

Recommend accept Beardmore effluent in plant

Halton Hills planning board voted unanimously to let Beardmore hook up to Acton's sewage treatment plant, when the addition is completed.

The final decision will be made by Halton Regional council. The effluent must be brought to Ministry of Environment standards. Councillor Ern Hyde summed up the feelings of the board saying, "if Beardmore is willing to spend money to further refine their own treatment plant, they should be allowed to use the town's. They've been there for many years and should have consideration before any future development."

Councillor Les Duby claimed Canada Packers, the parent firm, is willing to improve the treatment of the effluent if they have the assurance they can use the town disposal plant. "We should remember the amount of taxes they pay, and give them consideration before any new development."

Councillor Dick Howitt explained the Region wanted guidance. He said the expanded plant would have a capacity of one million gallons while the present capacity is .6 million.

The regional councillor said Beardmore would take 250,000 gallons a day, leaving 100,000 gallons capacity for any other development.

"Now it's up to us, how do you want to use it?"

Howitt stated the Ministry of Environment say Beardmore's effluent can't be accepted in its present form.

Councillor Pat McKenzie said Beardmore didn't want to spend any more money if there was no hope of using the town plant.

Councillor Joe Hurst said the 10,000 population served by a million gallon plant wouldn't be reached in years so Beardmore should be accommodated.

Planner Mario Venditti contended if every

house and lot is filled in Acton, the population would be 7,500.

Mr. Duby said there was no indication Acton residents wanted the town to grow a great deal. He said the town should do everything to accommodate Beardmore's effluent and claimed the majority of the residents feel the same way.

On a motion by Councillor Roy Booth, planning board recommended to the region that Beardmore's effluent be accepted into the expanded sewage treatment plant, if it can be brought up to Ministry of Environment standards.

The Acton Free Press.

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Thirty Pages - Fifteen Cents



AGRICULTURAL SERVICE diploma is presented Friday to Mary Matthews and her husband Stan (right) by fair board president Ken

Murray (left). They have been associated with the fair for many years and are noted pony and cattle raisers. See inside today's Free Press.

Okay personal pages for Acton firefighters

One more step toward the future was taken at Monday evening's General Administration Committee meeting when the members gave the okay for the purchase of 25 personal pages for the Acton Volunteer Firefighters.

The pages, costing \$369 each, will be the approximate size of a small transistor radio, fire chief Mick Holmes said earlier this month. Each firefighter can wear the device on his belt or hip pocket at all times. A beeping sound will emit from the page in the event of a fire, and summon the man to the firehall.

Mr. Holmes deemed the pages necessary because the town was getting so widespread, some firefighters could not hear the fire siren.

Not at night. The siren, as far as Mr. Holmes knew several weeks ago, would still be used during the day, but phased out at night. The fire chief was out of town when the committee approved the beepers and was unavailable for comment.

However, he was speaking to the Free Press some weeks ago on the matter and thought they were a very good idea.

He explained at the time that the Georgetown volunteers had fire phones in their homes. The siren in that town does not sound after seven o'clock at night. The special phones ring in each home instead of having the sirens disturb the whole town. The Acton beepers will be similar to this method, he said.

Anyone needing the fire-

department's assistance telephones the existing number. Red Aseltine and his wife, the dispatchers, put in the actual alarm.

Mr. Holmes commented on the progress from the hand bell outside the town hall to the beepers of today.

The \$9,000 project must go before council before finalized.

New members for recreation

Three new members were introduced to the Acton and Esquimaux Recreation Advisory Committee last night (Tuesday) with one absent.

Kerwin McPhail, Mary Ann Barrow and Ron Mitchell joined members Pam Sheldon, Ed Wood and Pete Papillon with Elmer Dunn missing.

The four new members are filling the positions of people asked by the remaining committee to hand in their letter of resignation due to lack of attendance or interest.

Ed Wood was elected as chairman of the committee after almost a year of rotating the position. Ron Mitchell volunteered as secretary to take notes and make up the minutes of each meeting. This was previously done by recreation co-ordinator John Cooper. It was however felt earlier this year that one of the actual members should do this job. Mr. Cooper is an advisor to the group.

For further coverage of the meeting, see next week's paper.

Fire chief in Quebec

Acton's brand new fire truck will be in town by tonight (Wednesday).

Fire Chief Mick Holmes went to Quebec on Monday to pick up the vehicle at the factory and is driving it back to Acton. For pictures and a story, see next week's Free Press.

Collision on Tuesday

The first snowstorm brought slippery roads and there were several minor "fender bender" accidents in the district.

In town just before 9 a.m. Tuesday, a car proceeding down Bower ran into the parked car at the police office owned by Cons. Tom Roduck. Driver was Steven Spitzer, Limehouse.

Damage to the Spitzer car was estimated at \$50 and to the Roduck car at \$400.

Cheques go out

Family benefit and vocational rehabilitation cheques were available Monday in the Y. These are both provincial benefits.

Those which hadn't been picked up Monday were taken over to the post office and mailed, going out on Tuesday's delivery.

Halton welfare cheques will be available at the Y next Monday.

Mill reconstruction in 1976

The speedy reconstruction of Mill St. is urged in a report submitted to Halton Hills works committee Monday by assistant town planner R. G. Burnett.

Engineer Bob Austin said the reconstruction, slated for 1976, is necessary if downtown Acton is to survive.

Councillors agreed they were very pleased with the report.

Mr. Austin was directed by the committee to look into the possibilities of a truck bypass for the town as well.

The Chamber of Commerce and parking authority will receive copies of the planning department's report with a request for their comments by January 15, 1976.

Mr. Austin told works committee members reconstruction would likely start on Mill from Main to John and would take two or three weeks with these blocks closed. Next construction would begin on Mill from John to Wilbur, and this section would be closed in turn.

The project is a priority item in the proposed 1976 budget. Councillor Dick Howitt felt this change could have the same impact on Acton as the refurbishing of downtown Streetsville had on that community.

Details of the planning report follow.

There are a number of con-

cerns which have been voiced about the condition of Mill Street from the point of view of traffic circulation, parking, pedestrian movement, timing of re-construction and alternative routes during reconstruction.

Presently, a former summer student Phil Wood, in conjunction with Mr. R. W. McCabe, Ontario's foremost Commercial Market Analyst, is preparing a report on Acton Central Business District. We have discussed with Mr. Wood, the various components of his analysis (expected by early December) and would hope to be able to include the relevant aspects in the re-designing of Mill Street. We see no reason to delay selection of a Design Consultant, as the work could quickly be co-ordinated once one has been chosen.

Traffic Circulation
The creation of a Truck Route using Wallace Street would immediately improve

the condition of congestion, noise, dust, damage to property and problems at the Mill-Main intersection. If this road is ready it could be tried on a temporary, or trial, basis during re-construction.

Automobile Movement
To improve the dangerous situation for the public driving along Mill Street, it will be necessary to widen the traffic lanes. In order to accomplish this it will be necessary to sacrifice either some or all of the present on-street parking, and/or the pedestrian streets (sidewalks).

"The immediate problem this creates is the need for off-

street parking to compensate for the loss of on-street spaces. Off-street parking (discussed in detail later) can be easily solved, and we view as being neither a major item from a location or financial point-of-view. We would ultimately prefer to see the street having no on-street parking, but at present this would be most unpalatable.

"Hence, as an interim measure we are suggesting parking on the north side only, thus providing the necessary 24 or 26 feet for two traffic lanes. Two way traffic on two lanes provides the best alternatives for

present and future vehicular movement through the Acton Central Business District.

Bus Access
"Considerable congestion is created by the movement of buses along Mill Street. With the commencement of Go-Bus from Guelph to Toronto, this may be increased resulting in more danger to persons and property. Thoughts might be given to re-locating the "Bus Stop" to either Bower Ave. (in front of the Post Office) or Church Street (in front of the church), but no recommen-

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Call council pension 'a great money grab'

"One of the most unruly and hottest debates in the two year history of Halton Regional Council preceded council's decision to increase benefits for members of the council. The increased benefit comes in the form of the OMEHS pension plan.

The region's share of that plan will cost \$5,760 per year and councillors drawing from that plan will receive about \$15 a month with 15 years of service providing the contribution stays at today's level. The plan also carries with it a disability benefit and a benefit for widows or widowers of councillors.

The debate on the two by-laws rapidly degenerated into a nasty namecalling and shouting session. The bill finally passed 12-11 with Milton and Burlington representatives swinging the vote.

Regional Chairman Allan Masson banged the count on the vote for the first reading of the first bill. He declared the bill defeated but when his count was challenged and a recorded vote called, the first reading passed on a 13-9 vote.

Extra benefit
Had an amendment to the second by-law backdating the pension plan passed, the cost would have jumped by an additional \$17,000.

Burlington Councillor Mary Munro told council the amendment would have provided councillors with an increased non-taxable benefit

of \$800 per councillor. She was the only one of eight Burlington councillors to oppose the pension scheme.

Councillors Marjorie Powys and Jim Watson of Milton, both supported the plan. Milton Mayor Anne MacArthur was absent from the meeting. Halton Hills Councillors Pat McKenzie and Ernie Sykes supported the pension while their colleagues opposed it.

On the final vote all Oakville councillors voted in opposition.

"Money grab"
Oakville Councillor Mac Anderson told committee of the whole chairman George Harrington, "I know you're running a railroad but I want off. You can say what you want, this is a great money grab, it's as simple as that."

"The only difference between this and Jesse James

is, he used guns," Oakville Councillor Archie Donaghy shouted.

Carl Erikson, another Oakville councillor, told Mayor Harrington that he had been quick to say the council should restrict pay raises for regional employees to something within federal guidelines.

"When it comes to staff you say apply restraint, when it comes to program you say apply restraint, but when it comes to our own pockets it's a different story. This is irresponsible," Erikson charged.

When the third reading of the bill passed, Georgetown area councillor Ric Morrow turned from the council table and said, "this is a crock of expletive deleted!"

An angry Bill Mason chastized councillors for "automatically imposing a financial loss on some dissenters. It's alright for you just to go merrily dipping into the taxpayer's pocket."

Two weeks more school

Time is flying! The 10-week night school courses will end in another two weeks.

There will be a registration night on January 8 for 12 new courses, some of them repeats of this season.

Night school is very successful this year with classes four nights each week.

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BEAMING RON McLEAN, R. R. 3, Acton, accepts his trophy for the best water fowl in the show at the Royal Winter Fair. The Northey Challenge trophy is presented to Mr. McLean (right) by Mr. Trimble (left). More pictures and stories on local winners at the Royal on Page B1.

Niagara commission hears 12 submissions

The mid-escarpment committee of the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) went into overtime in order to hear comments from the public during the meeting held in the town of Caledon Tuesday, Nov. 25.

The committee heard 12 submissions, expressing both support and criticism of NEC's development controls. Many asked for directions on how to obtain exemptions from the commission's control area.

Yvonne Christie, a Milton real estate broker, represented Ken Elsley concerning an exemption from the commission's control area of some property east of Acton. Hamish Harrison represented Milton interests concerning another request for an exemption, of 524 acres near Milton.

Pam Mitchell, of the Georgetown Pollution Probe office, told the committee it favored the NEC's objectives, and also asked that consideration be given to ensuring the Bruce Trail is established as a permanent park.



THE ROCKWOOD-Eramosa Medical Centre officially opened when former MPP John Root unveiled a plaque in the centre Wednesday, Nov. 19. Giving Mr. Root a helping hand on the right is building co-ordinator Duncan McPhedran. The

inscription states the building was erected with assistance from the federal, provincial and municipal government levels plus the Wellington Co-operatives Medical Services. The doctor and dentist have not started to use the building.