

Council asks OMB

Can town afford \$2.6 million?



Halton Hills council decided last Tuesday to ask the O.M.B. if the town can afford to spend 2.6 million dollars on four recreational projects—the library addition, the Georgetown pool, Acton pool and the arena-theatre complex.

Tuesday night council voted to ask the regional council to make an application to the OMB for capital authorization. The applications will be made separately, and on the motion were listed with the arena-theatre complex cost at \$1.6 million, the Georgetown swimming pool at \$500,000,

the library addition at \$300,000 and the Acton swimming pool at \$150,000.

The application for capital authorization is not an application for debentures. Clerk administrator Doug Pritchard emphasized. "It is just a part of the five year capital forecast, which must be made by every municipality. In this case the 2.6 million would be the 1974 section of the five year forecast."

He stated approval of a five year forecast simply means the O.M.B. is saying the municipality could support this degree of indebtedness.

"The town would still have to go through all the procedures to issue debentures."

Councillors Harry Levy and Joe Hurst pointed out expected monies might not arrive before construction started, so the larger amount would be needed for a time, then repaid later.

Tuesday night Councillor Dick Howitt reviewed the financial picture of the Acton pool. He said Acton Lion club had received \$65,000 from the town of Acton, \$5,000 from Esquesing, \$75,000 to come from winter works grants, \$15,000 from recreation grants, and \$14,000 from an

L.I.P. grant. He said the club hopes to raise \$50,000 by public subscription.

The remainder is incorporated in the 2.6 million capital forecast.

Councillor Les Dudy explained that Acton was urgent on the Acton pool so it could qualify for winter works grants and urged it be placed first on the list. He found no support.

A second motion from councillors Hurst and Howitt to ask the two members of parliament, Hon. Jim Snow and George Kerr to speed up an OMB decision on the capital approval for the Acton

pool was withdrawn when Councillor Era Hyde objected.

He claimed the motion should refer to both pools. "You are ninking a priority out of Acton pool when our pool as well as yours is well the way," said Hyde.

He suggested benefiting wards should bear the cost of such projects.

Howitt wondered aloud what this would do to his taxes. "Are we talking five dollars, \$50 or \$500?" he asked.

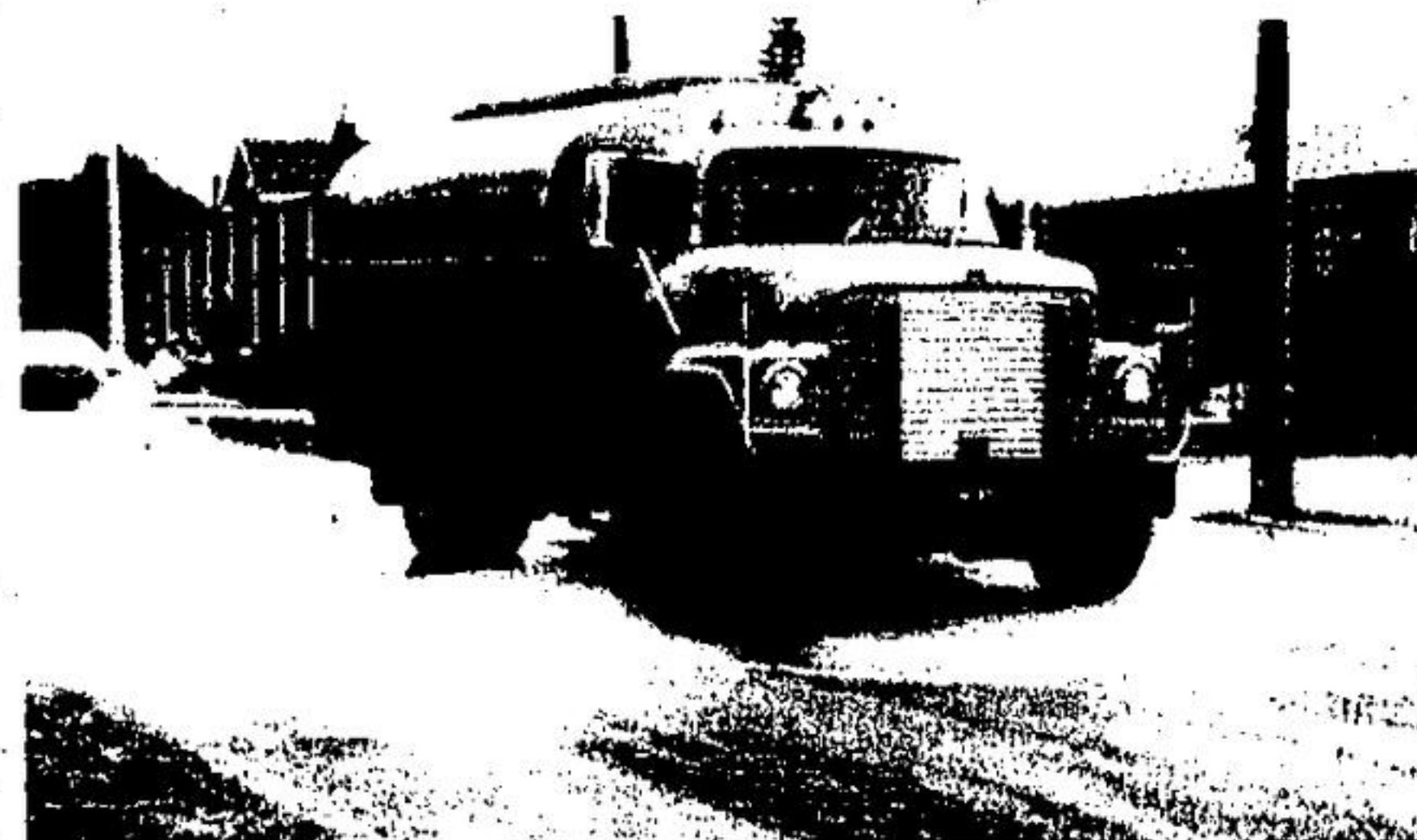
The previous night a delegation of Acton Lions club members, at council

meeting were told the town did not want to steal their thunder, but merely wanted to help them receive all available grants.

Councillor Ric Morrow told committee chairman Art Gordon that the pool would have to be classed as a municipal project to be eligible for some grants.

After lengthy discussion it was agreed the town of Halton Hills would assume all debts and look after financial arrangements for the Acton Pool, while the Lions Club would continue their fund raising drive.

Spring



ONE OF THE BENEFITS of regional government for Acton is the use of equipment owned by the former town of Georgetown. The Spring clean-up started last week and is continuing along roads grimy with winter's refuse.

\$1,500,000 project

Sewage plant addition boosts capital budget

Georgetown's \$1,500,000 sewage treatment plant expansion must be included in the 1974 capital budget forecast or it will never receive Ontario Municipal Board approval, members of the Halton Hills Council's finance committee agreed Monday.

The big project pushes this year's total capital budget to

\$5,183,000—a figure treasurer Lloyd Peterson warned the committee the OMB would "never approve."

Not all that money will have to come from Halton Hills as some of the projects will be financed by Halton regional council, but they must be listed in Halton Hills' forecast in order to gain OMB sanction.

Peterson suggested the OMB will want the town to list its projects in order of priorities and he feared some of the low priority items won't likely be left on the list when it reaches the OMB. The finance committee agreed to send the list of capital items to all members of council and ask each councillor to come up with a list of priorities in

time for next week's meeting of the full council.

The sewage plant expansion is designed to allow growth to 30,000 people within the area served by the plant. Clerk-administrator Douglas Pritchard told the committee it was hoped tenders could be called this summer and work should start in the fall with an August 1975 completion.

Halton Regional Council must also list the Georgetown project on its capital forecast so the local council should give final approval to its forecast next week—March 31 is the deadline for all submissions.

Last year's Georgetown capital budget was \$1,950,000 and Acton's was \$267,000. Esquesing had none.

Included this year are the library at \$300,000; hydro \$100,000; roads \$285,000; storm sewers \$172,000; fire department \$300,000; water works \$75,000; recreation \$2,350,000; general \$100,000 and the sewage plant at \$1,500,000, for a total of \$5,183,000.

ANNOUNCEMENT



"Godfrey R. Matthews"
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Everest House
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Guelph 824-1230
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Coroner's jury rules quarry workers died of carbon monoxide poisoning

A coroner's jury has ruled that the three construction workers discovered dead at Acton quarries February 6 died of carbon monoxide poisoning as gas leaked into their mobile home.

Incomplete combustion from a propane torch in a

make-shift apparatus used to thaw pipes under the trailer was given as the source of the gas. The jury recommended that propane torches should carry warning tags to prevent accidents similar to the one which killed Cecil Brown, 58; Henry Ney 42; and Hugh Todd 35. Ney and Brown were

from Burks Falls and Todd from Bracebridge.

The three men were employed by Dineen Construction of Toronto and had been working at the Indusmin Quarry since November removing overburden from the limestone. Ney was

superintendent of the project while Brown and Todd were equipment operators.

Gas collected under the trailer and leaked through a cap between the trailer and an adjoining office, and through the door of the trailer. William Butler, an investigator with the Ontario ministry of consumer and commercial relations, said carbon monoxide is odorless, colorless and tasteless and the men would not have detected it.

It is believed the trio went into their trailer about 6:30 p.m. on the night before their bodies were discovered by Clarence Mathies of R.R. 3, Acton, a friend.

Mr. Mathies arrived at the quarry about 7:15 a.m. and found the three men were not up. He opened an unlocked door and went inside the trailer.

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Trinity extends call to 'Padre of the Pubs'

The congregation of Trinity United Church, Acton, has extended a call to the Rev. W. Eric Nelson, M.A., B.D. to become the church's new minister subject to approval of Halton Presbytery.

Known as the "Padre of the Pubs", Mr. Nelson has indicated acceptance of the call.

Born and educated in Ireland he received his B.A. and M.A. from Dublin University and theological training at the University of Belfast. He began his ministry in his native Ireland and served as a missionary in West Bengal and India before coming to Canada in 1957.

Mr. Nelson served two Ontario pastorates at Drayton and Walkerton before accepting a special ministry as Padre of the Pubs in Toronto until December, 1973, when this downtown project was discontinued.

Since the beginning of this year he has been taking a course in supervised pastoral education.

The pastoral relations committee of Trinity United unanimously recommended to the congregation that the call be issued to Rev. Nelson. Dr. W. G. Onions will continue as minister until Rev. Nelson assumes his duties, likely in August of this year. Dr. Onion's last services in Acton are to be held on June 23, when he will retire.

Commissioner J.R. MacArthur and superintendent Doug Mason of the Acton Hydro Commission and F. H. (Bert) Smith of the Rockwood Hydro were among 1500 delegates at one of the most important conventions held by the Ontario Municipal Electric Association. The OMEA represents about 350 municipal electric commissions who distribute electric power to about two million household customers.

Golden Age band proposed by group

Forty-three members of the Acton Golden Age club met in the Luxton hall on Tuesday to enjoy a pleasant afternoon meeting.

During business a rhythm band was discussed. Talented members had recently joined the club and all members with musical instruments owned by the former band were asked to bring them to the next meeting. It is the hope of the group that something can be organized.

Of special interest was the celebration of the 88th birthday of Mrs. Robert

McEnery. Members feted her with a cake and a "Happy Birthday" song.

Eight tables of euchre and three tables of crokinole supplied entertainment for the afternoon. Prizes for the euchre champions were presented to Mrs. Fountain and Mrs. McEnery for the ladies and Mr. Lillierop and Mr. Post the gentlemen winners. In crokinole Mrs. Hargrave and Miss Akins took the prizes and for gents, Mr. Healey and Mr. Mann.

A lunch and social chat concluded a pleasant afternoon.

Players entertain

Eight young players of Acton Citizens Band entertained members of Lakeside chapter of the I.O.D.E. at their meeting in the Legion Hall Tues., March 5.

A pot luck supper was enjoyed before the meeting with 28 attending. April 1 will be a night at Mohawk raceway and there will be a centennial tea early in June.

Articles for a bale are requested for the April meeting.

One crash this week

Acton OPP report only one accident this week.

On Saturday, March 9 at 5 p.m. two vehicles collided at the Queen St. Becker's parking lot. Both cars were backing simultaneously and a minor collision occurred. Alfred W. Winter of R.R. 2, Acton sustained \$50 worth of damage to the left side of his car while the vehicle of Edward Doley, Acton, was not damaged.

OMEA critical of Queen's Park

The OMEA decided the Ontario Government will be taken to the courts if it fails to give municipalities sufficient say in running the electricity system. The resolution states the Ontario Government will be asked to issue common voting stock certificates in

Ontario Hydro Board. The Association's official view is this does not represent the local municipalities ownership of the electricity system. The OMEA claims it needs more representation on the Board to continue its traditional role of safeguarding consumers' interests, particularly in the area of rates.

The OMEA decided the Ontario Government will be taken to the courts if it fails to give municipalities sufficient say in running the electricity system. The resolution states the Ontario Government will be asked to issue common voting stock certificates in

Hydro to each municipality's equity in the system.

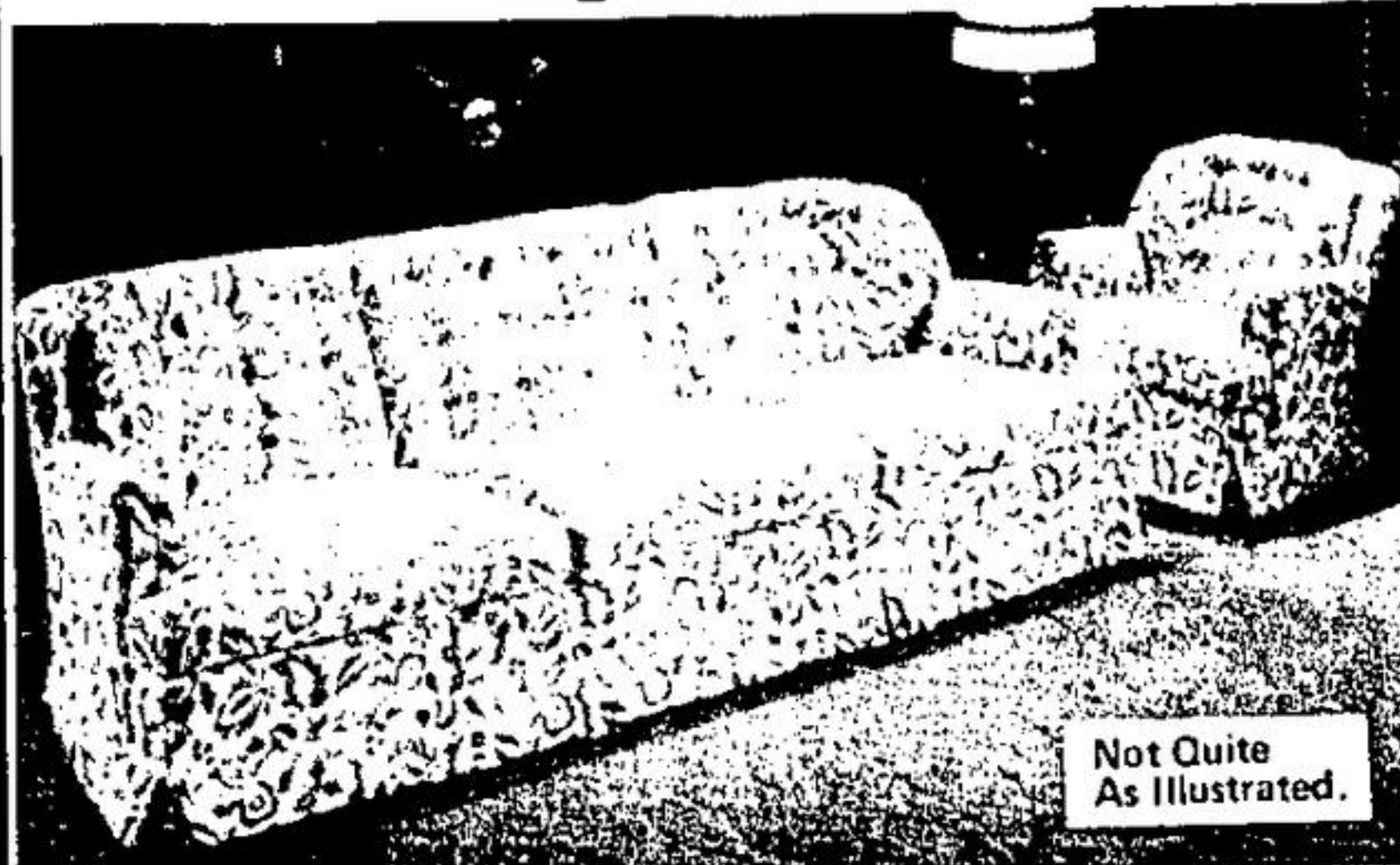
Meanwhile, commissioners of the Acton Hydro Commission are similarly concerned about the impending regionalization of the utilities.

Chairman Wilf McEachern is concerned that Halton Hills may not have a Hydro commission of its own if it

decided a one tier system of control is inaugurated. An advocate of two tiers he says it is the only way residents of Halton Hills will have a voice in the hydro system.

"We should have some means of local contact with Hydro that is meaningful," he told the Free Press, otherwise we could be heading into a bureaucracy where the customer gets lost."

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TENDERS

The Corporation of the Town of Milton invites applications to provide

Small Animal Control

The applicant will be expected to provide all necessary facilities for the keeping and sheltering of animals, and the vehicle or vehicles for patrolling.

The applicant will be expected to provide a continual control of the entire Municipality on a daily basis.

Applications to be received by the undersigned by 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 22nd, 1974.

J. McGeachie, Clerk,
Town of Milton,
251 Main Street, East,
Milton, Ontario.

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