

Monday deadline to make town hall pitch

People who are opposed to the Acton town hall being torn down so parking and an expanded fire hall can be provided for volunteer firefighters, will have a chance to try to change Halton Hills councillors' minds at a special meeting next Monday. However, judging from comments at Monday's council meeting there isn't much chance anyone will be able to persuade council to spare the old building.

Councillor Les Dudy asked council to delay consideration of a works committee recommendation calling for the old hall to be ripped down to give people objecting to the idea time to make a presentation to council. He noted he had received calls both for and against the decision to demolish the building.

The only comments Councillor Pat McKenzie had heard from any residents was support for the committee recommendation and wondered why Dudy had received complaints while both he and fellow Acton councillor Peter Marks, who was absent from the meeting, hadn't heard any.

He said any presentation to council must be very serious and deal with ways of financing, solving parking problem and finding a new use for the town hall.

"It (the upstairs hall) hasn't been used for 25 years and I can't for the life of me think of why the town should refurbish the building," McKenzie declared.

Dudy said he will continue to support the building being demolished but emphasized the people against the move have the right to be heard by council.

Councillor Peter Pomeroy said he had received a call from a resident who wants to see it torn down and sug-

gested the people sharing that view should also be fairly represented and heard.

While he appreciated Acton residents' concern he also was concerned about Acton firefighters being given proper quarters. Councillor Russ Miller said he added most people he has talked to in Acton agree the town hall should be removed.

He said the town hall wouldn't be used for recreation purposes ever and many avenues had been ex-

plored to solve the firefighters parking and space problems but the town only has \$100,000 to spend and tearing down the hall seemed to be the only option.

Miller said there is excellent fire protection in Halton Hills and council only wants to make it better. He said a great improvement would be to provide the firefighters with parking since now they must park three and four blocks away from the hall.

"If we hold this off for long we won't have a new fire hall for our volunteers this summer," Miller warned.

Dudy said if just one resident had a complaint it should be heard and Councillor Mike Armstrong and George Maltby agreed the people should be heard. Dudy said the people must be given time to prepare a presentation.

Pomeroy said the people should be heard at a meeting scheduled as soon as possible since the delegation won't likely change council's mind and then the plans can proceed.

Council debated if the people should go to works committee on May 11, council on May 18 or a special council meeting on May 11 or 12.

It was finally decided the special meeting will be next Monday before committee meetings.



IF TOWN HALL were demolished, present fire hall could accommodate a full second storey. The stage area of the hall juts over the present hall. Council's works committee recommended last week the town hall be demolished to allow the extension and provide more parking. Feeling citizens were not given enough

time to comment, Chamber of Commerce executives gained a reprieve until next Monday and have asked anyone involved or interested to gather Thursday evening at 7 p.m. in the senior citizens' drop-in centre in the town hall.

Town hall meeting set for Thursday

The president of the Chamber of Commerce Louis Charlebois, vice-president John McNabb, Flo Charlebois and two citizens attended the council meeting Monday night which saw the town hall fate on the brink.

Mr. Charlebois and secretary Betty Eastwood decided to call a quick meeting of anyone interested, at the building itself on Thursday night at 7 p.m. The senior citizens' drop-in centre will be open for the meeting.

Any alternatives will be considered and likely a presentation will be prepared to go to council Monday.

With the lack of time to prepare, they were unable to contact many people.



MOTHERS OF CHILDREN at Honey Pot Nursery school are not going to be forgotten this Sunday on Mother's Day. The youngsters worked very hard on gifts. Ashley Fray gets some help from crafts teacher Gail Withers to put the finishing touches on his work of art.

Third planner confirmed

Halton Hills council stuck with a planning board recommendation and decided to hire a third planner in the planning department.

The new staff member will be in addition to former Assistant Planner Ron Burnett, who resigned in April.

Opposing the hiring of the third planner were Councillors Russ Miller, Peter Morris, Pat Patterson, Pat McKenzie and Mayor Tom Hill.

McKenzie who was absent from the planning board meeting where the others had aired their views, contended

some of the work load in the planning department could be shifted to the clerk's department. He said planning board agendas, and amendment processing are done in the clerk's department in other towns. He claimed he had been misled, when he was told Milton had more planning staff than Halton Hills.

"It just isn't so," he stated. McKenzie said he agreed with Milton Mayor Don Gordon that councils direct too much work to the planning department. He said there is no money in the budget for the salary and no space to put another planner.

It's safe

Alan Zeegen, the consulting engineer who made the preliminary study on the repairs to the town hall, says it is "completely wrong" to assume the town hall is unsafe.

Last week's Free Press stated: "Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson revealed consulting engineer Alan Zeegen who examined the old town hall for council had told her it wasn't worth the money the municipality would have to spend to make it safe."

That's a misquote, said Mr. Zeegen when phoned by the Free Press Tuesday.

Refurbishing "The building is in fact safe," he said. "It needs some refurbishing."

This would depend on what council wants to do with it, he continued. The total cost of about \$30 a square foot to fix it up is a lot of money if they're not getting what they want. If it's important, then it's worth the money, he said.

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Election called

Candidates ready for campaign

The writ is issued, the candidates are out and the race is on. After 19 months of minority government Ontario residents will go to the polls June 9.

Contacted by this newspaper all three Halton-Burlington riding candidates said they are ready for the election and eager to get on with the campaign.

Although incumbent Liberal Julian Reed and NDP standard bearer Bill Johnston agree that there is really no need to call an election at this time both say they are ready to go.

"I'll tell you how necessary the election is. The premier is trying to say the Liberals caused the election because of our amendment to the rent control bill.

"But Sidney Handleman (a Tory Cabinet Minister) had his election headquarters rented a week before the writ was issued. The truth is Davis is taking a jump at the brass ring while his personal polls are high and he's under pressure from nominated candidates and the Eddie Goodmans of the party.

"He tried everything to goad us into forcing an election including attacks on Stephen Lewis and Stuart Smith," Reed said.

Reed claims minority government has produced better government during the last year and a half than during the five years before that.

"Davis is trying to make leadership the issue but that's a lot of nonsense. It's a cheap way to make a grab for the

brass ring and he is doing it on the backs of the taxpayers." (The election will cost an estimated \$20,000,000.)

Reed said the minority government had forced the government to be more open. "We've forced government doors open. We've made them back down and have improved upon legislation and with far more telling amendments than the one on the rent control."

All three candidates have been gearing up for an election for a year now.

Tory candidate George Gray has been to a party sponsored candidate school and his campaign managers Frank Wilson and Don Russell have been to school for campaign managers.



JULIAN REED, Liberal



BILL JOHNSON, N. D. P.



GEORGE GRAY, P.C.

Gray has kept a high profile ever since defeating George Kee for the nomination more

than a year ago. As a member of the Halton Board of Health, and presi-

dent of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce he (Continued on Page 11)

Gov't. red tape forces doctors out

Two of Acton's doctors, Dr. Craig Hutchison and Dr. R. J. Wilson from the Glentea Medical Clinic, are moving their practice to the United States to escape what they call "bureaucratic red tape."

The pair are upset with OHIP, which they claim is "forcing us to adopt a practice which is not conducive to good medical care."

The doctors contacted the Free Press, in an effort to dispel rumors that were flying around town about their leaving.

Regret leaving "We regret leaving," they said. "This is our home. It is

not Acton we're leaving, it's the government."

The date for their departure is not yet set, because of the uncertainty of the immigration procedure. They do not know how long it will take for their applications to be processed.

Two doctors are coming to the clinic to replace Drs. Hutchison and Wilson. They are Dr. Brandon Smith and

Dr. Barry, both of whom Dr. Hutchison describes as "very fine people." Dr. Barry is a woman. They will join Dr. Vukovich, who is staying here in Acton, despite rumors to the contrary.

Dr. Wilson predicted that "I think you will find a lot of doctors leaving for the same reason."

Doctors needed The two are going to

Indiana, to a place where they say "there's a need for doctors and very little direct control from government."

As an example of the red tape doctors have to face, Dr. Hutchison pointed out that they get directives "every week" telling them what to do, there are new forms to be filled out all the time, and they "can't devote enough time" to their patients.



RICKY ALLEN peers at his exhibit of bluestone dissolving at the Science Fair at M. Z. Bennett's Education Day last Wednesday.

May 8 set strike deadline

Deadline for a legal strike at Disston Canada is Sunday, May 8, following receipt of a "no board" report following conciliation meetings.

We are still hoping for a settlement without a strike, said union president Jack Walker on Tuesday evening. However, at a meeting Tues-

day the executive was given full power to state the time of a strike. The deadline is midnight May 8.

The company has given no indication yet of meeting with the union, Mr. Walker said. Union local 8503 of the United Steel Workers represents 126 workers at Disston.



MAIN ST. DETOUR brought headaches for truckers. This tank truck had a police escort to help it manoeuvre the corners. Here it cautiously rounds the corner at River and Willow St., barely

missing the street signs. At the next turn, at Willow and Bower, it did send the stop sign rocking briefly.

Many applications senior citizen units

Thirty-four people out of some 50 applicants have been interviewed by representatives of the Ministry of Housing concerning senior citizens housing units, planned in Acton.

It is hoped the 36-unit apartment building will be completed early next spring, according to a spokesman.

The complex will be constructed on Elizabeth Drive. At the present time there are two houses on the site, one of which will be torn down. The

other will be removed.

The construction, due to commence soon, was the finale of four years consideration first proposed to the former town of Acton council. The Ontario housing corporation (OHC) granted approval last week, after much controversy about Acton's senior residents possibly having to live in Georgetown.

Finalized plans have yet to be approved by Halton Hills council.

Churchill Rd. reconstruction

Graham Brothers Construction were awarded the contract to reconstruct Churchill Road North, Acton at a cost of \$128,511. This was the lowest tender.

Councillor Peter Morris at Halton Hills council meeting, asked if the tender was close to the estimate.

Town engineer Bob Austin said it was below estimate. He said work could be started within two or three weeks and finished between six and eight weeks later.

326 enumerators start job on Monday

Three hundred and twenty six enumerators will hit the streets Monday in an effort to record everyone in Halton-Burlington riding who is eligible to vote in the June 9 provincial election.

Returning Officer Roy Coulter said it is very important that people retain the slip the enumerators leave with them, until after the election. "That slip is proof that people have a right to vote.

It's almost like a licence," he said.

Mr. Coulter said a training program will be underway this week before the enumerators start out on Monday. They intend to be finished the

first enumeration by the end of the week.

If you're not home and a slip is left in your door, it probably means the enumerator has obtained the information from a neighbor. Keep the slip and

contact the DRO if any of the information is incorrect, he said.

A special enumeration begins May 16 for people who were missed the first time around. Revisions in the list (Continued on Page 2)