

Council urges

Take mayors off regional council

Mayors should not sit on Halton regional council, but should spend their times at the local level, Halton Hills council agreed, Monday night.

It was one of the recommendations made to the committee, headed by Councillor Pete Pomeroy, to review Bill 151, the act that established regional government.

Councillor Les Duby, former mayor of Acton, said the workload was enough at the local level, and claimed it would be in the interest of the people and the mayors to have them devote their time to one area.

Council agreed the vacancies left by cutting out the mayors would not be filled so the numbers would be cut by four.

"If this goes through at the

region, we've just saved \$4,000 in chairs," quipped Mayor Tom Hill.

Police Commission

All four mayors would sit on Halton Police Commission if Halton Hills council has its way.

Mayor Hill contended the mayors would keep a sharper eye on the police budget since they are responsible to the taxpayer. He suggested there be one citizen at large, in addition to the mayors.

Councillor Peter Morris claimed the purpose of the police commission was to remove the police from politics and said this would defeat the purpose.

Councillor Russ Miller pointed out there are only two elected officials on the commission now.

"It scares the living hell out of me to think 80 per cent of

the commission would be political," stated Councillor Peter Marks. He said the commission should not change from election to election, and claimed the input of judges and citizens, who have no political connections, was important. He recognized the importance of the budget, but suggested a method of appeal to Queen's Park, if regional council is dissatisfied with the budget, should be set up. A by-election option.

The method of filling a vacancy at regional council, a controversial subject when the late Councillor Len Cox died, would be overhauled, and the option of holding a by-election given local councils, according to another recommendation from the Bill 151 committee.

The by-election would be at

the discretion of the local council. At present the Bill says the vacancy must be filled by appointment within 30 days.

Clerk Administrator Doug Pritchard pointed out by-elections are not allowed after March of the year when the next election will be held.

Land Division Committee

Council agreed the function of the Land Division Committee should be returned to the local municipality, as part of the Committee of Adjustment.

Pomeroy explained the committee felt the land division committee deals directly with area problems, and is control of people who don't know the problems.

"I couldn't agree more," commented Councillor George Malby.

Councillor Russ Miller said

the present Land Division Committee doesn't seem to pay any attention to local planning opinions. He suggested it could be an appointed local body.

Councillor Pat Patterson said the Land Division Committee should be apart from council.

Zoning and planning

The region of Halton should have the control over subdivision approvals and official Plan amendments, now lodged with the Ministry of Housing, the committee recommended.

Pomeroy argued the steps now are expensive and any cutting down of the red tape would be an improvement.

Morris said this is already being done, and said the region of Peel has had the power transferred to them.

Armstrong said it would be

done as soon as the Halton Official Plan is completed.

Halton Hills council approved the transfer of power anyway to emphasize their view.

Water and sewer

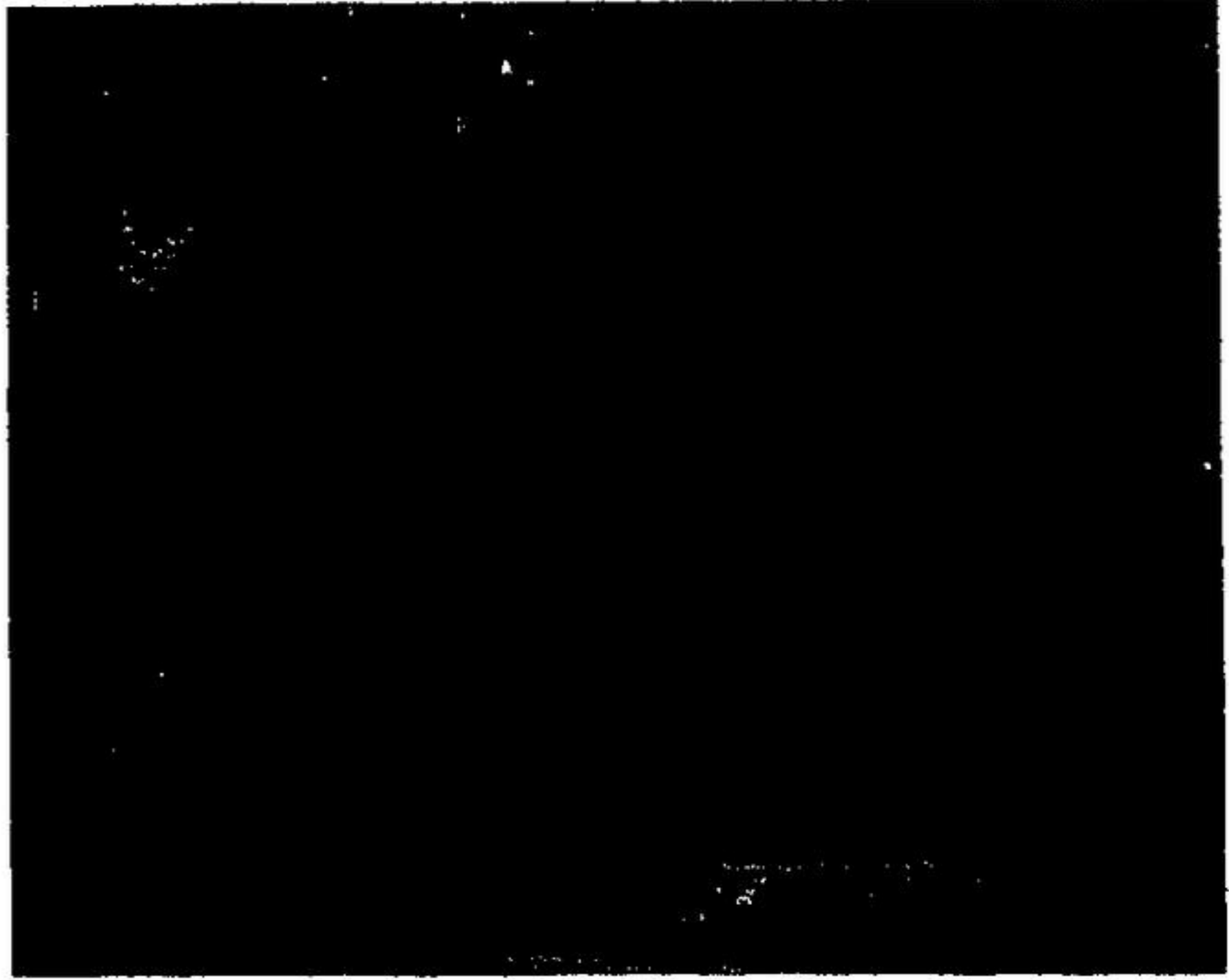
The return of control over water and sewers to the local municipalities will be studied, according to the recommendation.

Council felt they needed more information before coming out definitely for the move.

Name of town

A suggestion submitted to the committee that instead of the singular Town of Halton Hills name, it should be changed to the plural Towns of Halton Hills, found no backers at council.

Council endorsed the report and will send it to the Regional Bill 151 Committee.



CONSTRUCTION IS going full speed ahead at the fire hall. However, the view from Willow Street is cluttered as snow fences and building materials litter the site, and police cars park wherever there is room.

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CARPENTER JOHN KRUL FOUND himself with plenty of recruits Thursday when he showed M. Z. Bennett kindergarten classes how to build a house. He showed the children the various carpenter tools. Tammy Andrews, Robbie Lockhurst and Darryl Dempsey, sitting, examined some of his many tools.

Town hall historic site

Council agreed to designate the Acton town hall and historical building Tuesday night, in reply to a request from the Town Hall Restoration Committee.

Dr. Elliott's letter reads:

"The Acton Town Hall Restoration Committee has been advised by the Ontario Heritage Foundation that before approval can be given for a grant in support of the Town Hall feasibility study it must be designated a Heritage Property by the municipality under the terms set out in the Ontario Heritage Act 1974.

"The Committee was not aware, nor was it informed, of this requirement when application was made for the feasibility study grant. In order to investigate fully therefore the funding available for restoration from the Heritage Foundation it is necessary that the Town Hall be designated.

"The Restoration Committee requests that Council immediately take the necessary preliminary steps for the designation as set out in Section 29 of the Act subsections (1), (3), and (4); and, following the thirty day waiting period pass the necessary by-law (subsection 6a). Com-

pletion of this designation will be communicated to the Heritage Foundation who it is expected will then authorize the grant to cover part of the costs of the feasibility study. The Committee hopes to complete its application for a Heritage Foundation grant and a Wintario grant by November 3 for submission to the December meeting of the Heritage Foundation. This group will not consider the application unless the property in question has been designated by the municipality or is in process of being designated.

"If the restoration proves not to be financially possible

council can repeal the designation by-law within thirty days as set out in Section 31 of the Act, subsections (1) (3) (4) (6).

"In order to complete the restoration study as quickly as possible the committee urges council to act rapidly on this request for designation of the Town Hall."

Councillor Les Duby pointed out Council was not committing themselves to any expenditures and have the added protection of being able to repeal the by-law. Council voted unanimously to pass the by-law designating the town hall an historical site.

Contractor says

Paving completed when strike ends

Paving of Main St. N. is expected to proceed on schedule in spite of a five week strike at Nelson Crushed Gravel, where the asphalt comes from.

Hank Hutter, of King Paving, explained to the Free Press that his company owns the gravel pit, which has been on strike for several weeks. It is expected however, that the differences will be resolved this week.

Mr. Hutter continued to say that the strike did not affect the Acton contract because

the paving was not scheduled until the beginning of November anyway. He did admit however that if the strike is not resolved this week, there is a possibility paving could be held up. He estimates the work to be done two weeks after the gravel men are back on the job.

Town Engineer Bob Austin told this newspaper that the curbs are basically completed, work on the concrete sidewalks is underway, and paving stones will be laid shortly.

Where are Seniorapts.?

Councillor Pat McKenzie wants to know what's the delay in starting the senior citizens apartments on Elizabeth Drive, Acton.

He said he had been told construction would start in October, and said he saw no signs yet.

"They don't seem to know what they're doing," he commented at Halton Hills council meeting.

He asked council to try to find out what's happening.

Mishap puts 3 in hospital

Three Acton people were taken to Georgetown Hospital following a single car mishap on the Nassagaweya-Esqueving township line Thursday night.

According to Halton Regional Police John Galt, 56 Main St., received major injuries in the accident.

Jennifer Pargeter also received major injuries. Another passenger, John W. Lamberink, of the Fourth Line, had minor injuries, police say.

The car, which police say left the road, was estimated to have been damaged to the extent of \$5,000.

Crack down on Hallowe'en omelets

Police will get cracking after Hallowe'en egg throwing, District One Superintendent Floyd Schwantz says.

Egg chucking has been dealt with severely in the past, but this year charges will be laid under the mischief section of the criminal code, Schwantz said.

A conviction would result in a "serious black mark" being linked with a person's name, he said.

Hallowe'en falls on Monday October 31, but Superintendent Schwantz said he expects some hijinx, such as

soaped windows, on the Sunday.

The sterner look at egg throwing comes from the damage it causes, especially to store fronts which must be sand blasted clean, the superintendent said.

The attitude was that egg throwing was part of Hallowe'en's fun. However, we'll have to consider it as a deliberate action. Eggs are bought with a purpose in mind, he said.

Egg throwing has been popular among youths for about 10 years in Georgetown. It is also done in Acton.

Patrick Coles, the architect

hired to prepare the feasibility study, met recently with Doug Koch of the Foundation staff to go over the details. He learned the town hall would have to be designated an historic building by council, and a letter was sent to council requesting this.

The study estimates the cost of total restoration at \$236,000, including architectural and engineering fees. Grants will be applied for from both the Heritage Foundation and Wintario. In his report he pointed out some work could be done on a voluntary basis. It is possible that repairs and division of the building could provide immediate revenue to contribute to the restoration.

Some of the cost would be raised locally.

Mr. Coles met with the town hall restoration committee Monday.

No crossing guard for Mill-Willow

Nobody in Acton wants the job of crossing guard at the Mill and Willow intersection.

Left with no guard, Clerk Administrator Doug Pritchard told Halton Hills council he has to stop designating the area as a pedestrian cross over.

Pritchard said he has no one on standby, and has no other choice. He said he had advertised but only received

answers from Limehouse, Hornby and Glen Williams.

Councillor Les Duby termed it a very important intersection where children are crossing every day.

Councillor Peter Morris asked if the police would do it. Mayor Tom Hill said the police cannot do it every day.

Councillor Pat McKenzie said he would try to find someone and notify the clerk immediately.

Fair prize money now in the mail

Acton Fall Fair prize money is now being mailed out to winning exhibitors. The cheques will be sent out from now until the end of the month.

Secretary-treasurer John Rowe asked that exhibitors be patient as some of their prize money will be mailed separately.

tee King outlined tax hikes for the town from 1974-77, not including special area charges.

Acton's dollar increase is \$15.34; Esqueving's \$31.96; Georgetown's \$15.37 and Oakville's \$17.87.

12% 1978 tax hike projected

Halton Hills operating budget may be struck in time to be in the green next year.

A time table adopted by general administration committee last week sets March 17-St. Patrick's Day—for approval of the town's portion

of next year's operating budget.

If the target date is achieved, the town's section of the overall budget may be set a month earlier than this year, according to treasurer Ray King.

In a letter King stated the operating surplus at year's end will amount to \$200,000.

On the bottom line there may be an increase of 3.7 per cent over last year in spending, according to King. The percentage amounts to

\$176,412 and raises the figure to \$4,980,351 for next year.

There is a projected mill rate hike of about 12 per cent, according to King.

In a table given to commit-

Missing modifications vex hall committee

Failure of the fire hall addition to match the town hall, as expected, was reported Monday to the town hall restoration committee by Doug Fread.

He expressed his disappointment and referred to the addition as a "monstrosity."

The committee had been told, at meetings of the fire hall committee and engineer Allan Zeegen, that special consideration would be given to making the town buildings look compatible.

The new brick face on the one side of the fire hall is of brown brick, while the town hall is red. Other walls are to remain cement block. The windows were to have been arched to match those in the town hall and this has not

been done, Mr. Fread said. The committee had requested a steel beam be installed, in case the stage area could be opened up again in the future. This is not being done.

A band of brickwork, matching that in the town hall, was also expected.

"It looks as if our meetings accomplished nothing," said the annoyed Mr. Fread.

He explained that when he noticed the lack of expected modifications he had enquired, as was told the decision was made to eliminate them because of the cost. The municipality made the decision, he said, without informing the committee as they had expected.

"We had intended to apply for grants to cover the

modifications if the town would not do them," Mr. Fread said. Wintario grants cover that kind of things, he said. "But it was never brought to our attention."

Although some bricks are in a pile in the fire hall, many others have been destroyed by sledgehammer blows. The town hall restoration committee had asked that the bricks be saved to use in repairs.

Architect Patrick Coles met with the committee in the senior citizens room of the town hall, and reported on his meeting with Doug Koch of the Ontario Heritage Foundation. The final application for a grant is being prepared by the committee.

Fire hall coming along well—Miller

Councillor Russell Miller, who has spent many hours on the fire hall project, says the work is coming along well at the site.

Workmen did not return Tuesday since they are held up awaiting steel for the roof. It has been ordered but the work is ahead of schedule, Mr. Miller said. He doesn't know when the expected date

for finishing the project is, but "they won't be done before Christmas."

Council Monday night approved a steel beam for the hall, instead of the pillars on the ground floor. Mr. Miller said he did not know how much the steel beam would cost.

Changes which had been asked by the town hall

restoration committee were cut because of the expense, Mr. Miller told the Free Press. Council wouldn't pay the extra cost, he explained. "After all the majority of the money did come out of Esqueving and Georgetown and you can't expect them to carry Acton all the time." He said the brick is the closest that could be obtained to match the town hall brick.

I have tried to be very objective and responsible, Mr. Miller explained. He was pleased "when I thought we would get together as a town for the benefit of the people." However he has heard many objections and "I've taken some abuse."

He said people have been complaining about the cost. What would the cost be if we had a full-time fire department? he asked. Financing the addition out of the capital reserve rather than debenturing saves money, he pointed out.

As for parking, he says that is still under discussion and confidential.

He said there is no money to buy buildings for a new site. "That's the way of life. We're trying to do the best with what we've got."

Personally, he still thinks it would be sensible to tear down the old town hall.

We have to accept regional government, Mr. Miller declared. He's pleased with the way things are going.

He thinks "we're building a fine fire hall for a fine group of men."



HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL Dean Fink enjoys a delicious meal in his school's cafeteria. Although he could spend his lunch period in the privacy of the teachers' lounge, he prefers to eat his lunch with students in order to get to know them. For a complete story on the cafeteria, see the Youth Page.