

Town complex fading ...

(Continued from page 1)
 Press and I quote, "large Halton Hills Complex would make hope of recovering Acton as a Town of its own even more remote," he said.

"Acton, Esquesing and Georgetown are now the Town of Halton Hills and regardless of how we felt in the beginning, it is here to stay and there is no going

back. We should now do everything in our power to make it work as smoothly as possible. I feel the editorial in the Free Press was stupid, irresponsible and very parochial," Hyde says.

"I am sorry so many people have been misled and have put their names to a petition. I am sorry this whole thing is being used by some Councillors as an election ploy and I would be very sorry indeed if this facility is delayed and I say delayed because sooner or later it is a must and it will be done, only if it is later it will be at a far greater cost," he concluded.

Councillor Ernie Sykes said he has had no official indication that there is a public protest concerning the

complex and hasn't changed his mind. "My opinion stays the same. Until the matter comes before council I only know about protests from what I read in papers and it could just be rumors," he said.

Councillor Dick Howitt said public protests haven't changed his vote but he did allow the chances of the complex being built are diminishing since this is an election year.

He said as far as he is concerned the need for a municipal complex still exists and he still thinks the town can pay for the complex without debenturing as much as \$600,000. He believes a lot of the money can be raised

through the sale of municipal property.

Like Miller he said if the public is concerned about rising taxes, ratepayers should complain to the Halton Board of Education.

He thinks despite the objections the OMB will allow the complex to be built since it has said it will approve debenturing for municipal buildings. Howitt added he is sure the complex issue will come before council again.

Councillor Pat McKenzie hasn't changed his mind, either, despite the public protest.

He said he hasn't changed his mind about the Seventh Line location and feels the need for a complex has been well established. McKenzie warns costs will rise greatly if the building is delayed.

McKenzie would find it acceptable to shelve the complex if public opinion says "No more development" once the Georgetown arena is repaired.

He is fearful the complex could wind up in Georgetown and warns it would not be in the best interest of Acton ratepayers if that happened.

Like Howitt he thinks much of the money can be raised through sources other than debenturing. McKenzie said \$500,000 could come from the sale of municipal property, \$100,000 from lot levies and the remaining \$300,000 from debentures.

Councillor Les Duby also

thinks the complex should be on the Seventh Line providing easy access for Acton and Esquesing residents.

He said the high cost of the present municipal operation and the poor service provided

because municipal departments are spread out concern him. He says the cost for the Seventh Line complex is reasonable.

Duby says if the subject comes up for a vote again he

will not change his stance.

He said the number of objections makes an OMB hearing a certainty and he believes because of the number of objections the project will likely be shelved. Duby

favours a plebiscite.

"Dear knows where the complex will end up at a later date," he said, suspecting it could be in Georgetown. "This is the lesser of two evils."



TOP HALF specialist in the pole painting program is Ian Campbell, Nelson Court. He says he doesn't mind heights so he got the job. The bottom half painter, Ed Hillier, can do his part faster, so he paints and moves along. Below, Don Marietta, Georgetown, vigorously rubs a spot of green paint off the truck he drives.

Police want chase course

Halton Regional Police Force has joined other police in Ontario in calling for all officers to be trained in defensive and pursuit driving.

Thursday, Halton Police Commission endorsed a resolution passed at a meeting of Ontario police chiefs held in April in Dundas recommending a special course be set up dealing with police chase techniques.

The resolution said police are being faced with an increasing number of speed chases at a time when traffic is increasing substantially. It also stated "Police have no means of training their staff in handling their vehicles in chases."

The resolution suggests the

Ontario Police Commission be petitioned to provide facilities and instructors at the Ontario Police College to instruct all police officers in theory and practice in the art of defensive and pursuit driving.

Commissioners Mayor Tom Hill and Mayor Harry Barratt both called for the commission to support the resolution.

Commissioner Judge William Warrander said he disagreed with the resolution when it said there was no way for police forces to train their men in chase techniques. He went on to say he agreed in principle with the idea of having a course dealing with pursuits at the Police College.

Financial statement shows good health

Copies of the town's financial statement, prepared by the town auditor, were circulated to councillors at Monday's finance committee meeting. Important parts of the statement will be published in this paper, as required, on August 4.

The statement is in a revised form this year which cuts down on the auditor's work, explained treasurer Ray King. He said the department's goal is to be able to prepare the statement themselves.

"We're in a solid financial position," Mr. King told the committee members. "Through good planning" revenues and surpluses helped stabilize the mill rate.

Councillor Levy commented the end of this year won't see such large surpluses. We've got to exercise even more control so we don't come to the end of 1978 with a deficit, he said.

He specified the case of six or seven new vehicles which are putting the budget over by between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

1,500 . . .

(Continued from page 1) didn't know were out being circulated.

He plans to present all his petitions to Halton Hills council next Tuesday night. He will be sending copies of the petitions and a letter to the Ontario Municipal Board.

In his letter he has asked the OMB to order the town to hold a plebiscite—in conjunction with the December 6 municipal election.

"I feel the voters would turn down the complex overwhelmingly," he said.

In his letter Dr. Furness tells the OMB the fact over 1,000 people signed petitions is evidence enough that the ratepayers don't think they can afford the complex. He adds the objections come from residents throughout the town.

"I talked to 300 people personally. One was in favor, three were neutral and the rest were happy or eager to sign the petition," he said. Dr. Furness says taxpayers have many reasons for opposing the complex including the fact the need has never been properly established.

In his letter he tells the OMB all levels of government should be restraining their spending and there are other areas where the tax dollars could be better spent.

Another reason a plebiscite is needed, he said is only six of 13 councillors support building the complex and the plebiscite could easily be held in conjunction with the municipal election.

He added the future of regional government in Halton is uncertain. Some think a one tier government will result and others believe Halton Hills will split up.

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