

ARCHITECT'S DRAWING OF THE PROPOSED ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM AT KELSO.

Reveal building plans at agricultural museum

Calling of tenders for the construction of stage two of a new agricultural museum, which will become the first public institution of its type to represent the entire Province of Ontario, was announced this week by Jim Snow, Halton East MPP and Minister of Government Services.

A Ministry of Agriculture and Food project, the museum will be situated on a 92-acre site, adjacent to the Kelso Conservation Area, west of the town of Milton and south of Highway 401.

Development of the museum is occurring in three stages and stage two will result in completion of the one-storey structure. Designed by Oakville architects Hallford and Wilson, the museum will cover a gross area of 20,000 square feet.

Workshop too

With two connecting wings and a partial mezzanine area, the building will provide exhibition space for agricultural equipment, models, documents and other artifacts. There will also be a workshop for the construction

of exhibits and the restoration of machinery, as well as an implement storage area, an office and a meeting room.

Contract specifications call for concrete foundations, walls constructed from load bearing masonry, with the roof structure to be a steel deck on steel framing. Interior finishes include painted masonry walls, painted steel ceilings and concrete and crushed stone floors. The building will be heated by an oil-fired, warm air system. Expected completion for the Agricultural Museum is early 1975.

Student job

Most of the project's first stage—site work, including the construction of gravel roads and parking lots—was completed during the summer of 1973 by students of the Heavy Equipment School located near Milton, a branch of Sheridan College of Applied Arts and Technology. Still to be completed, when weather permits, is the spreading of top soil and seeding.

Stage three of the project centres on future development of the rest of the acreage. Planning will include an historical park in which pioneer farmsteads would be located and restored on site, to represent various regions, periods and types of Ontario agriculture.

NEW RAIL

In the last decade 1,500 miles of new railway line has been built in Canada, about offsetting the mileage abandoned as unprofitable.

EMO safe from critics again

A solution appears to have been found for the ongoing problem concerning the Emergency Measures Organization. Halton Regional Council has decided to incorporate the duties of the EMO co-ordinator with the duties of a committee secretary.

The region (and prior to the days of the region, the county) has operated an EMO program. While the EMO budget is one of the smallest if not the smallest of any in the region, it continually is subjected to criticism from elected officials.

Without fail every new council for the past five years at least has publicly cast doubts on the value of the function.

Low cost here

Each in turn has reached a point where committee

members were about to recommend dissolving the department. Each, in turn, reconsidered. More often than not the deciding factor has been the 90 per cent grant from the province. The direct cost to the region is \$2,005.

This year as in other years, committee members embarked upon the same course but withdrew at the final hour.

The council had earlier endorsed the hiring of two committee secretaries. Council has agreed to keep EMO director Bill McCreary on staff and increase his duties to include the responsibilities of a committee secretary and that of the EMO co-ordinator as well.

It's expected the dual function of the co-ordinator will at least pacify critics of the program.

Committee can join

Halton Hills Committee of Adjustment received permission from council's finance committee Monday, to join a provincial association and send delegates to a convention.

There has never been a provincial group for these committees before but a new one, "Ontario Association of Committees of Adjustment and Land Division Committees" has just been formed. Finance committee recommended membership be purchased at \$25 for the first member and \$10 for each other member, a total of \$35.

Three delegates and the secretary were authorized to attend the OACALC conference in Hamilton in May. Convention registration is \$35, hotel accommodation is extra.

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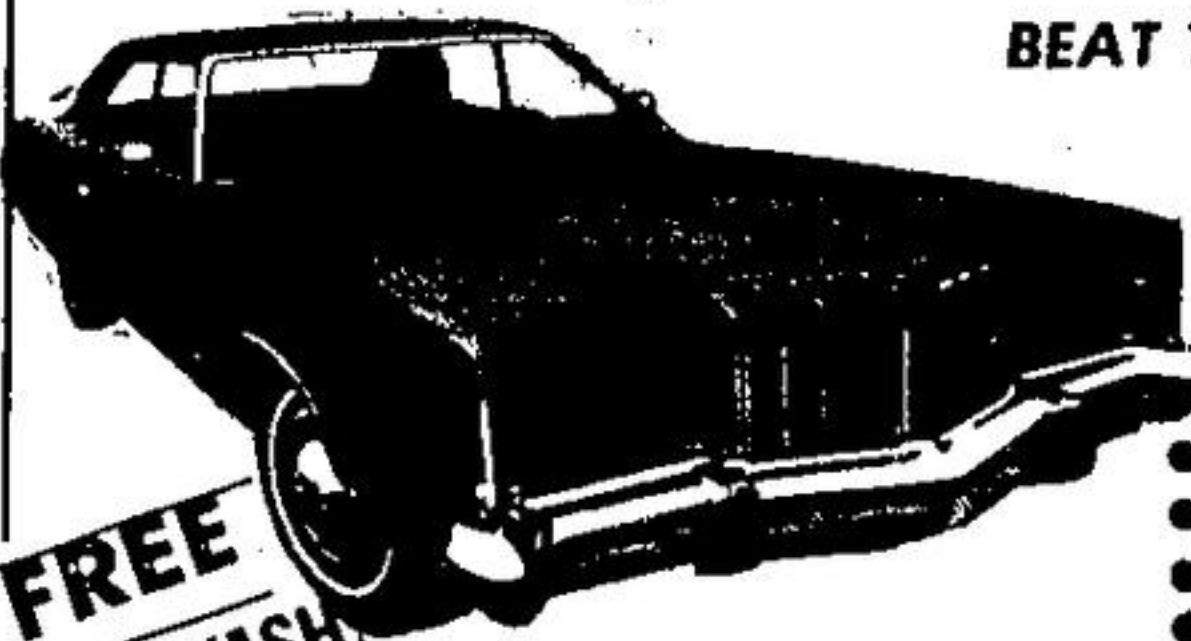
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Turn down two requests get tough on staff hiring

Two requests for staff were turned down by Halton Regional Council Wednesday as council put into effect a "get-tough" policy that has been talked about for some time.

Regional councillors have repeatedly expressed concern about the spiralling costs as the regional staff continues to swell in number.

Both requests had been approved by the administration committee and in one instance council had already approved the creation of a position.

Nix lawyer

At Wednesday's session council rejected a motion that would have provided the regional solicitor with a junior lawyer, a secretary and a stenographer. Solicitor Noel Bates had told the committee that it would be necessary to have these people in his department if the region's commitments under regional government were to be met.

Council also defeated a recommendation that a senior buyer be hired for the purchasing department. Council had already authorized that position and the recommendation carried the name of a man who had been interviewed and chosen by the staff.

Under questioning, treasurer Don Farmer told council that it cost about three times as much to operate the region as it had the county, according to comparative figures. He noted that a large part of the increase was due to the added responsibilities. He noted that municipalities have lesser responsibilities now and should reflect a decrease in the budget.

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