

New municipal complex follows existing theme

Halton Hills' proposed \$850,000 municipal complex on the Seventh Line will employ the best features of the old Esquering municipal building which made it a Royal Academy of Art award winner when it was built over a decade ago, architect Don Hallford says.

Last Wednesday Mr. Hallford presented floor plans, artist's sketches and a verbal tour of the new municipal complex to Halton Hills councillors.

The planned expansion would result in all municipal departments being housed under one roof and the present municipal building growing from 5,800 square feet to a total of 21,800 square feet. The proposed addition would be 15,920 square feet.

Mr. Hallford, who has designed the expansion, designed the Esquering building and admitted after his talk to council that when he originally drew up the plans for the township headquarters he never envisioned an expansion of the magnitude council is now considering.

"It is a temporarily

styled building that fits in perfectly with the old building. Ninety to 95 percent of the existing building will be retained although it will be hard for many people to recognize the old parts once walls are torn down. The addition is definitely in the same design theme as the existing building," he declared.

He told council the plans he was showing them were the result of meetings with both department heads and the municipal building development committee.

"This building is neither too extravagant or so tight that it can't withstand growth after several years," Hallford explained.

He noted the existing driveway into the municipal building will disappear and the fire station will be moved. There will be a small parking area in front of the building and larger areas behind for staff, visitor and works equipment parking.

The expansion will follow the existing building with two levels, one above and one below ground. The building will



FLOOR PLAN of the lower level of the proposed Halton Hills municipal complex.

be completely air conditioned.

He said there would be carpeting and the interior would have similar appearances to other modern municipal complexes.

"Everywhere we have matched in the expansion designs and materials which have stood up well over the years in this building," he pointed out.

Mr. Hallford told the councillors there is a high standard of insulation slated for the municipal complex so operating costs will be kept down. He said people coming into the building will be siphoned off quickly to various areas like finance, clerks' offices, planning and engineering.

Mr. Hallford said council chambers will be altered and there will be more room for

spectators. He explained the councillors will face out from the back of the room towards spectators and press. Mr. Hallford noted the present chambers are 28 feet wide while the new council chambers will be 34 feet wide and there will be room for 75 people seated comfortably and 100 could be crammed in to the chambers.

The front of the building facing onto the Seventh Line will be much more pronounced. Emphasis is on the entrance and council chambers with respect to design.

Shipping and receiving will be located at the rear and there will be room for bulk storage of items the town regularly purchases and the purchasing agent's office will be in that area.

Skylights will be used in the drafting area of the engineering department as well as council chambers and he noted there will be gentle steps at the front of the building and people can also be pushed in who are confined to wheel chairs. Employees will have their own entrance from their

parking area. "We have built up the entrance well so there will be a neat presentation of the property," he explained.

Councillor Dick Howitt didn't like the appearance of parking in the front but was assured by the architect that front parking is advantageous for short visits to the building and noted the property will be landscaped in such a way that the cars aren't very visible from the road. Mr. Hallford added 12 parking spots won't be much of an eyesore.

Clerk-Administrator Doug Pritchard said the way the building is designed there is lots of room for growth and after completion it would be at least 10 years before any additions were required at the new complex.

He said the area the clerks' department will be quartered in will provide enough room for not only existing personnel but there would be space for a by-law enforcement officer, a solicitor and two or three secretaries when more staff is needed.

Councillor Dick Howitt said

he wanted to be sure there was enough open space in the building to accommodate staffing increases when the town's population reaches 50,000.

Pritchard noted there is enough space to facilitate a full time secretary for the mayor, should that need ever arise.

Treasurer Raymond King said the plans reflect what is needed for his department both now and in the future. He said centralization of municipal services has advantages and benefits and suggested there would be a more efficient splitting up of functions if everyone was under one roof. King said the present quarters of the treasury department were adequate.

Engineer Robert Austin said he was happy with what he saw and noted he could talk all night about the advantages of being under one roof but that there was no need since his concerns were well reflected in the complex designs.

Recreation director Glen Gray wasn't too excited about the idea of moving out to Esquering from the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena and thought his department was more accessible to the public where it was now. He admitted inter-department commu-

nications would be improved if everyone was centralized but thought since Georgetown is the population centre of the town that's where recreation should be located.

"I can't support leaving where we are now. The co-ordinate for wards one and two should stay in Acton and the rest of the department in Georgetown. We shouldn't be removed from wards three and four," Gray said. He added his department must keep

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New staffers at Acton post office



LENE LARSEN IS the new mail man...er, mail person...er, mail carrier...er, how about letter carrier? for Acton post office. Her route takes her around the high school and part of Bovis subdivision.

Out on the streets of Acton wearing a navy jacket and carrying a big navy blue bag is Lene Larsen, the latest post office letter carrier.

The 19-year-old grade 13 graduate started work on May 10 delivering mail on the Churchill Rd. S., Peel St. Acton Boulevard and part of the Bovis subdivision route. Her day starts at 7:30 a.m. and continues on until she gets her route done, usually about 11:30 a.m. she says.

Lene went into the post office seeking work a few weeks ago. When the letter carrier position came open she readily accepted it.

She hasn't decided yet, but if Lene should go back to school in September she would take outdoor recreation at college or university. She has considered going to school in the afternoons and evenings and delivering mail in the morning.

In high school, Lene was a member of the Outers club so she is used to walking.

Newcomer
Another newcomer to the post office is Mrs. Susan Buchanan, nee Susan Shoemaker. Her day is spent sorting mail.

Susan is a recent graduate of the Sheridan College fashion design program. She said, however, that she would rather work at the post office than in the fashion industry. Susan says all the good jobs are in the larger urban centres and she prefers to stay in a small town where she knows everyone and they know her. Susan started work in early April.



SUSAN BUCHANAN enjoys her new job at the post office as mail sorter. She would rather work in Acton where she knows people than in a large city, she says.

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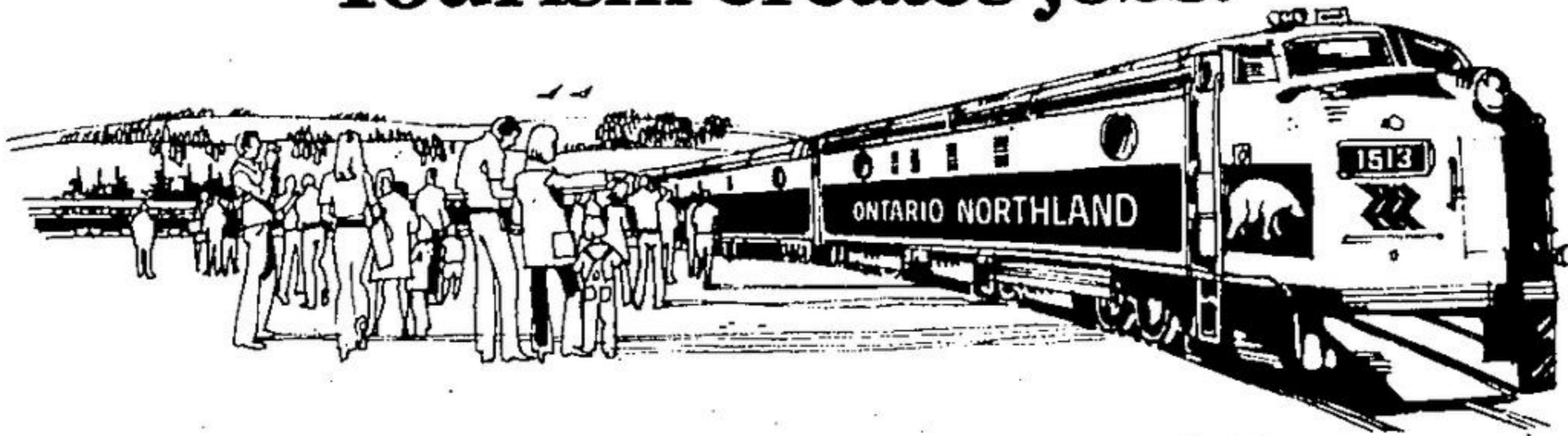
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