

# Advisory role advocated at Renaissance forum

There were under 20 interested Actonians in the group of 50 gathered Friday in the M. Z. Bennett school auditorium for the local meeting arranged by the Halton Renaissance committee.

Chairman of the Renaissance committee Ken Campbell explained to the group that since each town has its own sense of community, a special meeting had been arranged for Acton. We're groping our way in terms of these citizens' forums, he explained.

Many have joined the committee, some seeking anonymity. Members from other towns attended the meeting Friday and joined in the discussion. But no provocative questions came from the smattering of Actonians there.

Program chairman was Helen Schizisi of Milton. The evening's speaker was W. B. Elsley, who lives several miles south of Acton. A lifetime educator, he was at Northern Vocation school for 34 years and served on the consultative committee that recommended to government the regional structures for education.

A teacher's goal is to produce good citizens—to teach pupils, not the subject matter, he explained.

In 1966 when he served on the committee which resulted in the Halton board, he visited all schools and felt they were providing good education within their limits. Equal opportunity did not exist, and this has in fair degree been rectified. It's been more costly than anticipated, he said, with the annual budget doubled since 1967.

A recommendation had been that the county board system be revised in five years—and now may be the time.

This original committee had authorized the formation of advisory committees with considerable scope. Maybe, he said, we should have, for instance, a Halton Hills advisory committee: "a real chance for a greater voice."

The Renaissance committee is recommending this be done county-wide.

"How many would give their time and talents for the good of the cause?" It would be a continuing process—not just letting off steam.

We live in a permissive, affluent, youth-oriented society, riddled with bureaucratic control—so we feel helpless, Mr. Elsley observed. And we're heading into the same thing with

regional government. "Can we have a hard education in a soft society?"

Chairman's report Renaissance chairman Ken Campbell read a report prepared for this series of citizens' forums, explaining the origins of the movement in the dissatisfaction he and his wife felt over certain trends in education.

Incidents at M. M. Robinson high school which triggered their protest, morally offensive reading material and the visit of Gay Lib, are only symptoms of the disease. The Renaissance protest is not focussed on particulars but on general trends, he stated.

He told of other frustrated parents who wished to have a significant influence on the policies under which their children are being educated

and his decision to form a lobby.

With this series of citizens' forums we are seeking input from citizens in oral and written form for study by the consultants appointed by the Renaissance committee, from which proposals, reflecting parent and taxpayer insight, will be prepared for presentation to the county board.

When the citizens' forums are over, Mr. Campbell explained, problem areas will be listed, information will be circulated to members, and the resolutions will be prepared to go before a general membership meeting in May. Then these proposals will go to the board of education.

Among those speaking were local trustee Tom Watson, superintendents Don Gentleman and Jim

Morrison, Renaissance treasurer Fred Benson of Campbellville, and vice-chairman Betty Hansford of Oakville.

The audience included two local teachers, and one of them concluded the evening with her observations. Jean Somerville, a teacher 25 years, explained to the meeting's organizers it was not because parents here are not interested, that they are not at the meeting. Last week it was packed here for Open House, she observed. Rather, we're lucky to have such a good representative, Tom Watson, who is always willing to listen.

She added pertinent remarks: some classes amount to babysitting; some teachers are trying to do the work of parents, too.

Her remarks, applicable to the Acton situation, were applauded.



ABOUT 50 attended the Renaissance committee citizens' forum for Acton last Friday in the M. Z. Bennett school. Many of these were supporters from outside the area, with estimated under 20 from Acton. Ken Campbell and W. B. Elsley outlined the committee's origin and desire for more citizen involvement in what is taught in schools. There were no challengers in the quiet audience although amiable discussion lasted till nearly 11 p.m.

# The Acton Free Press

Ninety-Ninth Year No. 44

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1974

Twenty-Six Pages—Fifteen Cents

## Cost nixes tennis site

Although \$11,500 is set aside in a reserve fund for tennis courts for Acton, a cost estimate of preparing the proposed site is \$11,000.

Halton Hills engineering department checked the site beside the scout hall prior to the calling of tenders, and found the grade difference seven and a half feet. The cost estimate for granular B fill, at \$2 a ton, brought the estimated price of \$11,000.

Other sites will be looked at by the recreation and engineering departments. The M. Z. Bennett school had been the original suggestion of the newly-formed tennis club, anyway. The park or high school are other possibilities.

"It is very unfortunate," recreation director Doug Collison said Tuesday. The inevitable change in location will mean more delays.

He had been given permission by Halton Hills council to go ahead and call tenders. Now the problem will have to go back to council.

The suggested location was on Robert Little school property beside the scout hall.

The sum of \$11,500 was established in the reserve fund by the bylaw of the former town of Acton for construction of tennis courts. The school board had suggested the Robert Little site, having in mind the fact the swimming pool would be built at the high school. The original location proposed for the M. Z. Bennett school was destined for a parking lot.

Tennis club members don't know what will happen next. "We don't have anything to do with it any more," says tennis club president George Elliott. "It's been taken over by Halton Hills council."



MUSIC major at Queens, Joe Petric performed both classics and modern selections on his free bass accordion Sunday evening at the music centre.

## Lorne Scots Cadets here

A separate cadet corps in Acton has been formed by the Lorne Scots. Noel Weir heads the corps here, and training has begun in the Y. It was decided to have a separate group here because of transportation difficulties encountered by the boys and girls.

The eight-month-old Lorne Scots cadet corps will have its first annual inspection on Wednesday, May 29. There are 45 members. The public are invited to the inspection.

To camp This year the number attending camps has jumped considerably. Last year only five went to Ipperwash while this year 12 will spend two weeks at Ipperwash Jr. Cadet Corps camp, and another 12 will spend six weeks at the camp.

Two cadets will be trained as pipers at the Junior Band Camp and one cadet will take a complete six week rifle course at CFB Borden. Six of the youngest members will spend five days at a new camp at Owen Sound, while two more will go to survival camp near Ottawa.

## Les Duby back home

Home from hospital Tuesday came councillor Les Duby, with heart attack ruled out by his doctors in Guelph. He had been having tests since two days after the Citizen of the Year dinner, when he was the genial-usual guest of honor.



JULIE SMITH was assisted at her concert Sunday by her fiance Tom Pietrangolo, who also studies music at Western.

## Slash capital budget by over 50 per cent

Halton Hills council made a spectacular cut in the budget last Wednesday night — slashing it by over 50 per cent.

The original submission of \$5,183,000 was cut to \$2,365,000, mainly due to a proposal to finance a new Georgetown arena without debentures. Other Georgetown projects still included in the budget are \$250,000 for a library addition and \$430,000 for a swimming pool.

Acton projects such as a new arena roof and tennis courts will come out of a \$100,000 uncommitted reserve from Acton.

Councillor Ric Morrow came up with a proposal for the arena financing, with \$400,000 from the Georgetown reserves and surplus, \$250,000 from the Federal Provincial Winter Capital Fund, \$10,000 from the Community Centre grant, and \$100,000 from the lot levies to be collected from the Elkton subdivision. The total \$760,000 is short only \$40,000 from the estimated cost. Morrow proposed this be raised by public subscription, and suggested any funds in excess of this amount be applied to the debenture for the swimming pool.

With the arena out of the capital budget it now leaves the sewage plant at \$1,500,000, the pool at \$430,000, the library at \$250,000, hydro at \$100,000 and water at \$85,000.

All but the library and the pool are self-liquidating debentures. This means through charges the debentures are paid off without being added to the tax rate, such as the sewer service charge on the water bill which goes to pay off the sewage plant.

modate 9,000 when the population was only 4,500.

In answer to a question, Lloyd Peterson said in his opinion the proposed capital budget of \$2.36 million is a burden the municipality can bear. He said it was below any O.M.B. restrictions.

Councillor Len Cox said he was pleased with the figures presented by Morrow but wanted reassurance from the treasurer.

The treasurer said he had gone over the figures and he substantiated them. He added the \$400,000 for roads could be managed out of current revenue, since there is a 50 per cent subsidy.

Councillor Pat McKenzie said he wanted it made clear that the sewage disposal

plant would be built by the Region and charged back only to the serviced area.

The motion to build the pool passed unchallenged, but the motion to build the arena at top price of \$100,000 was challenged by Councillor Ern Hyde.

He claimed Orangeville had built an arena just last year for \$400,000 and said he would make an amendment bringing the price down to \$600,000.

"What exactly have we cut out of the arena to get it down to \$600,000?" asked Councillor Dick Howitt.

Recreation director Doug Collison said the main cut of course, was the theatre hall, but in addition the lobby would be reduced in size since

it would now serve only the arena, and also there would be a reduction in dressing rooms. "You would still get a 185 foot by 85 foot ice surface, a seating capacity of 1000 seats, and six dressing rooms."

Hyde said he didn't care about the spectators either at the arena or the swimming pool, he wanted to provide for the children.

Morrow said he didn't want a junky looking building on 16 acres of choice land.

McKenzie, Cox and Hyde voted for the \$600,000 amendment, but the rest of the council overruled them and went for the \$800,000 price.

Hyde pointed out the tenders would still control the ultimate cost.

## Summer playgrounds teen program planned

There will be full playground programs at the Robert Little school, M. Z. Bennett school and the park this summer. Recreation director for Halton Hills Doug Collison outlines his department's plans at the first meeting of the new recreation advisory committee in the arena Monday.

School activity rooms will be available for use all summer, he said.

The three locations are

being set up so all the children can walk to the program. The youngsters at the two schools will go to the park for their swim sessions.

Seven weeks The seven week playground will operate mornings and afternoons. It will be a drop-in program with no registration fee. Leaders have been chosen from among applications throughout Halton Hills in an effort to get the best and put

varied skills together, he said.

There will be more stress on arts and crafts this year. More special events and paid activities are anticipated, such as trips to the lion safari or Ontario Place.

He also foresees competition between the various playgrounds to keep interest up. Overall supervisor is a third year recreation student (Continued on page 3)

## First place at Cork for Erin-Eramosa choir

By Doris Fines The Erin-Eramosa choir returned home with a trophy after a glorious ten day trip to Ireland.

The first prize was won at the Cork International Choral and Folk Dance Festival, in the school competition for mixed voices under 18 years. They sang Peter on De Sea, a Canadian composition and Hallelujah Chorus.

The group consisted of young people from the districts of Erin, Hillsburgh, Ospringle, Rockwood, Eden Mills and Guelph, who had been planning and working toward this trip for some time.

Brighter days The tour was a real success. After getting off to a poor start due to difficulties at Toronto airport, brighter days commenced as the Irish airlines took over, paying for

the coaches from Rockwood to Buffalo, and the buses from Buffalo to New York.

Tour director Ken Graham praised the Irish airlines for their wonderful help. They held up the big 747 airliner at New York for an hour, with 250 people on board, until the group arrived.

The Erin-Eramosa choir was one of three choirs invited to sing at the official opening of the festival. Accompanied by Iceland and an Irish choir, they sang immediately after the festival was opened by the President of Ireland.

Six times Standing before an audience of 3,000 people, they proudly sang, to bring honor to Canada. Six times during the four day festival their voices were raised in song, in competition and in other parts of the program. Especially important,

according to those who were there, were concerts they put on at Limerick, Dublin and Mallow. These were in a school, a church, and a town hall in this town 20 miles north of Cork. They were very well received, and it gave them an opportunity to meet and talk to the people while they enjoyed lunch after.

There was also time for sightseeing as they visited old castles, old Irish cottages, harbor villages, and the beautiful Irish countryside. And no trip to Ireland would be complete without kissing the Blarney Stone.

73 in party Everything went along smoothly with no major mishaps. There were 73 in the party including students and chaperones, and it was remarked there wasn't a hotel that wouldn't be glad to have them back. They didn't know

how any group so large could cause so little trouble.

On the return trip they flew from Shannon to New York, singing almost all the way. As the plane neared its destination, an announcement came over the loud speaker that the passengers at the rear wanted to express their thanks for the lively entertainment.

Proud Ken Graham states he was extremely proud of the way they conducted themselves, saying they were a real credit to Canada.

Their performance was televised on Irish television, and they were instantly recognized as they returned to their hotel, by those who had been viewing it.

From New York they arrived in Toronto where buses transported them back to Rockwood in the wee small hours of Monday morning, a tired but happy group.



ERIN-ERAMOSA choir participated in the official opening of the Cork International Choral and Folk Dance Festival, with choirs from Ireland and Iceland. An audience of 3,000 watched the opening, pictured above. The party, 73 strong, was away for ten days and brought back the first prize

trophy for mixed voices under 18 years of age. Equally exciting to the young singers were concerts they sang at Limerick, Dublin and Mallow where they met and talked to the Irish people. The choristers are from Erin, Hillsburgh, Ospringle, Rockwood, Eden Mills and Guelph areas.