

Minister agrees to consider hydro route review

Representatives of the Interested Citizens' Group which met with Energy Minister James Taylor, his assistant Malcolm Rowan and adviser Andy Frame, Tuesday felt they got a responsible hearing from the Minister, the first in several years of campaigning to get an independent study of a proposed hydro corridor from Bruce to Milton.

relations officer for the ICG, Mr. Taylor said he would consider the ultimatum they delivered, discuss it with the Premier and the Cabinet and come back with an answer by December 21—yes or no.

The ICG have threatened to drag on legal entanglements to delay the corridor over two years unless the Minister gives them a four month review considering an alternative route to Kitchener as well as

the Bruce to Milton proposal.

The ICG contends it has always been Hydro's aim to go to Kitchener in the first place but a political decision rerouted the corridor from Bruce to Milton.

Energy Minister Taylor told the ICG Tuesday the final responsibility is at the political level. The ICG left him with three facts to mull over.

1. He can ignore an independent review and allow legal blocks to the Bruce to Milton corridor to delay it up to two years.

2. He can consider the amount of dollar savings to the province and Ontario Hydro by shortening the route in miles and have it built sooner.

3. He can also consider whether the shorter route would be better for the system both in the short range and long term. By taking a route to Kitchener they

would solve power problems expected to materialize there in 1980.

ICG representatives who included President Bill Mann, John Schneider, Gordon Kidd, Reford Gardhouse, David Moffat, William Allen and John Minns were satisfied with their Tuesday meeting with Mr. Taylor. Minns said the fact he thought they might have a point was a strike on their behalf. He also said Taylor

also began to see some of the reasons for the fight against the corridor by citizens along the entire route, who have long claimed they were being treated badly by Hydro and the government.

In any event they are determined to carry on the fight against the corridor unless they get an independent review. They feel the review will justify their position and open many eyes.

The Acton Free Press

One Hundred and third Year.—No. 24.

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1977.

Thirty-Eight Pages.—Fifteen Cents.



BOAR'S HEAD is self impressively aloft by chef Dave Tappin while Earl Steckley follows with the huge turkey during the procession which preceded the Boar's Head dinner in the Legion Sunday. The white-uniformed chefs didn't really do the cooking; "we'll just get the blame if something goes wrong," explained high-hatted Steckley. Nothing did.



PROCESSION OF choristers, jesters, monks and chefs proceeded and sang formally up and down all the aisles at the Legion, before over 300 were served dinner there Sunday. The innovative Boar's Head dinner was arranged by

the church's young people - with a little help from their friends. Dave Maschinter leads the procession. The event was all impressively staged by candlelight.

Council drags feet-- no town hall funds

Disappointed members of the Acton Town Hall Restoration committee Monday learned there is no money from the Heritage Foundation for the project the way things are at present.

The decision, relayed by phone to Doug Fread, states: "The Heritage Foundation defers its decision on a grant for the Acton Town Hall until such time as the municipal council demonstrates its willingness to make a much more responsible financial contribution to the implementation of this project and to its subsequent management."

Chairman of the Town Hall Restoration committee Dr. George Elliott said the decision was not unexpected.

"The Heritage Foundation was not happy with the input of the municipality. Councillors offered neither financial support or interest, on the part of some."

The fire hall addition undoubtedly had a bearing on the decision, Dr. Elliott thinks.

"We could get no co-operation in making the two buildings the same. The Heritage Foundation knows we tried... that undoubtedly would have something to do with it."

The total sum for restoration, \$236,000 according to the feasibility study, is too high for the townspeople to raise, he said.

The committee had requested \$100,000 from the Heritage Foundation.

"There are a whole lot of

"It's probably a monument to regional government," said Dr. Elliott.

However, he is not discouraged as the decision is not final.

The committee will meet again soon to decide what to do next, he said. A campaign for pledges had been considered. A Wintario application is also planned.

Councillor Peter Marks, asked to comment on the decision, said he thought if the committee would get pledges to indicate willingness to contribute then council would have to consider financial support. Unless that is done, "I don't know that council would give any more support than has been given," he said.

"Names on a petition are not enough."

Mr. Marks said it is hard to justify the expense of a quarter of a million dollars on the building. There are more efficient ways to spend money, he said. There would still be insufficient parking for cars in the area.

Councillor Pat McKenzie said council will have to con-

sider the matter again.

Councillor Russell Miller, who is on the committee overseeing the fire hall addition, was in hospital Tuesday and unavailable for comment. (Mr. Miller consistently felt the town hall should be razed and the town have the lot for parking).

Councillor Les Doby was sorry to hear the decision. He says it's a "reprieve" and the question will be pursued further by council.

Council decided not to give the Restoration committee things we asked for, Doug Fread said, Monday. They wouldn't discuss it or even bring it to our attention. That's obviously influenced the Heritage Foundation. "They've (council) been fighting it all along."

Fergus just got a big grant, Mr. Fread pointed out, but they have the full backing of their council.

Speaking of the fire hall addition which he terms a "horrible monstrosity" Mr. Fread said the whole thing just doesn't make sense.

"If they do tear down the town hall what do they end up with? It will still look horrible. There's been no aesthetic thought given to it."

Mr. Fread, who received the decision by phone from Doug Koch of the Heritage Foundation, relayed the news to councillors and his fellow committee-members by phone Monday.

The decision would have been mailed but was delayed by the mail strike in Toronto.

Approve \$1.8 million budget

A draft capital budget of \$1.89 million for 1978 was approved by Halton Hills council this week and was sent on to the Halton Regional Council for approval.

Treasurer Ray King emphasized this is only a preliminary capital budget and may be charged drastically.

The budget calls for \$521,000 to be disturbed, \$677,800 to come from the operating budget, \$677,100 from government subsidies and \$20,000 from the serve fund.

While setting the amount from operating budget, Treasurer Ray King urged it be cut to \$625,000, meaning coun-

cillors will have to decide what items listed should be cut.

He acknowledged the sound principle of doing as much as possible from the operating budget to reduce debt charges, but pointed out the '77 operating budget included a surplus from the same budget the previous year of \$489,000. This year he forecasts a surplus of \$150,000, which will have to be made up by cutting expenditures or raising taxes.

In his report the treasurer said there will be no levies available at the end of this year to assist in 1978 capital projects. He said all existing

levies have been allocated.

The treasurer noted no provision had been made in either the '78 capital budget or the capital forecast for '79 to '82 for an expansion of the municipal offices on the Seventh Line. He suggested a portion of the lot levies expected over the next five years, estimated at \$2,800,000 could be allocated over the next four or five years, if council decides to go ahead with the expansion.

Included in the draft '78 capital budget is \$260,000 for the reconstruction of Main Street South, Georgetown, \$375,000 for the reconstruction of Main St. South, Acton;

\$135,000 for Henry St., Mary St. and Cleaveland Drive, Georgetown; \$130,000 for Prince Charles Dr., Georgetown and \$100,000 for Lakeview storm sewer construction in Acton.

Parking space for the Acton fire hall is listed at \$100,000, and rescue van for the Acton department at \$20,000. A fire pumper for the Georgetown, fire department is listed at \$60,000.

Erosion control in the Metcalfe ravine is estimated at \$40,000 and in the Regan Crescent ravine at \$11,000.

Other projects in the '78 capital budget at present are a sprinkler system for Georgetown Memorial arena at \$26,400, reconstruction of Acton tennis courts at \$16,000, a new roadway and bridge over the creek at Cedarvale Park, Georgetown, at \$60,000, and soccer fields beside Alcott arena, Georgetown, at \$72,000.

The capital forecast for the years '79 to '82 totals \$4,611,000 with no debenture debt foreseen at this time.

Strike, snow play havoc with mail

Mail service in Acton was not greatly affected by the recent walk-out of inside postal workers in Toronto, according to assistant postmaster Christina McMillan.

There was no mail from Toronto on Monday or Tuesday (yesterday), but mail is expected to be back to normal by today following yesterday's settlement of the strike.

In spite of the hold-up in the east-bound mail, Mrs. McMillan says, Acton mail still got delivered to homes and businesses in Kitchener, Waterloo, Stratford, London, Georgetown, Milton and Burlington.

The strike did not seem to stop any Acton residents from sending their Christmas mail, however, the assistant postmaster says. Although incoming items were cut down substantially, people still mailed what they had.

The post office found themselves with a shortage of ten cent stamps, Mrs. McMillan explained, mainly

due to the weather. The stamps are shipped from London, but with the terrible snowstorms in that area, transportation of the stamps was halted for a few days. She expects the stamps to arrive today.

The weather on Friday in Acton also disproved the old saying that "Through rain, or sleet or hail or snow the mail must get through". Letter carriers had to return to the post office around 11:30 a.m. as they could not see where they were walking in the blowing snow.

No frills for fire hall

There will be no vinyl covering on the dry wall at the Acton firehall, despite a request for it from the Acton firefighters.

Halton Hills finance committee rejected the request Monday night, saying there was no money for it in the firehall budget.

The estimated cost of the vinyl covering in the office, lounge and training room is \$2,900.

Councillor Roy Booth said they had no money for frills, and if the firefighters wanted it they could do it themselves. He pointed out the lounge in the Georgetown firehall "didn't cost the taxpayers a red cent". He said the men did it themselves. He claimed the town is providing an excellent building, and urged the committee to stay with the specifications.

Councillor Peter Marks

said there is no money in the contingency fund for the vinyl.

Kicks door in

A 20-year-old Acton youth has been arrested and charged by Halton Regional Police after allegedly entering property on the fourth line, north of 15 Sideroad of Esqueping and kicking in a door in a workshop in order to use the telephone.

'Talk' office expansion

Halton Hills councillors are talking about an addition to the municipal building on the Seventh Line, but are staying away from calling it a municipal complex.

At a special meeting last week where a general discussion on the subject was held, a consensus showed there is a need for space. Council decided to approach

architect Don Hallford to find how much his fee would be if the building is done in separate stages.

"This is just an exploratory move, there is no commitment to any building," said Councillor Pete Pomeroy. He pointed out the financing has not been figured out as yet. He said he would like to see no more debenture debt. He said

some councillors were leaning toward staging the expansion, and some wanted to wait and do it right. He pointed out the planning department was the most "pushed for space."

Pomeroy described the meeting as the first step in a series to decide how to solve the space shortage for town staff.

Recommend cut levies senior citizen apts.

Halton Hills may cut the lot levies for the 52 senior citizens apartment units on Elizabeth Dr. but won't drop them as much as the Ontario Housing Commission wants.

Tuesday night Christa Hale, co-ordinator of community housing for this area, asked planning board to cut the levies to \$350 per unit. Instead planning board recommended they be dropped to \$885 per unit including both town and regional levies. The normal

levy is \$1436 per unit with \$636 town levy and \$800 regional levy.

\$885 is the same amount paid by the O.H.C. for the senior citizens apartment units in Georgetown, now nearing completion there.

Miss Hale said she understood the charges were \$350 when the plan was first presented to the O.H.C. board of directors. She said the project was ready for tender call and hoped there would be no further delays.

Councillor Peter Marks asked what effect the town's refusal to lower the levies would have.

Miss Hale pointed out all other municipalities lowered their fees for senior citizens apartments. "The municipality made the request for the apartments and we expect a certain amount of co-operation."

Mr. Marks replied "Then it has nothing to do with actual costs but a matter of good will."

"This is a trade off situation. We are all trying to work to a common goal, I hope," answered Miss Hale.

The motion to drop the fees was passed unanimously. Council has yet to endorse the move.

Choir joins band for Christmas concert

In a "First effort" together, Acton Citizens Band and the Georgetown Choral Society will present a joint concert Sunday evening, Dec. 18 at the middle school.

The band and choir will be performing together, and they had a rehearsal together Monday night.

The band and chorus will both also perform separately.

Conductor Dale Wood will lead the singers in the Hallelujah Chorus. Dave Sale will conduct the band in Three Noels, and George Elliott will conduct O How Amiable. As well as these highlights, other selections have been chosen to especially please the crowd.

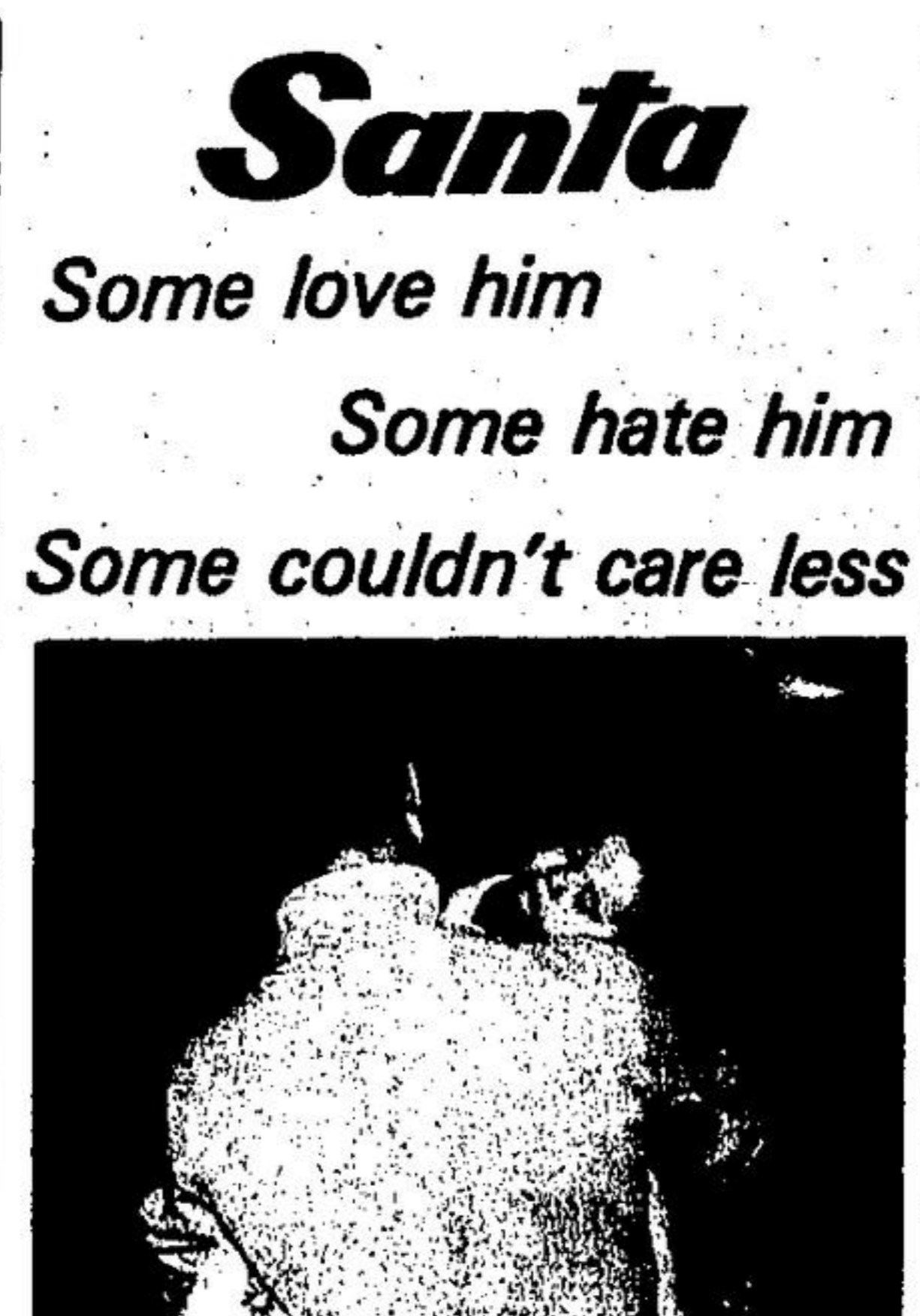
The concert is the band's annual Christmas gift to the town.

Russ Miller in hospital

Councillor Russ Miller is in Georgetown Hospital. He has been suffering with pains in his back for the past few weeks.



SETTLING DOWN for a happy chat with Santa at the Beardmore Christmas party Saturday is Christa Lawson, eight. She finds a comfortable perch despite her broken leg, which has been in a cast since August. Susan Thibodeau obligingly holds her crutches for her.



SANTA WHO? Carrie Ann Stuckey just couldn't care less and stayed asleep right through her turn to get a gift at the Beardmore party Saturday. She's six months old, and was among 500 people attending it was a big success again.



FOR BRYCE MARSHALL, his first visit with Santa was a disaster. Mother Janet rescues him Sunday at the firefighters' Christmas party for children and grandchildren. A buffet supper followed.