

Tenders accepted

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had enquired about land on Elizabeth Dr. and purchasing of Force Electric or the Canadian Tire store. "The adjacent property is the cheapest route to go," he said.

It would cost at least \$150,000 to buy property, he said. "I thought this was one time we were getting together on a project," he commented, referring to the fact some of the money would come from the Esquering capital reserves.

At different times councillors Pomeroy and Serjeantson asked if consideration could be given to awarding the tender to a local firm. There is not a large amount of difference between the lowest tender and the next two, said councillor Pomeroy. He said if a local firm got the contract, the money would be poured back into Halton Hills.

"We're here to save the taxpayers dollars," said councillor Patterson, and the matter was dropped. We spent five and a half months to develop this proposal, said councillor Doby. The town could double in size; these renovations will be adequate for 15 years. "We will proceed with parking... I feel we have to support this final recommendation. We will deal with parking." It felt parking should be off the street.

Defending council's decision, councillor McKenzie stated 80 per cent of the architect's fee is spent already. He referred to the presentation made the night before (Doug Fread offered to build a new fire hall for \$186,000 including architect's and engineering fees, but exclusive of land) and said this new hall might have to be changed in some ways. The land would have to be bought. Then there would still be the existing fire hall and money would have to be spent to fix it

up for some other purpose "possibly recreation." "If you want to add those up...?" The parking is not an insurmountable problem, Mr. McKenzie said. He said a building lot could be purchased.

Councillor Serjeantson recalled that the parking requirement was to have been solved by the tearing down of the town hall.

Mayor Hill commented "That's how it got off the track."

What's been going on for the past 20 years? councillor Pat Patterson wanted to know. Councillor Marks said the town had increased 25 per cent in the last few years. Up until five years ago there were plenty of places to park, but now there is pressure in the downtown for parking spots. The spots are plugged with shoppers, leaving less room for firefighters to park on the streets.

Puzzled councillor Serjeantson wondered if building the new building would be less costly. Is this what the firemen want? she enquired.

If we have to purchase parking we will, promised councillor Marks. We could still be taking down the town hall, said the mayor.

Asked by the Free Press after the meeting if councillors knew where the firefighters' parking would be, Councillor Peter Marks said they did not know the specific location. He said the second storey proposal was the least expensive, and considerable work had been done on investigating other sites. He was disappointed in the price that would be required to buy land, he said. He said the lots near the middle school are valued at \$30,000 each, making a total value of \$120,000 to provide for a site for a new hall.



LIZ BAILEY puts mustard on husband Rick's hot dog Saturday at a garage sale held at their Elmore Drive home. Many neighbors helped them put on the sale and all money raised is to be given to the United church.

Archway cracked at old town hall

Portions of the entrance at the Acton old town hall are loose and in danger of falling down, according to a copy of a letter from Patrick Coles to Douglas Fread, vice-chairman of the Acton Town Hall Restoration Committee.

A copy of the letter was sent to Halton Hills administration committee, Monday night. The letter stated Mr. Coles had visited the old town hall with E. M. Aziz, of Hastings and Aziz Ltd. Consulting Engineers when the condition was noticed.

He stated since the building is in use all the time it is

essential that steps be taken to fix the brick arch. He said the other areas of structural concern would be included in the study being undertaken by the company on the entire town hall.

Committee chairman pointed out the building is being used all the time by the public, and also houses a senior citizens' drop-in centre, and the police department. He said for safety reasons it should be looked at immediately.

"It occurs to me the town of Acton is working it so we repair this building bit by bit,

but I could be wrong," commented Roy Booth.

Councillor Peter Marks argued it was a matter of public safety, and a qualified engineer had brought it to their attention.

"Supposing the building inspector condemned the building, what then?" asked Councillor Pat Patterson.

"Then we'd have the off-street parking problem solved," replied Councillor Walter Biehn.

Patterson wanted the building inspector to report on the archway, but Councillor Peter Morris claimed the town engineer or works superintendent could do it. Marks said there are wide cracks right down through the mortar, but claimed the cracks had been that way for a long time. He suggested Allan Zeegen investigate, and put a limit of \$100 on the investigation.

"Why shouldn't the Acton Town Hall Restoration Committee, who stopped the hall from being torn down be responsible?" asked Patterson.

"Because the town owns it," Marks replied. "When the pressure group phoned in, we phoned out," replied Patterson.

Marks defended the restoration committee saying they were doing a worthwhile job.

Finally the committee decided the simplest and cheapest way was to have the public works department fix it. "By putting some cement in so bricks won't fall on someone's head."

Police investigate two car accidents

Halton Regional Police estimate damages to a vehicle driven by Susan Kuiken, R.R. 2, Acton at \$500 and a vehicle driven by Vera Hoase, 262 Arthur St. at \$150 after a two-car collision on Willow St., September 9 at 4:40 p.m.

Police say one vehicle was in the line of traffic moving slowly, when the other car stopped, parked, and pulled out into traffic again.

Both drivers received minor injuries. Both drivers were slightly injured after two cars were in collision on Churchill Rd. September 7 at 4:20 p.m.

Police say one car was driving out of a driveway when it was in collision with a car heading south.

Police estimate \$150 in damages to a car driven by Reginald Andrews, 169 Churchill Rd., and \$100 in damages to a car driven by Jean Somerville, 65 Churchill Rd.

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He claimed there was no money in the budget to purchase property for parking this year, so contended the

Time limit for town hall group

The Acton Town Hall Restoration Committee should be given until December 31 of this year to show if the restoration of the old town hall can be financed, Councillor Russ Miller commented at Halton Hills administration committee, Monday night.

He claimed there was no money in the budget to purchase property for parking this year, so contended the

restoration committee should be able to show if they can raise the money through the Heritage Foundation, grants and public subscription, before any more decisions are made.

He said in the '78 budget, council should know whether to set aside money for parking property or for tearing down the old town hall.

The remainder of the discussion on providing off-street parking for Acton firefighters was held in camera, at the suggestion of Councillor Peter Marks, who claimed any negotiation on land should be held behind closed doors.

New parking lease is proposed by Trinity

Trinity United Church wants a \$49 a year increase in the amount of rent Halton Hills pays for the parking lot along with the \$1 the town owes the church for 1977.

Church officials Ralph Denny and Bob Hart told Halton Hills works committee Monday the church wants a new lease on the parking lot rented to the town since 1967.

Denny admitted suggestions that parking meters be installed in downtown parking lots had prompted the lease review. He said the church is also not completely happy with the way the lot has been maintained by the town.

The church wants \$50 a year as rent under the new lease and if the church is ever taxed the rent will be raised to equivalent to the taxes. Denny also noted the town hasn't even paid the \$1 rent this year so technically there is no agreement.

Committee chairman Mike Armstrong jokingly suggested the \$49 raise in rent was a penalty for being late with this year's rent.

The new lease will also call for water to be drained to Mill and Elgin Streets and snow not plowed up beside the former Dills Stationery store.

Other requirements of the new lease are realignment of parking spaces, killing of weeds, reserved spaces and signs for church officials, no parking meters, priority parking for funerals and

Special events

Recreation Director Glen Gray gave Halton Hills administration committee a list of special events to be held at town arenas this season.

He said it was better to "do it all in one shot", so everyone knows what dates are already booked, and what groups are affected.

Included in the list are the Midget tournament at Alcott arena, from January 17 to 22; a figure skating competition February 18 at Alcott arena, a four town tournament March 4 at Alcott; Georgetown Figure Skating Club recital March 5, at Alcott; the Bantam Tournament at Georgetown Memorial Arena March 18 to 24 and at Alcott March 25; the Pee Wee House League Tournament at Acton arena February 24, 25 and 26; and the Atom Centennial Tournament at Acton arena March 10 to March 12.

Your loss is your gain.

parking by the public and not municipal vehicles. Denny said the rent increase would make the new agreement a little more binding.

Engineer Robert Austin said council would have to establish if the parking authority or works department pays for maintenance.

Councillor Les Doby said he didn't think the parking authority was really involved

in the lot since it was rented back when there wasn't a parking authority.

Councillor Pat McKenzie noted the decision made regarding the Trinity Church lot would set a policy for all three church lots in Acton. He noted the church lots rented by the town are vital to downtown Acton.

The new lease proposed by the church will be studied by the town.

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Refuse bins set in place

Some refuse bins have been placed in the downtown, and others may be added, the Business Association learned last week.

Reporting for the Security and Clean Up Committee Ed Wood said if more bins are needed, requests should be directed to Alma Swetman. Regular street sweeping has been requested by the association, Mr. Wood said. Also garbage pick-up seems to be working well, he said. There is an enforceable littering law, Mr. Wood told the gathering, if someone lays a charge. A move was made to split the dual committee, putting security under one chairmanship, and clean up under another.

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