

# Municipal complex dead—maybe?

The controversial municipal complex was dealt its final death blow, Monday night, at Halton Hills council, but the possibility of its being raised from the dead in another form emerged.

Immediately after the vote to rescind the bylaw council voted to have department heads submit a report on their present and future accommodation needs.

The mayor said a report from department heads should be received before the bylaw was rescinded. "We should know just what our requirements are. The Treasurer tells me he has to have more space in the Main Street office."

Councillor Roy Booth stated he would be happy to have such a study, but after this bylaw to build the complex was rescinded, once and for all. He said a complete study on costs of operation should be done.

Councillor Mike Armstrong, who had a similar motion tabled two weeks ago so newer members could acquaint themselves with the bylaw, said new members still didn't know all the details. "Councillors made fickle promises to their electorate, and now want to look big in their eyes," he commented.

Councillor Peter Marks said he had gone to the clerk-administrator's office and looked over all the documents. "I think we should initiate a complete cost and needs study, so some are not put in the position of trying to justify a \$900,000 project. We should rescind this bylaw and start all over."



LESLIE MATHESON, a grade two student at Robert Little, examines the hot dog she purchased as part of Hot Dog Day. The days are being run by grade eight students to finance school trips all the grades in the school.

By 1981

## Acton's population could reach 8,600

Acton's population could reach 8,600 by 1981, but a more realistic estimate is 7,552, according to the population forecast for the five year capital budget.

In Georgetown by 1981 the high figure is 27,798 and the lower figure is 25,558.

The June 1976 census figure showed 18,842 in the boundaries of Georgetown and 6,872 in Acton.

The township area (Esqueness) with a population of roughly 10,000 was not included in the figures, since there are no services there, and the capital budget covers services.

Using September dates, Georgetown 1977 population is forecast at 19,536, in '78—21,513, in '79 22,843, in 1980 24,109 and in 1981 27,798.

In each case a slightly higher figure is projected mathematically, but the lower figure is based on existing census population, the number of units projected to be built and occupied and the rate of natural increase and decreases.

Acton's population as of June 1976 census figures is listed at 6,872, by September 1977 it is forecast at 7,037, in 1978 7,143, in 1979 7,398, in 1980 7,425 and in 1981 7,552.

The projections assume

only 55 to 60 per cent of any units under construction will be occupied in any one year. According to the report, between 1600 and 1700 dwelling units will be built in Georgetown between 1976 and 1981, adding between 500 and 2000 people.

The report says little growth is expected in Acton by 1981, with only 800 people expected to be added to the population. The reports also say between 90 and 110 units are expected to come on the market in Acton.

At Halton Hills Planning Board where the report was released, Councillor Peter Marks said he had serious reservations about the report, and asked why Esqueness should not be included in the population forecast.

He said he could live with the increase projected in Acton, but felt the increase in the town to absorb the social impact. He said social and health levels are taxed now. He claimed the Red Cross, the "Y", minor sports, guides and scouts, and family counselling are not meeting the present demands. "Yet we're trying to bring in more people in a flooded labor market."

"I've worked on five year forecasts, and after the first year it looks pretty stupid," commented Councillor Pat Patterson.

### In industrial park

## Toronto Wood Treating Acton's newest industry

A new industry whose service could prove especially useful to farmers in the area has moved into Acton. Toronto Wood Treating, which has taken over the site of Oref in the industrial park just north of the tracks, specializes in a wood preserving process.

David Phipps, manager of the plant, says that "With this treatment, a fence will last from three to five times longer" than an untreated fence.

This chemical originally known as Boliden K-33, can also be used in barns, patios, or anything wooden. It is non-toxic to anything but bugs and fungi. "There have been cases where cattle have eaten wood treated with it with no

damaging effects," says Mr. Phipps.

**Process differs**  
This process is different from many wood treating processes, because the preservative is forced into the wood by a powerful vacuum rather than simply being put on the surface. This is one reason for the chemical's effectiveness.

The other reason is the chemical itself, or at least what it does in the wood. After the original chemical is forced into the piece to be treated, it undergoes a chemical change, rendering the wood poisonous to bugs, termites, marine borers and fungi.

**Foundations**  
Its effectiveness is proven

by recent national and provincial code changes making it the only approved treatment for wooden foundations in houses.

More than 1,000 houses in Calgary are using wood foundations treated with Boliden K33. According to David Phipps, the advantages are that "It is much quicker to do, it can be done in all weather conditions, it is warmer and it is drier than cement foundations." Because the basement wall would be treated plywood with treated studs, it would be much easier to insulate and finish.

Boliden K33 has existed in Canada since 1963. It first appeared in western Canada and has begun to grow out

from there. The plant opening here is the Toronto area plant. There are now about 20 plants using this process across Canada, each one independently owned.

Plants employ very few people on a regular basis, there are only three or four at the Acton plant—but Mr. Phipps says there will be "a fair bit of casual labour in the summer."

The plant itself may well treat about "3 to 4 million board feet per year," according to Mr. Phipps. The underground tank which stores the preservative has a capacity of 10,000 gallons.

The plant's customers will include two provincial ministries, Transport and Natural Resources.

## Blood clinic need urgent

A serious blood shortage in Ontario has made participation in Acton's upcoming blood clinic more important than ever.

The clinic is being held at the Legion Hall on Wright Street on Monday, January 31.

Henry Kroes, co-ordinator of the clinic, says "Acton blood is within a two hour radius of Toronto, which makes it more valuable. One pint can be used by as many as four people." A pint of blood from outside this radius is worth considerably less because it can only be used for one person.

All types. The clinic is looking for all types of blood, but Mr. Kroes says that "A and B types are really rare."

Acton's all-time record is 243 pints of blood donated at a single clinic. Mr. Kroes hopes to beat this record this time, but he says that "blood donations are down all over."

Babysitting and transportation to and from the Legion are available free of charge for those who need it.

Remember, when you give blood, don't take aspirin within 24 hours, Mr. Kroes says.



HONORED BY the St. John Ambulance brigade in Milton, Marie and George Hargrave hold their certificates citing the successful passing of their 20th Standard First Aid examinations. The exams must be passed at least every three years. They're long-time Brigade volunteers.

## Councillors meet with Action-ites

Acton's three representatives on Halton Hills council, Pat McKenzie, Les Doby and Peter Marks attended the Sunday afternoon meeting of the Actionites for Action committee, discussing concerns and answering questions.

"It was a good meeting; we got some answers," reports chairman Peter Papillon. He arrived late, just nicely back from Florida.

Chairing the meeting was vice-chairman Norman Elliott. He explained that although sub-committee reports were on the agenda none of them were ready yet. He said the members of the sub-committees are finding assembling information more time-consuming and difficult than they expected.

Councillor McKenzie told the meeting that a committee

set up on the regional level to review the system has been revived.

Mr. Elliott explains the committee does not want to throw a wrench into the organization of Halton Hills, but unfortunately some people have received that impression. We are not trying to undermine authority, he says.

Some have suggested leav-

ing Halton Hills or Halton. Some people think we might be better off with Wellington County. So we wanted to ask questions of the councillors, he said. We don't know if this is feasible, or just pipe dreams.

The men and women on the committee talked informally for two and a half hours with the councillors.

## Hydro hearings adjourned again

Ontario Hydro's attempts to reopen expropriation hearings before a divisional court could decide on the admissibility of evidence regarding alternative routes, was turned down by Hearing Officer Donald Meyrick, Monday, in Acton Legion hall.

Hydro lawyer Thomas Marshall tried to reopen the hearings by asserting counsel for local land owners were "dragging their feet" in going before the Divisional Court, an assertion which angered lawyers Leon Paroian, Dick Howitt and Susan Tanner. They represent landowners from a Point near Milton 14 miles up the corridor to a point above Highway 7.

"It's just an attempt by Marshall to upset the owners

along the corridor," said Paroian after the hearing officer decided to again adjourn the hearings until the divisional court ruling was made.

"Hydro's playing games," said Interested Citizens' spokesman John Schneider of R.R. 2, Acton. They accuse us of dragging our feet while the Minister of Energy Dennis Timbrell takes over three months to answer a letter.

The hearing was first adjourned November 25 when lawyers for landowners challenged Mr. Meyrick's ruling that they could not introduce evidence in the hearings regarding alternate routes for the corridor or cross-examine Hydro on the subject. Meyrick adjourned the hearings reluctantly until April 4

at the latest, and at Monday's hearings at first seem determined to go on.

However, after hearing evidence from Mr. Paroian, Mr. Howitt, Ms. Tanner and John Schneider that conflicted with Mr. Marshall's allegations of "foot dragging" the hearing officer again adjourned the hearings, urging speedy efforts to bring the matter before the divisional court.

"I'm disappointed we haven't proceeded further so we could get on with the hearings," Mr. Meyrick said. He also said he was disappointed that counsel had not expedited the matter faster. He noted he had done his part by issuing a report four days after the first hearings adjourned.

The hearing officer said he was concerned the civil rights of the land owners involved would be short-circuited if he went on without the ruling from the divisional court. Mr. Meyrick also said the arguments between Hydro lawyer Tom Marshall and his opposites Leon Paroian, Dick Howitt and Susan Tanner over which group was responsible for the delay were "a lot of legalese". He advised the 60 people who attended that nothing has been decided in relation to properties and location of the corridor, if they couldn't understand the jargon.

"I'm not disposed to consider further adjournments past April 4," Mr. Meyrick stated. "No one's intent would be served by that."

An attempt by Marshall to stop landowners from objecting to Hydro's plans at the future hearings in April was turned down by the hearing officer who said it would be a harsh approach at this stage. Mr. Marshall's attempts to

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HELEN VAN SICKLER, retiring president of the Murray Memorial (Acton) YMCA talks with Rix Rogers, who is the director of the National Council of Y's, after the Murray Memorial annual meeting. Rogers holds the copy of Halton Sketches which he was presented with at the meeting.

## Acton wants new fire hall

Acton firefighters would like better quarters for the fire department, similar to the new Georgetown fire hall.

Councillor Pat McKenzie put forward a motion stating, "In view of the improved quarters provided for Georgetown Fire Department, and seeing a similar need in Acton, be it resolved that the major, chairman and vice-chairman of finance meet with the fire chief and the executive to determine their needs."

McKenzie said Phil McCristall of the Acton department expressed their needs at the administration and finance committee

meeting. He said a truck has to be moved into their meeting room as there's no place for it.

Booth said he was not opposed to the discussions but was opposed to the forming of another ad hoc committee.

"Without an ad hoc committee the Georgetown firemen wouldn't have their new quarters and the ambulance service wouldn't be getting new quarters," retorted Armstrong.

Someone attempted to break into the safe at the high school, and police were investigating Tuesday.

## Winter parking headache

Winter parking problems were brought to Halton Hills council's attention, Monday night by Councillor Pat McKenzie.

He said a bylaw prohibiting parking between 12 midnight and 7 a.m. was introduced to help snowploughing, but claimed it was being enforced 365 days a year.

"In Kitching Hill we said "no parking" on one side, and now on the other there's no parking between 12 and 7 a.m. Where are people to park?"

He asked if there is anything council can do to help the people.

Councillor Mike Armstrong said similar problems are being faced in all residential areas. "Some families with grown-up sons and daughters have their own cars, can't park in the driveway." He suggested works committee discuss it further.

McKenzie said it looks like it's a money-maker. He claimed cars are being towed away when there's snowploughing to be done.

Councillor Peter Marks suggested certain roads be designated emergency snow routes. "If there's no safety problem and no snow removal we shouldn't have to restrict parking."

Councillor Roy Booth said through the summer a call to the police is sufficient if visitors are staying overnight and have no place to park. He said he was told this by Superintendent Floyd Schwantz.

Armstrong said the other side of the question should be looked at. He reminded council the works force were out 24 to 48 hours straight through to remove snow. "Everybody wants their street cleared, and it can't be done if cars are parked along it."

He claimed police don't tow cars away in summer. He pointed out the police are doing a service to the town and the works department.

McKenzie claimed people in Acton last week had their parents visiting them, and in the morning they found the car towed away.

The matter was referred to works committee.



FLUID LEVEL in a 10,000-gallon tank is checked by Phil Wedge, one employee of the newly-opened Toronto Wood Treating Plant in the industrial park north of the tracks.