



EVERYTHING WAS SET and contractors raring to go for the final plunge into the \$268,000 Centennial project of the Acton Lions swimming pool. Members of the Halton County Board of Education met with Con-Dign Limited representatives on Tuesday along with members of the Lions club to consummate the contract. Shivering in the April cold, Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill officially spaded the first sod and, seen watching proceedings

are, Les Duby, Pat McKenzie, Jim Evans, Halton Board of Education maintenance supervisor; Lions club members Don Gordon and Tom Fountain; David Katz, principal of Acton high school; Doug Pritchard, clerk of Halton Hills; Reg Irish, supervisor of design construction for the Board of Education; Art Gordon, Lions club project chairman; Donald R. Snider, engineering architect and Gordon V. Hicks of Con-Dign Limited construction

Roast capital forecast at committee meeting

Halton Hills controversial \$4.4 million capital budget forecast took a roasting at the hands of council's finance and personnel committee Monday night.

"If regional council had passed the request we could no more finance that than fly," said chairman G. W. (Pat) McKenzie. "I'm criticizing council as well as myself for letting it go without more consideration."

McKenzie said what bothered him particularly was that other area councils spent as much as two days considering their requests while Halton Hills never discussed it intelligently especially at the council level. As a result it was left to the region to send it back with cuts of \$880,000 requested.

"We should have submitted our budget to the region," agreed Councillor Ernie Sykes, "and we haven't struck it yet."

Sykes noted the figures sent to the region were really only the starting base and not the figures which will be used. Council had never really considered cuts but lumped all capital expenditure requests into one forecast and sent them away.

The committee studied the forecast with jaundiced eye, agreeing the \$880,000 the region asked to be cut would easily be met. The chairman enquired how they arrived at the \$2,100,000 figure for recreation. Lloyd Peterson said it came from the recreation department.

"Once again it is only a starting base," said Councillor Sykes — "a preliminary figure which should be slashed by a million dollars."

McKenzie said a slashing exercise was something council must force themselves to go through to unite the municipality instead of relying on the region to do their work for them.

McKenzie said he talked to the mayor who agreed they must have a committee of the whole meeting on the capital forecast. He pointed out Councillor Ric Morrow had his ideas on changes in the forecast and had been trying to sell them. In McKenzie's opinion it was a matter for the entire council.

Treasurer Lloyd Peterson pointed out the idea of the capital budget forecast to the region and the Ontario Municipal Board was to get approval for the provincial allotment. He noted the figures sent to the region had been based on resolutions made by council.

Want change in by-law to regulate drag strip

The finance committee of Halton Hills council has recommended an amendment to the former Township of Esquesing by-law regulating and licensing of racing motor vehicles and motorcycles. The amendment would allow a license to operate to be revoked without giving any reason.

The clause is meant to cover the omission.

"I can see it going to court every year," replied Sykes.

"The thing to do is not issue a license," said Miller. Operators of the drag strip agreed to the by-law when it was first drawn up. "They keep coming back for a

license but they don't want to live under the terms of the by-law," Miller complained.

They have a point, too, said Sykes, noting they ran overtime because of heavy nights which forced them to break the by-law. "We have a responsibility to them, too," he felt.

Miller agreed council had responsibilities — to the drag strip operators — but also to the people of the area. He said if the operators agreed to the by-law they should follow it.

We are responsible to them if we issued a license, said Sykes and we must be careful we are not violating their rights.

Invest money from taxes

Tax money in Halton Hills does not sit in the bank waiting to be used. It is invested on a 30 day loan basis, collecting interest for taxpayers.

Monday night the finance committee of council revealed half a million dollars collected from interim taxes had been invested for a 30 day term. Unfortunately it does not appear in the books on the assets side of the ledger.

Councillor Ernie Sykes pointed out that this method of bookkeeping hardly told the true story. Treasurer Lloyd Peterson acknowledged it but noted that when half a million dollars was invested it was not available for the municipality to use.

Mr. Sykes acknowledged the point but the issue was left unsolved.

Firemen hose gas tank leak

Members of the Acton fire brigade were called out on Monday night at approximately 10:30 p.m. when alerted by a Constable Nick Farion that a gas tank on a vehicle located on the corner of John and Mill Streets was leaking gas.

Firemen were instructed by Fire Chief Mick Holmes to take out the fire truck and hose down the road. No identification was made as to ownership of the vehicle.

18 is the age for cigarettes

Acton police have had complaints of business owners selling cigarettes to minors. Police remind shopowners and parents that no one is allowed to supply cigarettes to people under 18 years of age. It is often erroneously thought the legal age is 16.

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Half of fence cost approved

After discussing policy principles, Halton Hills works committee agreed to recommend to council that up to 50 per cent subsidy be paid of the cost of a four-foot chain link fence at the rear of the Knechtel property in Acton Meadows, abutting town land on Mill St. E.

Mrs. J. R. Knechtel had written council. They intend putting up a fence to prevent school children cutting through their property. She inquired about cost sharing.

Chairman Len Coxie felt the town was obliged to pay half the cost although councillor Ern Hyde disagreed. Mr. Hyde also thought neighboring property owners should be contacted first.

Usual procedure is to give

Development proposed for Fifth Line — 7 Highway

An estate development of 16 lots, each two-and-half acres in size, on the south side of Highway 7 and the Fifth Line was proposed to the general administration committee of Halton Hills council, Monday night. The 100-acre parcel was formerly the John Fox farm.

M.P. Brodigan, vice president of Woodland Associates, planning and engineering consultants, said the open space, and wooded area would be retained. He told the committee the part of the open space area with a water course running through it had been offered to the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, but had been refused since they had no adjacent land on the area. He asked the committee for an amendment to the official plan.

Mr. Brodigan said mini-

farms of six and seven acres would be retained as part of the development.

Councillor Dick Howitt pointed out the basic philosophy of the official plan was to keep good agricultural land as farmland.

In reply, Mr. Brodigan stated this land was classified as third grade, and was not large enough to support a good farm. He claimed there was only a small area of good land which would be used by the two mini-farms, he termed these "hobby farms" since they were too small to support full time farming.

He admitted the homes would be "pretty expensive", and reminded the committee they were estate type, two and a half acre lots, with one

central well, a pump house and water piped to the individual homes.

Mr. Brodigan claimed soil tests had proven the land suitable for septic tanks.

Howitt said the development met much of the criteria demanded in the official plan, as long as it wasn't good productive land. "It falls within the estate type of subdivision foreseen in the official plan."

He pointed out the former Esquesing planning board had more than a dozen such applications before them at the end of the year.

The proposal was turned over to planner Mario Venditti and the planning advisory sub-committee.

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Swim pool blitz as first sod dug

Actonians may be swimming in their new centennial pool by steamy August.

Lions club members are exuberant and Tuesday's meeting with officials of the Halton County Board of

Education, together with representatives of Con-Dign Limited, the Kitchener contractors hired to complete the job, was finally sealed on Tuesday forenoon.

"We're still shooting for

the Aug. 15 opening date," says campaign chairman Art Gordon who relates that wheels are beginning to turn and Acton residents who have not yet subscribed to the project are moving in and making requests to be included.

Construction is expected to begin within the next two weeks, according to Art Gordon and, if the 25 metre pool is

completed according to plan, Acton residents should enjoy many hours of relaxed swimming enjoyment.

Merit

According to Principal David Katz of the Acton High school, district high and elementary schools will have scheduled access and be able to take advantage of the new resource. "Hopefully it will

be open every weekend to the public," says the principal who can see tremendous merit in the community project.

Again the hope from campaign chairman Art Gordon is that residents will subscribe and canvassers get on the job. \$20,000 remains to be collected and the chairman feels that "people contact" is the answer.



EVERY TUESDAY afternoon family counsellor Alan Borland takes over the former clerk's quarters in the town offices for appointments.

Garbage dumped at closed sites

Garbage is still being abandoned at closed dumps. Halton Hills works committee learned Monday.

At both Esquesing and Georgetown dumps, people are driving up, finding the site closed, and abandoning their garbage anyway. At the new site in Georgetown, garbage is being left after hours at the gate or over the fence.

The police will be informed of the problem and the region will be notified.

Mr. Coxie pointed out maybe council was a little to

blame at Esquesing since notices weren't put in the paper before the dump was closed. He suggested going through the garbage and finding names.

Meeting in Guelph to oppose corridor route

A mass meeting to hear the "story that Ontario Hydro hasn't told" about their proposed hydro corridors is being held in Guelph at the John F. Ross Collegiate next Wednesday, April 17.

Special guest is Gordon Hill, president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, who will lead a panel to discuss what has become a burning issue in the farmlands which stretch from Milton to the Bruce power station at Douglas Point. Hydro's image is so bad Energy Minister Darcy McKeough apologized for it at the Wellington South Progressive Conservative Association last week.

Citizens from North Halton and Wellington are involved in the meeting next Wednesday where questions are going to be asked about whether those affected have ever been asked?—if the extra power is for Toronto, the province or just for the United States?

This area has been affected by the release of the Solandt Commission report which recommends a 720 foot swath of towers five abreast marching through the

centre of Halton Hills into Erin township through the middle of the Fifth Concession. Residents hope to hand up with disaffected farmers along the proposed route from Bradley to Georgetown which proposes to cut the Niagara Escarpment at Limehouse.

Some residents of this area believe Hydro could use two or three more feasible alternatives for their lines which would be less destructive environmentally and affect fewer people. Mr. McKeough admitted in Guelph that Hydro's methods in the past had got them into much trouble.

Route of the Bradley to Georgetown corridor has not been set, according to Hydro, but residents of the area believe Dr. Solandt's decision about a Limehouse crossing of the Escarpment makes further public meetings with Hydro pointless. Instead they intend to present a united front with disaffected people along the route which would show Hydro they were not going to be browbeaten.

The meeting at Guelph next Wednesday is open to all interested. Theme is HOPE—hydro or people energy.



SMILES AND tears at Acton Figure Skating Club carnival Saturday — and mostly all smiles. Left, Easter eggs Sharon Campbell and Julie Townsley wait their turn to pop out of Easter baskets. Right,

Lisa Kuuter as a green pea from the garden tries to persuade little cow Christine Couture not to cry. Story and more pictures in the second section of today's Free Press.