

Second look at free playgrounds

Those town playgrounds might not be so free after all. Halton Hills council approved the hiring of students at their Monday night meeting but suggested the budgeting go back to administration committee for further consideration.

Councillor Harry Levy said council was still waiting for more information on costs, revenues, and how much the town will have to fork over to subsidize the playgrounds. He added he didn't want to hold things up so approval should be given to the hiring of students.

Councillor Dick Howitt stated the committee had given council all they asked for and they had already gotten a break down of the figures.

Council discussed the fact that while children will pay to go on bus trips, sponsored by the playgrounds this summer,

the town will still have to subsidize the cost of the bus to some extent.

It was pointed out by Howitt the staff had suggested the children pay \$5 for the five weeks of playground activity but council had turned the idea down.

Councillor Les Duly noted children had always had to pay something in Acton for the playgrounds. He added increased costs were due to expansion of the program into Esqueping township.

Councillor Erin Hyde pointed out he was attacked for criticizing empire builders and this was just another example of empire building. "He wants to expand this without relating to the taxpayers. Esqueping could always come into town and join the playgrounds," Hyde said.

"I think they should pay. Without having to pay something there won't be constant interest. It will be abused if there is no charge. Sure we subsidize most of recreation, like baseball and hockey, but they still pay something," councillor Russ Miller stated.

Howitt pointed out, again, it had been suggested the children pay and council turned the idea down.

Duly said it might be a good idea if the \$5 fee was reconsidered.

McKenzie said the council could always rescind their plan and have the children pay for the playground program. Levy noted the financing situation should go back to committee and "they have got the message and can look at the \$5 question again."

Snow hits Erin hard

If Halton Hills thought they were badly done to by the recent storm, nearby Erin Township people thought they were suddenly transported to Arctic regions.

Drifts of five to six feet in some places made roads impassable for several days. People were stuck in their homes all Saturday when plows were finally able to keep ahead of the drifting snow.

According to Road Superintendent, Ed Gordon, "It was terrible, but we finally got ahead of it. The drifting was fantastic, we could only see over the drifts from high trucks."

Plow contracts were up at the end of March and road crews had started to dismantle the equipment. "We had to scramble in a hurry," Gordon recalls.

In most places, the fields were bare but the roads were well filled as 50 mile an hour gales raced the snow over the open spaces to dump it along fences.

Erin Township were helped by the presence of radios in their trucks.

"We didn't run into cars or onto banks like some town slips," says the superintendent. "The sun was so warm the snow was melting from underneath and we had to be careful not to scrape up

the road gravel with the plows."

As of Tuesday, all Erin roads were open.

The storm didn't affect Erin Township school children quite as much as other area schools. Wellington County schools were on winter break last week and so school buses were not running. However, several children visiting back and forth with slumber parties found themselves on extended stay.

\$18,000 goal

Two of the Cancer Society canvassers have finished their routes already, and many others have brought in part of their returns. Campaign chairman, Arle White, says returns are good about the same as last year at this point.

Captains are bringing donations in to him at the local branch temporary office in the former Dills Stationery store on Mill St.

Canvassers are out here and in Esqueping, \$18,000.

Georgetown, Acton and Esqueping have a joint goal of \$18,000 for the unit. Last year Acton's share came to about \$5,000 and organizers hope for an equally good response this year.

Monday Mr. White took containers for donations and plastic daffodils to all the banks in town.

Visitors are dropping in to the office where Mr. White and a series of volunteers are spending each afternoon, Thursday and Friday evenings.

Permits drop

The value of March building permits in Halton Hills was less than half the amount issued in February.

A total of \$31,537, almost all of it reflected in five house permits, was issued this month. The February total was \$707,000.

With an eye to warmer weather two residents received permits for swimming pools, and ten homeowners decided March was a good time to do home repairs.

Councillors wonder How you contact region at night?

Some members of Halton Hills council are worried about their inability to answer questions for residents about regional matters.

This problem came up at Monday's council meeting and they wondered how they can tell people to get a hold of the region for service, especially at night.

Councillor Pat McKenzie said it was hard to give people direction on who they should contact on water and sewer problems. He added it is even more difficult at night.

Councillor Mike Armstrong said this was one topic discussed at the special meetings of the region and Halton Hills works committees. He said the emergency telephone number had been left out of the present phone book but would be in the next one.

Mayor Tom Hill informed council emergency numbers will be advertised in newspapers so everyone would know who they are to call.

Right now the number is in Milton so until this summer Acton residents will have to call long distance.

Since the council was on the topic of phone problems councillor Len Cox noted he had tried to get through to the town offices for an hour on Monday morning but was unsuccessful.

Council checked into the matter and revealed Tuesday that there was a malfunction on Monday and that Bell has corrected the problem.

Snowmobile by-law could trigger debate

Early indications are there will be a heated debate when the new Halton Hills snowmobile by-law comes before council.

The new by-law expected to come before council sometime in the near future drew stiff criticism from Councillor Harry Levy.

Levy told Monday's council meeting he was disappointed more councillors hadn't offered their advice to the works committee on their feelings about snowmobiles and their use in the town.

Levy said he wished the by-law banned snowmobiling on streets in Halton Hills. Councillor Mike Armstrong agreed it was regrettable no other councillor, besides Levy had offered the works committee advice on the subject.

Councillor Joe Hurst said the committee had gone as far as it could without completely banning snowmobiles. "Work" committee was unanimous that they must have ingress and egress from town. We think we have handled this with the reduced speed and earlier curfews."

Councillor Les Duly said he hadn't contributed to the committee because he has been through the snowmobile problem before and the question always came down to the town forcing everyone to buy a trailer. He added with this in mind he had nothing to contribute.

Councillor Dick Howitt noted it was one thing to keep them off the urban roads but if you did the same thing in the rural areas that would drive snowmobilers onto farms and other private property.

Howitt went on to suggest setting up a list of certain roads snowmobilers could and couldn't use. He added there was less danger for them to run in rural areas. "You can't put a blanket over Halton Hills and say they can't use any roads."

Levy agreed there was less

danger in the rural areas but there was still the chance a child might be hit, even out in the country.

Councillor Len Cox served notice he won't sit still for the urban areas being protected while Esqueping isn't.

Hurst pointed out the by-law rules for ingress and egress apply all over Halton Hills and not just in the urban areas.

Duly said the list of roads idea was bad because it would hurt those who were living on a street where snowmobilers are banned.

It was decided to continue the debate when the by-law comes before council.

Bert Hinton is named Ont. College president

H. H. (Bert) Hinton, of Acton, has been elected president of the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario, (ACAATO).

Mr. Hinton was recently named chairman for the Sheridan College board of governors in Oakville.

As president of ACAATO, Mr. Hinton must attend Council of Regents meetings and work closely with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

"ACAATO must be a useful vehicle for giving a consensus of common problems of colleges and to make recommendations to the Council of Regents and the Ministry to take appropriate actions," Mr. Hinton told this newspaper.

Vice-president to Mr. Hinton is J. Whiting, chairman of the board of governors of St. Lawrence College in Kingston and an officer of the Aluminum Co. of Canada.



H. H. (BERT) Hinton has recently been elected president of ACAATO.

In the next year, about 65,000 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed, happily over half will be alive 5 years from now. April is cancer month, so think before you say no to the Canadian Cancer Society volunteer.

Collect calls emergencies

What do you do when your sewer backs up? Water doesn't flow? Culvert caved in?

The system has changed, and most Acton and district people don't know who to contact.

The region has placed an advertisement in today's Free Press repeating the number to be called in the event of emergency. A smaller notice carrying the number will continue to appear each week until the first of July, when Acton and Milton will be in the same calling area.

Arrangements were being made this week to have the calls from the Acton calling area accepted at no charge to the caller. Actonians must call the operator to place the call to the number, 878-5994. This is a Milton number but it connects with the regional operations office in Burlington.

There are regional workers in the north of the county including some Acton men. The office will dispatch workers to the scene of the emergency. Men are on call 24 hours a day.

There had been complaints that Acton people were unaware of the procedure. Before regional government people here phoned the town or township superintendent.

The new number is in the Acton phone book but under the Rs for Regional.

Inn fire

For the second time in less than a year firemen were called to the scene of a blaze at the Terra Cotta Inn.

Early Friday morning Ingleswood and Cheltenham firemen were at the Terra Cotta Inn to put out a small blaze in a fireplace.

Last August, Terra Cotta Inn was just about completely destroyed in a fire.

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