



BEAMING SCHOOL board trustee Tom Watson inspects plans of new Acton high school with

board chairman Judy Alexander last Thursday. The \$4,415,000 school will be ready in 1978.

# Board unveils plans for new high school

Detailed plans and artist's sketches of the new \$4,415,000 Acton High School slated to open in September 1977 were unveiled at a Halton Board of Education meeting Thursday.

Superintendent of Business and Finance Bruce Lindley revealed the 98,000 square foot building will have a pupil load of 850 and it will cost \$5,194 per student to construct the new school. In addition he told the board it will cost \$37.50 for each square foot of the modern facility.

It is costing the board over \$150,000 to acquire the site for the new school which is located on the west side of Churchill Road North across from the Acton Curling Club. A total of 25 acres has been purchased for the new school at a cost of \$6,500 an acre.

Lindley's report to the board showed it will cost \$3,675,000 to construct the new high school and \$400,000 to equip it. Trustee Bill Lawson noted the cost of equipping the new school is fairly low since a lot of the equipment needed in a high school will simply be moved from the old Acton High School. The old high school will become a middle school. Architects' fees will cost \$248,000 and \$75,000 is going to be spent to develop the 25-

acre site. In addition \$50,000 has been set aside in a contingency fund and legal fees and other expenses will total \$15,000. The board will spend another \$48,000 paying federal sales taxes on building materials but that will be refunded by Ottawa.

**Classrooms**  
Facilities in the new school will include 12 classrooms, three science labs, two art rooms, three shops, a theatre arts class, two home economics rooms, four areas for commercial studies, two seminar rooms and two music classes. One of the music classrooms is for vocal studies and the other for instrumental music.

Other features of the new school include a double

gymnasium with change rooms, a library resource centre, a cafeteria, administration offices, areas set aside for guidance and health facilities and a staff room.

Lindley informed the board construction will start in spring of 1976 and the school has been designed to slope in the same way the site does.

**Library space**  
Trustee Bill Priestner, who was worried about too much space in the library, was informed in the area of the book stacks the floor space met board criteria of just a little over three square feet of space for each student in the school.

Trustee Ernie Bodnar said he was worried about loss of books from school libraries and wondered if any special design was used for the new school to curtail thefts.

He was told the book stacks area was all enclosed and other supplies would be locked away.

Lindley noted the staff for the new high school had been involved in designing the building. Director of Education Emmerson Lavender noted this was the first time

an entire school's staff had been appointed two years ahead of the time the school will open.

**Staff rooms**  
Bodnar said he thought staff rooms aren't conducive to the teachers doing work and thought maybe small offices would be more practical. He noted small office areas would be valuable to those teachers who don't have a permanent classroom.

Lindley pointed out there were four work rooms for the teachers and the teaching staff who had worked with the board on plans for the building thought this was more than adequate.

Bodnar brought up the subject of thefts from student's lockers and thought the idea of putting all the lockers together might not be a good idea but Acton Trustee Tom Watson said putting the lockers in one central area made it easier for the teachers to keep an eye out for incidents of thefts. Watson noted the lockers are in a wide open area and easily observable from the teachers' dining room and

other areas.

**Theatre next?**  
Mr. Watson wondered if any provisions had been made for an addition of a theatre in case the town of Halton Hills wanted to build one at the school in conjunction with the school board the same way pools are built at schools. There have been some suggestions this might be the best way for the town to get a much needed theatre hall.

Mr. Lindley said a theatre could easily be built beside the double gyms.

Trustee Richard Goodin said he would like to see more work areas for the teachers and called the staff room "a resort area."

He also thought teachers should eat with the students. "There is no need for a staff dining room. They should eat with the students. Students get lonely," Goodin said. He added it might create a more family-type atmosphere at the school.

He was informed the teachers considered not having a staff dining room but rejected it because from

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# The Acton Free Press

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## Merchant input Mill rebuilding

Acton merchants, concerned with possible loss of parking on Mill St. East due to the proposed rebuilding of the street, met last Thursday in the fire hall and agreed to present their opinions to Halton Hills council.

Recommendations for Halton Hills to consider are embodied in three resolutions passed by the meeting.

In the first resolution a highway by-pass of the Mill St. area was requested with the provision that no commercial zoning be applied to the land along the bypass.

The second resolution requests that Halton Hills provide additional off-street parking in the business area in the near future.

The final recommendation was that the parking ban presently in force, but not being enforced, on the south side of Mill St. from John St. to the CNR tracks be rescinded.

building program. He said that engineering principles, from the standpoint of moving traffic, dictated that the sidewalks would be widened. However this widening of the sidewalk would reduce the travelled portion of the road to such a point that no parking would be available on one side of the street.

It was this loss of parking in the business district which most distressed the merchants. Mr. Nielsen in support of his concern said his studies indicated that the amount of business being conducted in the business district amounted to approximately eight million dollars in 1971 with a growth to a possible 14 million dollars in 1976.

He reviewed the gradual erosion of parking places in the downtown area noting that 32 parking spaces had been lost at a time when annual growth rate of Acton was between 10 and 12 per cent annually.

highway south of the C.N.R. crossing on Main St. North. It was suggested the rebuilding of the intersection at the junction of Highway 7 and 25 in the north-west corner of town would make this feasible.

Wayne Moss suggested a system of one-way streets in the downtown area could allow the continuation of two-side parking on Mill St. However he didn't think it advisable to suggest what other streets would carry the through traffic diverted from Mill St.

Bert Hinton attempted to suggest a less forceful approach to Halton Hills council, suggesting the way to approach the council was through the ward's elected representatives. However he was unable to develop this idea.

Mrs. Katherine Kelly, who is presently redeveloping the former Legion premises on Main St., indicated that no public parking would be available at that site in the foreseeable future.



COUNCILLOR Pat McKenzie was a happy host when Halton Regional Police Commission met in Acton for the first time last Thursday. He offers sandwiches to chairman Glen Magnuson, Georgetown (left) and Mayor Harry Barrett of Oakville (right).

## Unrest, accusations are hurled at meeting

Several months of heated debate came to a head October 8 when the Acton and Esqueping Recreation Advisory Committee met after more than a month's silence.

Members Pam Sheldon, Ed Wood and Pete Papillon

joined Recreation Coordinator John Cooper in the Wards one and two municipal building for what turned out to be an hour-long discussion of what is going wrong with the committee and a certain recreation program in the Speyside area.

Mrs. Sheldon told this newspaper after the meeting that she went into the meeting with the express purpose of airing her beefs and did not intend to stay for the regular agenda. She was infuriated at the lack of a newspaper ad asking for new members for the committee.

Several months ago, the present committee gave the members a chance to get out of the group by handing in their letter of resignation. Letters were received from Brendan Ahearne, Gil Malcolm and Diane Spielvogel. The latter had resigned some weeks prior to the request. It was assumed Barry Insoe was leaving the committee as there was no response from him.

At the last meeting in early September, Mr. Cooper had told the group he would have an advertisement placed in local newspapers asking for replacements for these people. The ad was to run for two weeks.

According to Mrs. Sheldon, the ad did not appear, and she could see no reason for attending Recreation meetings when it was the same three people each time and they

## Police commissioners meet in Acton Thurs.

For the first time Halton Regional Board of Police Commissioners met in Acton, Regional Police assumed duties in Acton Sept. 1.

Acton regional councillor Pat McKenzie assumed the duties of host and welcomed commissioners to the library meeting room Thursday afternoon. He had arranged sandwiches and pickles and made tea and coffee for a friendly half-hour after the meeting's adjournment.

Attending the meeting were commissioner Glen Magnuson, Georgetown, acting as chairman; commissioner Harry Barrett, mayor of Oakville, chief Skerrett and Supt. Floyd Schwantz, Secretary was Mrs. Isabel Bourdon.

Staff Sgt. Bernie Ward of the Acton precinct joined them.

Since the police commission meetings are regularly attended by reporters from the south of the county, there were more newsmen and photographers at the meeting in Acton than commissioners. There were six reporters present including men from the Toronto Star and Hamilton Spectator.

The commission normally meets in Oakville but members decided to move around from time to time to see the different precincts.

corrected with the installation of a booster aerial on the Beardmore water tank, commissioners learned.

Chief Skerrett reported on exhaustive tests done in Acton when both car and portable radios could not be heard throughout the whole town.

Permission had been given by Beardmore to install the booster and the commissioners will arrange insurance coverage.

"We don't want to go back to the red light system!" Staff Sgt. Ward commented.

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## Break-in charges

Six Acton residents have been arrested following investigations by Halton Regional Police detectives and juvenile officers.

District One commander Superintendent Floyd Schwantz said this week that the arrests of three juveniles and three youths stem from cases involving two house break-ins in Acton, a break-in at the high school and several incidents of merchandise being stolen from cars. The arrests were made on October 8.

Police said the thieves caused \$800 damage to the homes which were broken into and had stolen property worth more than \$600. Most of the stolen goods have been recovered by police.

## Beardmore to meet

Officials of Beardmore Tanneries in Acton will meet with officials of Halton Region's Public Works Committee at the next regular meeting of the committee.

The company officials have requested the committee to consider allowing the firm to have some of the tannery effluent treated in the town's pollution control plant once the plant is expanded.

The committee commissioned environmental consultants to undertake feasibility tests to see if Beardmore's problem could be solved or alleviated.

The Pollutech report indicates that even a small percentage of the plant's effluent would cause the pollution control plant to lower the quality of the effluent. In other words the region can keep on operating the plant and produce a high grade of effluent providing it doesn't allow any of Beardmore's heavy industrial waste to be treated in the system.

## Committee recommends aid for Multi-Service Centre

Halton Hills Council's finance and personnel committee voted last night (Tuesday) to recommend to council financial support of the proposed Acton Multi-Service Centre on a trial basis for 1976 to a maximum of \$3,000.

Appearing on behalf of the centre's steering committee, Peter Marks and Rev. Len Ewing presented the committee with copies of their proposal and explained they hoped to receive 20 per cent of their proposed \$14,915 operating budget from council.

Marks pointed out that the provincial government's Ministry of Community and Social Services had given the steering committee indication of support, but asked to see some sign of local initiative. He said he hoped the provincial government and Halton Region could each

provide 40 per cent of the proposed operating budget.

He said a general presentation has been made to the region and a second meeting has been scheduled.

**In budget**  
Councillor Harry Levy explained that council's hands are pretty well tied as far as grants go for this year, since similar requests were considered only before the budget was struck. He felt any financial support from council would have to be for 1976.

"Is this to be a permanent thing or a stepping stone to a health unit for Acton?" asked Councillor Ernie Sykes.

Marks replied that it is hard to say. If the centre was found to be not needed after a year, it would be dissolved, he said. If it needed to be amended it could be. He said the committee hoped to have

the centre open on November 17.

**Directors**  
Marks pointed out that the centre would have on its board of directors persons from various social agencies. In answer to a question from Councillor Sykes, he said it would be one of Acton's answers to the Georgetown Contact Centre. He said the Acton centre would work with the one in Georgetown on joint training ventures or referrals.

"How essential would it be to have a full time co-ordinator?" asked Councillor Levy.

Marks replied that the committee had first hoped to use volunteers, but on the advice of medical doctors had decided on hiring a professional person. Approximately \$11,000 of the \$14,915

total would go towards the salary of a co-ordinator.

He expressed the opinion that a lot of people with degrees in social work would look at such a job as a challenge over a one year period.

**Support**  
Rev. Ewing said the steering committee has researched similar programs and had already been promised use of an office at the Acton YMCA, as well as use of a large room for counselling at a fee of \$1 per year. He said groups such as the Firefighters and Police and service clubs have lent support to the project in the form of work.

Councillor Pat McKenzie wondered if a small portion of the \$3,000 could not be paid this year to help the centre get going.



A RACE FOR THE PUCK? Acton Sabres held their first exhibition game at the Community Centre Friday evening in front of over 200 fans and defeated Alliston Hornets 4-2. The Sabres

won because of their superior conditioning, outskating the Hornets in the second and third periods. More photographs on the sports page.