

\$184,368 tender accepted for addition to old fire hall

The tender of A. and M. Ellis Ltd. of Thornhill at \$184,000 was accepted for the construction of a second storey for the Acton fire hall at a meeting of Halton Hills council Wednesday night. The meeting was a continuation of Tuesday night's, when the agenda was not nearly completed by well after 11 p.m.

Every councillor voted in favor of accepting the tender. Councillor Peter Marks, who presented a letter from the Acton Firefighters Association, said the firefighters are very concerned about the price and over-budget; their top priority is a central location but parking is essential.

He insisted that a clause concerning parking should be added to the original resolution accepting the tender.

\$184,368 tender plus a performance bond of \$1,720, a total amount of \$186,088, and stated that Alan Zeegen be engaged to supervise construction, his fee to be ten per cent.

Councillor Marks added to the resolution the clause that council further agrees to purchase property to accommodate staff and firefighters. This was changed, after discussion to "acquire property" to accommodate just firefighters.

Councillor Miller pointed out nobody would be able to use the lot but firefighters. Five tenders were received for the construction of the second storey to the fire hall in Acton. The low tender was that of A. and M. Ellis for \$184,368. The high tender was for \$254,000.

Unsuccessful tenders were Mastrangelo Construction, McNally Construction, Tenmar and 316542.

Consulting engineer Alan Zeegen said he had no hesitation in recommending the low tender.

Councillor McKenzie asked when work would start; Mr. Zeegen replied he would like

to start in the next week or so due to the winter coming.

Councillor Marks said he had a letter from the Acton Firefighters Association to read. Mayor Tom Hill asked Mr. Marks why he hadn't had copies made to circulate, rather than taking up council's time by reading it. Clerk Delmar French went upstairs to make copies while the discussion continued.

Copies of the letter given to each councillor read: "The Acton Firefighters Association resolve that the planned renovations to the present location of the fire hall be given further investigation and planning."

"A one hundred thousand dollar increase of an original estimated figure of \$100,000 combined with the inadequate parking facilities to service the present hall location do not agree with the Association's aim in protecting the community efficiently and economically. To reflect a positive view from the

Association we suggest the following alternatives:

(a) obtain parking facilities at the present location in conjunction with the planned renovations.

(b) moving the fire hall location to a new site and building a new hall to meet our present and future requirements.

Councillor Marks asked if copies of the letter could be given to the press so they could fully understand the subject.

During the ensuing discussion, Councillor McKenzie said he would object to giving the copies of the letter to the press until they were corrected. He said \$100,000 was not an "estimated" figure but a "budget" figure.

Meanwhile the five reporters present borrowed copies of the letter from councillors seated near them, and wrote copies for it themselves.

Financing would be done

without debenturing, councillor Russell Miller pointed out. There was \$100,000 in the budget for the project and the remainder would come from the Esqueing capital reserve fund.

There is no money in any budget of any kind to pay for extra land, said councillor Pat Patterson insistently.

Councillor Pomeroy twice questioned the decision, once calling it "strange" and the second time "ridiculous."

If you build the second storey is there accommodation for parking? he asked. None at all, answered Mayor Tom Hill.

If the town hall comes down there will be parking there, answered councillor Miller. "I understand things are moving slowly and they have very little money."

He said the town works yard (in the industrial park) is not suitable. He said he understood the CN land near the tracks is not for sale. He

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CHEQUE FOR \$1010.02 is presented by Business Association treasurer John Bumstead to Dr. George Elliott, chairman of the Acton Town Hall Restoration committee. It represents two per cent of the profits of merchants and businesspeople during Back to Acton Days on the July 1 weekend. Committee members watching

in approval are, seated Fred Allen, Doug Fread, Yvonne Rosenquist and Alice Duby; standing Mr. Bumstead, Dr. Elliott, R. L. Davidson, Ed Howse, Louis Charlebois and at the far right, the restoration architect Patrick Coles. Other donations have been received as well, although no campaign has been launched yet.

The Acton Free Press

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Forty Pages—Fifteen Cents

Firefighters' parking predicted very costly

The town is going to have to spend a lot of money to require property for firefighters parking in the vicinity of a renovated fire hall but in the meantime it has been suggested parking spots on Bower and Willow be allocated to firefighters.

Halton Hills works committee chairman Mike Armstrong said Monday night it will be costly to require land for parking.

Mayor Tom Hill said the town has somehow ended up putting the cart before the horse. He said the town set out to provide adequate parking for firefighters and ended up getting them a renovated hall. Meanwhile the parking problem still hasn't been solved.

Councillor Pat McKenzie urged any discussion of property acquisition be held behind closed doors so property owners won't be further "encouraged". The subject was discussed later in camera.

Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson suggested property owners have already received all the "encouragement" they need.

Armstrong said since it was a high capital cost the subject should maybe be dealt with by the whole council and not just committee.

It would eventually have to be dealt with by the entire council but unless committee came up with some ideas council wouldn't have a starting point. Councillor Les Duby, warned. He said the situation of having to buy expensive property may not be "desirable" but parking is

necessary and must be solved.

Armstrong agreed the problem can't be shuffled over lightly since the town has approved fire hall renovations and proper parking must be secured.

"The quicker we deal with this the better," he stated. Engineer Robert Austin noted there are no funds in this year's budget to buy land for parking.

Councillor George Maltby said parking is needed so spots must be designated on the street as a strictly "temporary" measure.

He said he wasn't too happy about parking on both sides of Bower Avenue but 25 spots must be found.

Maltby said this was the only solution until the end of the year. After that money can be set aside for property acquisitions. He thought property acquisition should be discussed in camera.

McKenzie wondered if it was possible for spots to be

provided on Bower without Willow having to be touched since it is public parking.

Maltby countered people parking "by the hour" on Willow will simply have to find spots elsewhere.

Under a plan submitted by Austin there would be 10 spots on Bower for the firefighters and 15 on Willow.

His report said he and Fire Chief Mick Holmes agreed firefighters shouldn't be parked more than 200 feet from the hall in a fire emergency.

Austin admitted in his report parking on Bower wouldn't be a good idea because it would restrict traffic but there is no alternative.

He noted the only piece of property investigated yet could cost as much as \$95,000.

Austin warned parking in the area could be worse if a restored town hall became a "commercial venture".

All other discussions took place behind closed doors.



PREPARING FOR WORK is Pal, heavy horse owned by Stewart and Bob Miller. Silvercreek farmers who believe in farming the "old" way. The Miller brothers use their team for many jobs around the farm and thresh grain with an old threshing mill. More on page 12.

Crash sends girl to intensive care

A 13-year-old girl is in serious condition in Sick Children's Hospital today after a two-car collision on the 7th Line of Erin, just east of Hwy. 24 yesterday (Tuesday) at 6 p.m.

Christina Quackenbush, R.R. 2, Acton, was a passenger in a car driven by Mary Quackenbush, when it

was in collision with a vehicle driven by Michael Weston, R.R. 2 Erin. She received head and internal injuries and is in the intensive care unit.

Mr. Weston was taken to Guelph General Hospital with chest injuries and lacerations to the right knee.

Sea plane to land on lake during fair

As the fall fair weekend draws nearer, organizers are constantly arranging various events, and adding more attractions.

The latest addition to the three day event this weekend will be the landing of a sea plane on Fairy Lake around 2 p.m. Saturday afternoon.

The plane is owned by Tim Martindale, a former resident of Acton. He now lives in Nassagaweya and is the owner of Mohawk Aircraft Sales. It was his idea to fly in the plane which will land over the Lakeview subdivision side of the lake. He will then float the plane over to the farm behind the arena, where it will remain for viewing during the remainder of the afternoon. Mr. Martindale will be on hand to answer any questions on the plane.

Approval has been received by the Acton Fair Board, the Halton Regional Police, and the Region of Halton. However, the entire performance depends entirely on weather conditions, according to Bill Nelles, associate director and past president of the fair. He explained that if there are high winds or rain, it would make landing very difficult and the plane would not even attempt the feat.

Friday opener

The plane is just one of a host of many attractions beginning Friday evening with the Variety Show and Miss Acton Fall Fair contest.

The cast and crew of the television program The Funny Farm will be on hand to perform throughout the evening.

The theme will be country and western, and East Wind will be backing up the Funny Farm cast and crew. This is the same band which backs up Opry North.

Judges for the Miss Acton contest will be well-known people including Jim Perry of CFTO's Headline Hunters, and master of ceremonies of the Miss Canada contest along with several other game shows; Valerie Perrine, formerly of Toronto Today; a CHUM FM radio program, now of Global's \$128,000 Question; and Mark Leahy, Assistant Agricultural representative for Halton.

A parade will leave from McKenzie Smith school at

noon and work its way along the usual route, down Mill to Main, to Knox and into the park. Mr. Nelles announced there have already been many entries for the parade.

A sheep show, English pony show, harness ponies and light horse shows take place in the morning. A heavy horse show takes place in the afternoon, with a cattle show spread over both Saturday and Sunday. This is the first time the cattle show has been spread over two days.

Children are invited to bring their ponies and compete in the many games lined up for Saturday afternoon. There will be a barrel race, potato race, musical chairs, sack race and apple bobbing. There will be cash prizes and ribbons for the winners.

Saturday afternoon also sees the annual Baby Show in the arena. This begins at 2 p.m. and continues on into the afternoon.

Saturday's list of events closes with a dance in the arena featuring the Garrisons dance band.

From noon until supper time there will be an Oom Pah Pah band playing at the Spot in the Park.

The action begins noon on

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\$1010 cheque for hall

On behalf of the Business Association treasurer John Bumstead presented a cheque for \$1010.02 to the Acton Town Hall Restoration Committee Monday night.

The participating merchants and business people donated two per cent of their profits of Back to Acton Days on the July 1 weekend to the town hall restoration project.

It was the first public fundraising for the town hall, decided by the Business Association.

Dr. George Elliott, com-

mittee chairman, expressed the committee's thanks and said it was a donation "out of the blue" which was very much appreciated.

While he was at the meeting, Mr. Bumstead set up a bank account for the Town Hall committee which now has a \$50 cheque from the Scout and Guide Mothers, \$50 from the fair ladies' board and \$10 from a private source.

First cheque drawn on the new account will be to pay Daniel Warren, who drew the

sketch of the town hall as it was in 1881. This picture has been printed and will be sold at the fall fair.

A booth will be set up outside on the grounds, since no space was left inside. Architect Patrick Coles, who was at the meeting with his draft study, agreed he would like to come to Acton fair and would be available in the booth in the afternoon on Saturday to answer questions about the restoration. He will also bring information about other similar projects, he said.

Circulating to committee

Architect's study lists town hall needs

The draft copy of the Acton Town Hall study was presented by architect Patrick Coles Monday night to members of the Town Hall Restoration committee.

Members are circulating the copies for comments, which will be incorporated into the final study.

The 30-page study covers objectives, structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical studies, current use and proposed future use, modifications and restorations, building management, maintenance and estimated costs, with drawings and photographs.

The study will accompany requests for grants for the restoration work.

Although the main bulk of the study is subject to change, the architect concludes that the building is an interesting one in terms of the architecture of Ontario and in relation to Acton's early population is outstanding.

Aware of the possibility the stage area might be razed to allow for the second storey addition to the fire hall, Mr. Coles wrote "The retention of the total structure including the east wing is desirable, most particularly in view of the practical advantage of retaining a stage facility. In the event that the retention of the total building is unacceptable, I am of the opinion that the main portion of the building is of sufficient importance to warrant its retention and restoration."

He concluded the town hall is a clear statement of the pride and aspirations of the community of the 1880's. He had followed the stages of its conception and construction in the Free Press and said it is remarkable that the benefits of retaining the town hall should relate so closely to the revenue-producing advantages extolled by the Acton Free Press when advocating the leasing of the public hall.

The original fee was \$5 for itinerant companies for one evening, with half or two-thirds of this amount recommended for members of the community.

The building is direct and simple in its original plan, and the exterior remains a well-balanced composition, he said. "Earlier extensions to the east have diminished the appearance of the original design and the latest fire hall extension project will sacrifice the stage area and the total east wing of the town hall."

Committee members viewed the drawings which indicated possible interior modifications to include washrooms. His proposals for the exterior include the

reconstruction of the original wooden porch over the front door and rebuilding of the bell tower.

Mr. Coles found his rummaging through the Free Press files interesting. He said the original piece of land for the town hall was bought for \$500 and he thought the completed building would have cost about \$6,000—a substantial amount for a small village.

He talked over financing the project, mentioning again the possible government grants, use of volunteer labor, and eventual income. "If money comes in first to give it a shot in the arm then it stands on its own feet," he said.

He would like to see the roof covered in cedar shingles, since the town had a shingle mill at that time and it would fit well with the historic angle.

He didn't recommend that the bell be put up in the bell tower again, however. The bell used to be rung every morning at 6 a.m., he reported.

"It's a handsome building," he concluded. Dr. Elliott read a letter from A. B. Lawrence of the Ontario Heritage Foundation concerning the project and wishing the committee success.

Lightning zaps lines

Power was off Friday evening in the east end of town for about an hour and a half, due to a lightning strike. Hydro workmen weren't informed of the power failure for about half an hour after it occurred, delaying repairs.



KIM WHITE received the trophy for the Squirt girls most valuable players award, while Betty Lou Tufford received the league's most improved player trophy. The trophies were presented at the annual field day Saturday at Prospect Park. For more pictures see the sports pages.

Actonians for Action

Meet province on October 3

Representatives of the Actonians for Action committee will meet with representatives of the provincial government on Monday, October 3. The date and time were arranged Monday by Committee vice-chairman Norm Elliott.

A meeting with treasurer and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs Darcy McKeough had been hoped for but now members expect it will be with a member of parliament and other officials.

Provisions in the legislation that formed regional government require that an inquiry should be held into any concerns that involve 50 ratepayers. This year the Actonians for Action committee amassed over 2,000 names on a petition asking for reconsideration of regional government as it touches Acton.

The committee prepared a brief which was presented in June at a meeting of the regional committee set up to study regional government.

The committee's brief concerned the workings of regional government in Halton Hills, suggesting local government should be restored here. The enforced marriage of Acton and Georgetown was poor political judgment, it stated.

Members were very pleased with the numbers of people who signed their petition sheets voluntarily. The sheets were left in local stores.

Members of the committee had been growing impatient at not having a meeting in Toronto set up. The matter was arranged Monday by Mr. Elliott, after receiving a letter in reply to the request.



LEGION LADIES' Auxiliaries celebrated the 50th anniversary of their founding with a Zone B7 banquet Saturday at Acton Legion. Cutting the anniversary cake are Comrade Florence Pegg and Comrade Ruth Finley. More on page B9.