

Commission welcomes written comments — Coats

Acton Centennial Commission will welcome any letters or written comments addressed to P.O. Box 100, Acton, Councillor Bill Coats said last night (Tuesday).

Coats responded to a query from Reeve Frank Oakes concerning the proposed renovations and additions to the Acton Community Centre, selected as the town's 1974 centennial project by majority vote at an open meeting in March.

Reeve Oakes indicated he is not sure what the centennial project is. He said he read of the community centre proposal in the press, but no official information has been conveyed to council.

"Are we not being informed or is something being taken for granted?" he asked.

Coats admitted both the Centennial Commission and he himself, as council's representative may have been remiss in not bringing back information, but assured the reeve the community centre project met with consensus approval at the March meeting, although there were several other projects suggested.

"The meeting was duly announced and properly advertised by the centennial commission," he said.

Coats pointed out there was a matter of urgency involved in the calling of a meeting in March. He said it was assumed those who turned out were interested.

The reeve explained that if council were asked to participate in any project between now and 1974 the present council or a new

one might have different ideas. "I'm not suggesting they would," Oakes said "but it's possible."

Oakes said he wouldn't want things to go too far, before something is established or any local organizations to be misled about the project.

No question

Mayor Les Duby said he can't question any part of the commission's procedure on the project.

"They came to council and got our blessing. They did nothing to put down any other projects that were suggested at the open meeting," he explained.

The mayor reminded council the community centre project was not a commission decision, but one reached by a majority of persons at the open meeting. He

said draft drawings of a swimming pool, a project he personally supported were presented at the meeting, but the pool project was shot down.

"Perhaps there should be some credit given to them then for the fact they felt they had to take the lead, because of lack of interest on the part of others," Reeve Oakes offered, after listening to the mayor's comments.

"I don't think anyone's being critical," Deputy Reeve Pat McKenzie interjected, "but perhaps there's not enough being done to solidify the project."

Not convinced

Councillor Peter Marks wondered if a petition, signed by two or three times the number of people who attended the March meeting would alter plans, if presented to the commission.

"People power is certainly a very good watchword," Marks remarked. "I think they'd have to look at it again seriously, if they began to get a big written response from the public."

Mayor Duby defended the commission a second time.

"I can hardly justify too strong a criticism of a group of people who are working from people who are just making suggestions," he commented.

The mayor said the commission's bid for the 1974 Grey Cup resulted in a great deal of valuable publicity for the town.

"Regrettably that cost them some credibility at the time of the open meeting though," Marks suggested. He said some persons weren't sure about the seriousness of the commission's intentions at that time.

Asked by Councillor Jack Greer if the project has the endorsement of all local service clubs, Coats said response has generally been good, but that the commission has encountered one adverse reaction.

Greer said he thinks a meeting of all local organizations, including women's and church groups would be beneficial.

The mayor assured council all organizations have been invited to participate. Looking back to Canada's centennial year, he recalled it was a very difficult chore to trot around to all of them to ask their opinion.

Councillor Coats promised there will be a pro football game here in 1974, even though Acton's Grey Cup bid was turned down.

"It'll probably be an intra-squad game, but there'll be one," he concluded.



BEING A BISHOP has its drawbacks, too. Rt. Rev. Walter E. Bagnall, Bishop of Niagara, seems to be telling St. Alban's rector, Rev. Harry Dawson and two of the 24 confirmed in the parish church Sunday morning. The bishop kindly posed for photos after the ceremonies. (H. Coles Photo)

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MEMBERS OF THE ACTON Centennial Commission and guests were served breakfast outside Ed's Restaurant amid new tree planters and geraniums Saturday morning by the restaurant staff. Planters have been installed by the Development Commission. The outdoor cafe type meal, ad-

mittedly a trifle chilly, was interrupted by a sudden rain squall. The exercise was intended to prove how a few trees, flowers and a little imagination, could spruce up the business section. (H. Coles Photo)

Police unravel break-in ring, dive for loot

Remanded in court Monday, brothers Bob and Ed Calver of Acton face a steadily mounting number of charges of break and enter dating as far back as 1966. Acton O.P.P. have laid 29 charges against the men.

Dive for tools

Two O.P.P. scuba divers, Cons. Pearson of Milton O.P.P. and Cons. Adams of Simcoe, searched a pond near Everton Friday afternoon and recovered valuable tools apparently stolen from Blow Press. Other stolen articles are being recovered, some of them many miles away.

Guelph charges involve a break-in at Len Ariss Construction and Milton charges involve break-ins at United Co-op and Park Dairy.

Break-ins ranged as far away as several counties.

One small button

Major breakthrough in the case was one small button.

This button, and its surrounding dust, was taken by Acton police from behind a damaged safe at Blow Press after a break-in there. Last week during a search police matched a jacket, owned by one of the accused, with the button. Jacket, button and dust were taken Wednesday of last week to the forensic laboratory in Toronto to compare threads and dust particles.

Police expect the official report from the lab will be used as evidence in the case.

Arrests of the brothers in Acton were made by Acton O.P.P. and the Milton detachment of the O.P.P. which covers North Halton. The police departments involved conducted their own investigations but at a certain point the investigations developed into one major search.

Two cars, truck, house in Stewarttown crash

Three vehicles and a house were involved in a collision on the Seventh Line Esqueving in Stewarttown Monday, May 1, report Milton O.P.P.

Drivers involved were Margaret Boettcher of R.R. 2, Georgetown, Donald Bullock of R.R. 3 Orton and Harold Goodison of Mississauga, who was operating a truck.

A house owned by Mrs. A. Lambers of R.R. 2, Georgetown received approximately \$600 damage. Estimated damage to the Boettcher car was \$2,000; to the Orton vehicle \$500; to the Goodison truck \$500. Mrs. Boettcher received minor injuries in the accident.

A two car collision on Sunday, April 30 resulted in an approximate \$500 damage to both cars. The accident occurred at the intersection of 17 Sideroad, Esqueving and the Esqueving-Chinguacousy Town Line. Drivers involved were Roman Kleban of R.R. 5, Milton and Patricia Caruso of Charles St., Georgetown.

During the week of April 30 to May 6 there were five collisions in the North Halton area patrolled by the Milton O.P.P.

Two girls injured

Two five-year-old girls were struck by cars this week, each suffering minor injuries. No charges were laid.

On Thursday Catherine Coats, 31 Young St., ran onto the street in front of a dump truck driven by a Georgetown man. She was treated for a fractured finger.

The accident happened at 5:30 p.m.

On Friday at 7:30 p.m. Susan Edmond, 32 Main St. ran in front of a car and suffered bruises to the left side.

A Georgetown man was driving the car.

The girls received medical treatment. Acton police investigated but laid no charges.

An 11-year-old boy, Ted Waites, was injured the week before as well, when struck by a car.

Opportunities for youth

Stream clean-up, market grants

Nineteen young people will be involved in two unique projects in town this summer, thanks to the acceptance of their proposals by the federal government's Opportunities for Youth program.

Establishment of a country market in Acton found favor with officials and the \$7,780 requested was approved. The nine young people involved submitted a plan to establish an authentic farmers' market to sell farmers' goods from the surrounding area. One street would be closed off to form a square.

Students involved in the market are Mary Fran Marcoux, Bonnie Bristow, Darlene Welch, Sheila Cheyne, Rob Ellerby, Karen Pierce, Deb Papillon, Louise Johnson and Hein Mooten.

Stream proposal

Another group of 10 young people proposed erosion control and park development and will receive \$3,394. Their plan is to clean up the creek bed and control the erosion along the banks. They will undertake primary grading and brush clearing for park development beside the stream. An access road will also be built.

Those in the stream project are Rodger McEachern, Mark Nielsen, Dave and Emily Hodgson, Sharon Barber, Diane Charette, Glen Lee, John Kingsmill, Steve Van Fleet and Henry Van Stralen.

Library, railway

Other projects in this area will also be receiving grants.

At Rockwood, the Rockwood library and Wellington county library study will receive \$4,680. The three persons submitting the proposal will survey library

services in the rural areas of Wellington county. They will also establish a temporary library in Rockwood using resources of the Guelph public library.

A group of five in Nassagaweya township will receive \$12,780 for their proposed Electric Railway Revival. They will extend and align the existing track of the Halton county railway, restore the electric railway museum, and conduct guided tours.

Eden Mills Theatre incorporated receives \$6,804 for 10 people to organize a workshop in basic theatre, technical skills and creative drama for children of that area. There will be weekly play productions with a major production at the end of the summer.

At Lathemhouse, \$1,485 goes to four young people who intend to restore a lime kiln and clean other kilns in the old limestone factory. A history of the lime kiln industry will also be compiled.

District grants

At Erin a dozen young people called the Beaver Buses receive \$7,300 for a play and learn project in arts and crafts, drama, music and conservation for children in three groups, 4 to 6 years, 7 to 9, and 10 to 12. They also plan trips to museums, Science Centre and Ontario Place.

Initiative '72 is the name of the Georgetown project which was awarded \$13,595. The program of summer recreation and entertainment is planned in co-operative workshops and community participation will be encouraged in interest groups.

These projects were all announced in a second list released this week. Additional grants will be announced later.

Will re-submit

One project submitted by Acton young people was not approved, but has been revised and is being submitted again by its sponsors.

Experienced young members of Acton Citizens Band had proposed, with band backing, to teach band instruments to interested students from grades 6 to 9 in small groups.

The original budget was for \$10,990 and it has been slashed to \$3,800 for the re-submission.

Stephanie Merrin, who was one of those involved in the band presentation, said this week the new figure with outline of cutdown expenses and staff will be sent to both the Hon. George Kerr in hopes of provincial funds and the Opportunities for Youth again. Apparently more federal funds are to be made available.

Cut figures

The revised project description is the same as the original, except that they now propose to instruct 50 beginners and 20 intermediates rather than 65 beginners and 20 intermediates. Instructors are cut from three post-secondary students at \$80 and eight high school students at \$60 to two post-secondary at \$75 and three high school students at \$60. They are all band members. Duration of lessons is cut from 15 weeks to 11 weeks and now one week of day camp at Rockwood

instead of the previous two weeks.

The use of the band hall and 22 instruments, telephone and office space, music and music stands had been donated by the band executive.

The purpose of the project is to introduce interested students to the basic techniques of playing a band instrument during the summer since Acton schools do not offer instrumental music. (Acton high school is the only high school in the county without instrumental music.)

As well, the young people who completed an introductory course given by the band in the winter would be given training in group playing as a junior band.

In homes

The summer teaching sessions for beginners would take place in the homes of students with one hour of instruction a day for small groups. Recitals were planned.

The presentation points out there are 381 students in the suggested grades and they anticipated no difficulty reaching the quota of 50 beginners since there are always waiting lists for the band's training classes.

The beneficial effects of the project are outlined in the submission. Supporting letters had gone along with the presentation which was not accepted.

\$100 damage

A minor car accident on Sunday resulted in a total of \$100 estimated damage to cars driven by Lillian Cook, Mill W., and Barbara Ness, R.R. 3, Rockwood. No charge was laid by investigating Acton police.

Harry Hibbs turns arena into squid-jiggin' ground

Over 1,000 people jammed facilities at the Acton community centre Saturday night, as Harry Hibbs and the Shrimp Cocktail played for dancing.

Acton Lions Club, which sponsored the show were pleased by the "terrific" response.

Lion Chief Art Gordon told the Free Press they had to turn latecomers away because their just wasn't any more room in the arena. "That dance floor was so full it looked like the floor was dancing," he said. But the Lions were tremendously pleased with the response and support they received.

"There were people from as far away as Port Credit, Sudbury and Collingwood," the Lion Chief said, "and some of them just came to listen." "We thought we would be lucky to get 800 people there—and that was what we set up for—but it was over the top all the way."

Financially the night exceeded all expectations and the Lions propose to bring Harry Hibbs and the band back again in the Fall in another big night.

What also pleased the Lions was the fact that all ages were attracted and could dance to Hibbs and the band. A lot of the crowd were former Newfoundlanders and to keep in the spirit of the occasion the band played the Newfoundland anthem at the tail end of the evening.

The band played all types of music and accompanied head liner Hibbs as he entertained with his songs and accordion.

Coxe praises firefighters

Acton firefighters came in for high praise at last week's meeting of Esqueving council, after council approved a modest \$655 equipment budget for the Acton fire area.

Councillor Len Coxe paid tribute to the Acton brigade with these words:

"It's hard to appreciate there's as solid a firefighting brigade in the district, with the small budget they submit. They do a good job."



HARRY HIBBS and the Shrimp Cocktail scored a big hit with the huge audience at the Lions Club Spring Frolic in the community centre Saturday night. The event was a huge success and patrons are already asking for an encore appearance by the group.