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Surveyors chart plans for Mill St. reconstruction

Survey now for reconstruction on stretch of Mill

First stage in the \$200,000 reconstruction of a five block stretch of Mill St. through the heart of downtown Acton is underway this week as surveying for the project moves ahead.

Engineering drawings will be prepared following the survey work currently being carried out by Cliphsham Moreton Ltd. of Georgetown. Design and approval stages must be passed before construction begins, Robert Cliphsham said.

No date
A date for the start of construction is yet to be set, according to town engineer Bob Austin. The project is expected to be finished this year, he said.

Approval for designs drawn

up by the consultants must be approved by the town and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MTC) before any earth is moved.

New sewers, curbs and gutters are slated for Mill St. from the stop lights to Wilbur St., Mr. Austin said. New sidewalks will be installed only where they are needed, the engineer said.

The width of the two lane street will remain the same as it is now.

\$200,000
Total cost of the project is approximately \$200,000 said the town engineer. Of that figure, \$180,000 will be paid by the province and the balance of \$20,000 will be paid by Halton Hills.

"We'd like to get the work finished this year," Mr. Austin said. He added, however, that the top sheet of asphalt, the surface cars ride on, may not be down by year's end.

Highway 7 between Acton and Guelph is slated for reconstruction by the MTC this summer. The route of the 15-mile length of highway, which passes through Rockwood, has been the subject of debate in that community.

The Acton Chamber of Commerce made several presentations to the town's works committee and held many meetings in Acton with downtown merchants on the subject of parking, reconstruction and a Wallace St. truck route.

Average increase over \$100

Hire municipal complex architect

The hiring of an architect for the proposed municipal complex to be added to the present Seventh Line administration building, ran into heavy opposition from Councillors Harry Levy and Roy Booth, at Halton Hills council meeting, Monday night.

The motion to hire Hallford and Wilson Architects passed with only the two opposing votes.

Levy said he is opposed to any new building at this time, because of the financial situation. He pointed out the minimum architect fee if the building was completed would be \$36,000.

Booth said he is not opposed to the works garage extension now underway, but is opposed to the new administration complex. He said by bringing all the departments under one roof in a new complex the town is doing the same as the region. He said any other project sees a presentation of plans and rough estimates made first. He claimed it is wrong to have an architect go ahead and design the building before council even knows if they definitely want it.

Councillor Mike Armstrong said at least this first amalgamated council should have plans ready for a municipal complex before another council may take over.

Councillor Ern Hyde said certain steps have to be taken, and claimed hiring an architect was a necessary one. He said he hoped progress would be made this year and the building completed next year. "Maybe we won't be able to do it, maybe we'll find we won't be able to get the money."

He pointed out in other projects architects had been

hired, and if the project was found too costly they were not done.

"That's true but in each case a presentation was made before an architect was hired," retorted Booth.

Councillor George Malby said he would like to know costs and operational savings

by having the new building before any action is taken.

Hyde reminded council "the rug had been pulled" from under the engineering department by the reshuffling which makes their building the fire department building. "We have to find a temporary place for them."

He said if the building was \$300,000, the amount tentatively allowed for by debenture, the architect fees would be around \$36,000, but pointed out if the building is not built the town would only pay for the work done by the architect.

Armstrong contended the

hiring of an architect is the proper way to do it. He reminded council Mr. Hallford had designed the present Seventh Line building.

After the motion to hire the architects was passed, Malby made a motion that tenders be prepared until a detailed study of operational cost savings is presented to council.

Hyde termed the move a try at circumventing the previous motion. He said the motion would be more timely after the architect brings in a recommendation.

Malby said he didn't want to keep finding out new costs. "I just want no tenders going out until all is clear."

Levy claimed this stop should have been taken before the hiring of the architect, but insisted it must be done before tendering.

Armstrong emphasized no tenders could be offered, far less let, before the architect presents the final drawings.

The new addition consists of 15,000 square feet added to the present existing 5,800 square feet making a total of 21,000 square feet.

The downstairs of the building will be occupied by the treasury department, recreation department, fire department and a lunch room.

The upstairs of the building will be occupied by the mayor, clerk's department, engineering department, planning department and council chambers.

Approve police budget

Halton Regional Police budget was approved by Halton's Administration Committee last week. The budget, up 21 per cent over last year, makes provision for an additional 16 officers.

Police Commission Chairman Glen Magnusson told the committee that the \$7,435,000 budget was the bare minimum on which the department could operate.

Mr. Magnusson told the committee that Halton still had one of the lowest cost per capita rates in the province. Halton residents paid \$28 for police protection last year and will pay \$33.00 this year.

A motion by Carl Erikson to request a 15 per cent cut in the budget was defeated and the budget was approved as presented.

School boards discuss Separate School for '77

There could be a separate school in Acton by 1977 if preliminary negotiations between the Halton Separate School Board and the Halton Board of Education are finalized.

The separate school board has conducted "basically exploratory" negotiations into the possibility of shared accommodation. They are particularly interested in the Old Stone School, part of the Robert Little public school, although they have other alternatives open.

Staff and trustees of the separate school board have talked with officials of the Halton Board of Education as well as toured the public school facilities in Acton.

Interest in a separate school in Acton was indicated several years ago, according to separate school director of education, Cliff Byrnes. But with the current constraint program the only way the board could provide a school would be to look at shared accommodation.

The only other alternative would be to wait three to five years until pupil accommodation would justify a new school.

The Old Stone School, on the other hand, could provide five classrooms and would suffice for two or three years, Byrnes said.

Board chairman Hartley Sherk was favorably impressed with the Old Stone

School. "We were amazed at the extremely good condition of the stone school, which meets safety and fire standards," he said while reporting on a committee tour of the Acton public school facilities.

"Great Potential!"
"There is great potential in that school. It has ample room for a playground and portables if necessary. It's a large lovely park setting."

There is also a possibility of sharing accommodation in the larger school for library, gym and home economics classes, Sherk believes.

A meeting of the parish has been called for Thursday May 27 at 8 p.m. to discuss the results of the investigations made by the board and to inform parents of students about the situation.

The goal for accommodation would be September, 1977. The new Acton high school, now being built, is expected to open then, freeing the present high school for a Grade 6 to 8 school. The resulting drop in primary levels would make spare room for a shared accommodation plan.

The Acton area is the only part of the Halton Separate School Board's jurisdiction not serviced by the board.

The building was originally a home owned by Sidney Smith.

Mystery lady returns lost \$1

An unidentified lady drove across town Saturday to return a \$1 bill which a Brownie dropped from her Girl Guide cookie money.

The lady, who did not identify herself, came into the Scout Hall and gave the money to cookie convener Pat van der Eyken. Mrs. van der Eyken said that she did not know the lady, but would like to thank her for bringing in the money.

"It's not often that sort of thing happens," Mrs. van der Eyken said.

Saturday over 100 Brownies and Guides sold cookies in a one-day blitz of the town.

Stop feeding birds message to Acton

"You have to be cruel to be kind" seems to be the message residents of Fairy Lake area in Acton are going to have to learn.

The wildfowl, used to being fed by kindhearted nature lovers, have become too lazy to feed themselves, and don't migrate in the wintertime, because they know they will get a handout.

According to the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, and agreed to by Halton Hills council, the public must be educated not to feed the birds.

The important point, stressed by both Councillors Hyde and Les Doby, is the timing. Both men pointed out the feeding must stop by the end of May to accustom the birds to looking after themselves, and make them head south in search of winter food.

Hyde said there's no use waiting until freeze up then letting them starve. "If we're going to educate the people let's do it now."

Councillor Pat McKenzie

said the birds are nesting now. "Maybe the young ones will know they should be in Tennessee in winter, but will the old ones?"

Doby said signs should be erected around Fairy Lake telling people not to feed them. He said the birds become overweight from feeding and won't fly.

Councillor Joe Hurst backed the idea of erecting signs in the area, and suggested advertising be done.

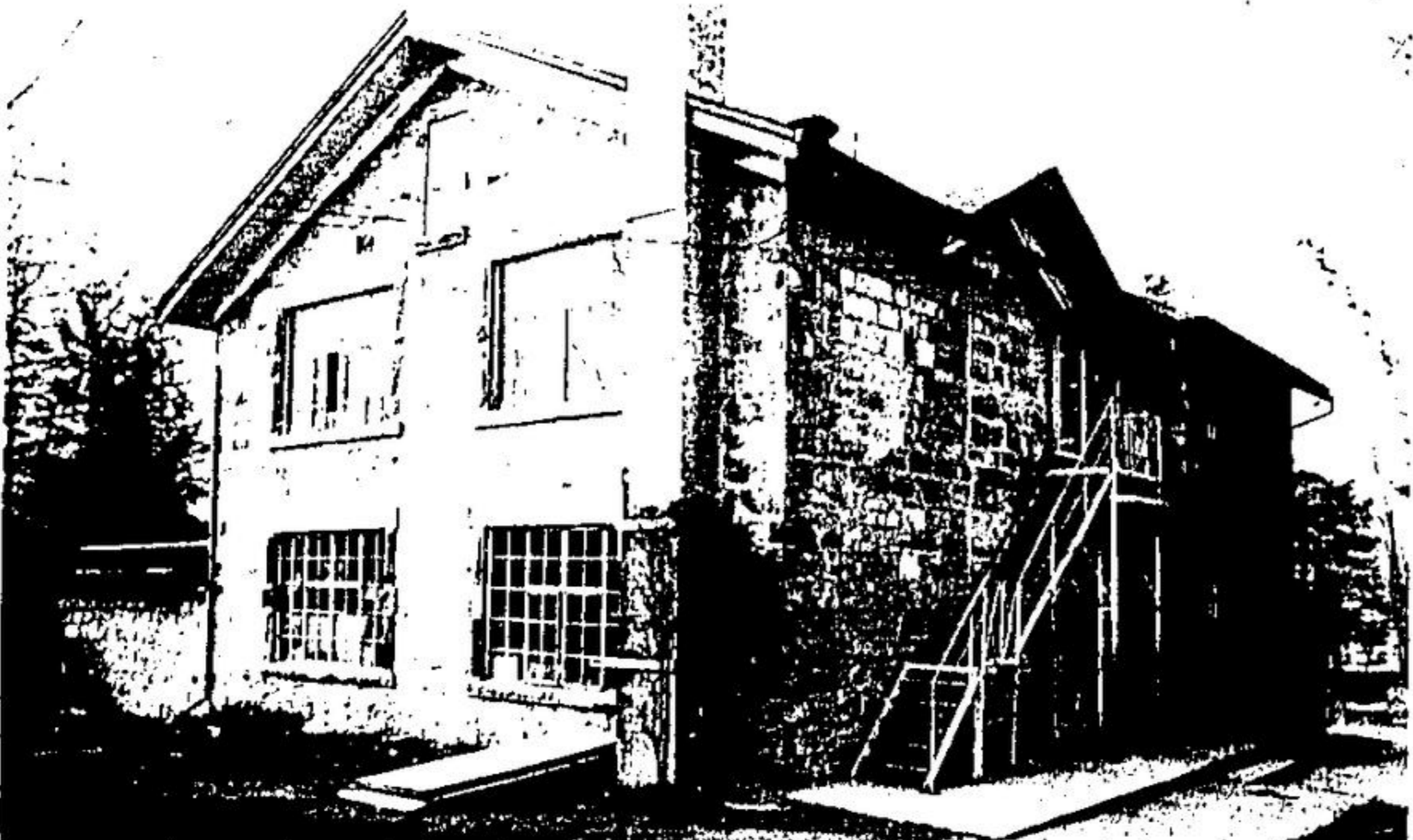
McKenzie asked about the swans. He said some had been donated by people who expected the town to look after them.

Doby said the swans won't fly south. He emphasized action had to be taken now, not in October or November. "It's no damned joke when the birds are freezing there." He said the only solution is not to feed the birds and see if they will migrate. "Something must be done we can't put it off forever."

Council agreed to erect signs around the area telling people not to feed the birds, after the end of May.



ACTON HIGH SCHOOL students are attempting to throw, jump over and run over past records during the school's annual track and field meet today. Several athletes have spent their recent post-class hours getting ready for the one day event. Lynn Margetts wields the discus, Gary Williams lifts himself to new heights and Karen Chapman does the distance around the track.



THE OLD STONE School, part of Robert Little Public School, is being considered as one of the possible Separate School sites. The Separate School Board and the Board of Education are

investigating a shared accommodation concept that would see the Separate School Board establish a school in the building possibly in September 1977.