber and friends.

Suggests new traffic lights

Deputy Reeve G. W. McKenzie told Acton council they should consider making improvements at the Mill-Main St. corners, where both pedestrians and motorists are confused by the present lights.

A child was hit there last week, he said, which pointed out existing confusion. He suggested council pursue the mayor's idea of installing "walk" and "Don't Walk" traffic lights for pedestrians.

Girl hurt Mill-Main

Seven-year-old Ellen Norrie suffered a fractured collar bone last Friday in a noon-hour accident.

Cons. Steve Czerlau investigated the Mill-Main incident, involving a school bus driven by Jette Rinsma, R. R. 4, Acton. The young girl was treated by Dr. Brian Moore. She lives at 157 Main St. No charge was laid.

Mediterranean visitors take off tomorrow

For 62 Acton people, 45 students and 17 adults the Mediterranean and all its mysteries is only a few days away. The group leaves tomorrow (Thursday) at 5 by bus from Acton District High to Toronto International Airport. There they'll board a plane at 5 which will take them to Rome. In Italy they'll board the liner "Aurora" for a Mediterranean cruise.

Students have selected assignments and they're expected to seek out the places and events of history, literature, art and music when they pull into port.

Students making the trip include: Carol Patterson, Jeff Patterson, Sandra Patterson, Diane Frank, George McPhail, Randy Coker, Diane Fisher, Sharon Froelich, Hank Wissenz, Anita Thibodeau, Marg Slaven, Nancy Lee, Bonnie McKenzie, Corie Maxwell, Lynn Bender, Lynn Simoni, Sean Ahearne, Diane Bonnette, Rick Bonnette, Susan Shoemaker, Anita Bralda, Sherry Johnston, Steve Garrett,

False alarm to Hinton's

A false fire alarm Wednesday evening sent firefighters rushing to Hinton's store. The alarm had been turned in shortly after 8 p.m. by a young man who said he thought he smelled smoke. Police said he was given a warning.

Reports theft

A Rockwood man reported to Acton O.P.P. that lenses on his car lights had been stolen from his car, parked at the community centre. The incident occurred last Tuesday.

Council will pursue crossing improvements

Acton council will pursue the matter of a subway or grade separation at the Main St. N. railway crossing but decided to wait for possible solutions from the Department of Highways before taking any further action. The matter was introduced by Councillor Norm Elliott at Tuesday's meeting of council. He asked how much traffic must go over the crossing before the town could expect a subway or other form of improvement.

Councillor Jack Greer, chairman for the committee of the whole session, indicated it was the opinion of his committee that traffic counts were taken at period when traffic was light. The mayor concurred, adding that if a count was taken at peak periods the situation would seem more critical. He felt weekends during the summer months would be a more appropriate time for a count.

Increased use
"Personally, I can't see them improving 25 Highway and leaving the crossing as it is," the mayor said. He foresaw increased use of the highway to get north after improvements are made, a move which should relieve congestion in other areas. Councillor Peter Marks suggested that the town should do its own survey and if figures

conflict with those of the Department of Highways, enquire about the difference.

But Clerk Joe Hurst suggested that the Department of Highways would support the town in an application for a grade separation. He said that a letter from the Department explained that even if figures from the 1991 traffic projection were used this would fall short of the numbers required for a grade separation. However, he said the Department was willing to look at other factors including the known hazards.

Mr. Hurst explained the Department of Highways was trying to come up with something to improve the crossing without a separation and he advised council to wait until they had some answers. He felt if the Department could not come up with some other solution they would support the town in a bid for a separation.

The mayor concluded something must be done so planning could proceed in the north-west corner of town and it would be imperative if the new airport went in Amaranth township. Traffic going north would use Highway 25 to reach the airport and the present crossing would create a bottleneck to tie up traffic he said.



THAT'S A 450 alright, beams "Shorty" Lowin as he checks his perfect score over with Acton Lanes proprietor Ken Hulford, left, and a friend, Annemarie Moore. "Shorty's feat was the second in the 24 year history of the alleys."

Industry wants to locate in Erin twp.

Ed Adams appeared before Erin Township Council on March 1 to ask that the Township apply for approval to move a Fort Credit steel stamping business into the area.

Mr. Adams, part owner of a rapidly growing key fob enterprise, explained his company wanted to give "the giant" in the leather industry "a run for their money".

Leather, finished by an Acton firm which is also considering a possible move to Erin, would be made into key cases, credit card cases, and key fobs, each decorated with different makes of cars. The finished product would be packed in special pilfer-proof display racks made by the steel stamping company, and shipped throughout the United States and Canada.

Demand for product
"Already there is such a demand for our product," he said, "that we can hardly keep up."

When told that the new consolidated enterprise would be hiring almost 100 employees, Councillor Howard Griffin commented, "I'm very impressed with the idea. It might be good for the community."

Reeve Lloyd Lang expressed doubt as to whether the facilities would be adequate for such a business, pointing out the condition of the roads this winter.

"I don't know whether to let commercial enterprise in here or not" he concluded.

The matter will be brought to the attention of Howard Smith, township planning consultant.