

# Hydro fight not dead, I.C.G. says

The fight opposing the proposed 500 kv hydro power corridor from Bruce to Milton is "not dead by any means," according to Interested Citizens Group spokesman John Minns.

Thursday's meeting just decided costly legal procedures will no longer be employed in the fight, he told this newspaper on Tuesday, following another meeting Sunday in Halton Hills of citizens "still very much concerned" about the impact of the corridor, especially on Halton Hills.

These people offered their services to

continue with fund raising schemes and pressing the political process at the municipal, regional, provincial and cabinet levels, Minns said. He said there were still many aspects open to fight the case for an independent study of the corridor as well as at the Ontario Municipal Board which is to hold a hearing on the corridor in Halton Hills.

The ICG expects Halton Region lawyer Dennis Perlin will represent the Region at OMB hearings and hope to have further meetings with him and ICG lawyers Dick

Howitt and Leon Parolan.

Minns said it is possible citizens in the southern section of the corridor through Halton Hills will also take over legal costs (about \$3,000) to continue the legal fight in the middle section of the corridor.

Further legal remedies are out, he acknowledged, unless the ICG receives funds from the Ontario Legal Aid fund. Contact with the Ontario Legal aid system has been made and the group has been assured their application will receive "every consideration."

The new sub-committee has been commissioned to fund groups on public issues and officials have said the ICG case could be a test case for its powers.

Minns predicts that pressure the group has exerted on the government could mean sweeping changes and suggests, "Between now and their meeting with the Select Committee of the Ontario Legislature within the next five months, there could be a new Minister of Energy. If this happens the group's tactics could take a different tack, he says.

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**FALL GUY:** Henry Venema falls victim to a trip from Willy de Jong as part of the play *Our Gal Sal*, to be presented Saturday, Jan. 28 by the local drama group *The Pretenders*. Rehearsals are well under way now at the high school for the upcoming production.

### Honorarium approved

Halton's Regional Police Commission approved an Honorarium to auxiliary constable Jim James, of Churchill Road, for his service last year.

### Marks queries space

Councillor Peter Marks maintained there is too little parking space at the proposed three storey building planned for 21 Mill Street, Acton.

The building, with offices on the ground floor and apartment above was given approval by Halton Hills council for a rezoning from residential to commercial.

Marks contended many people have two cars and the parking lot is undersized.

Councillor Roy Booth said the matter had been discussed at planning board and the planner pointed out the building has the required number of spaces.

Marks challenged the statement at planning board that visitors could use the commercial space after five in the evening. He said the offices could be rented to doctors, dentists, lawyers, or social workers, who work in the evening hours, so their clients would be using the parking lot.

Booth said the requirements are based on averages and claimed that system had worked so far.

Marks said the system hadn't worked in downtown Acton.

### No objections to Acton rezoning

There were no objectors to the rezoning of a lot on Mill Street, Acton, to allow a three storey building with offices on the first floor and apartments above.

The application was made by R. Delnis and B. Mazaro for an empty lot next to Denny's Insurance Agency.

Assistant Town Planner Brian Kropf assured Councillor Pat McKenzie the parking was now adequate. He explained the driveway had been widened from 16 to 20 feet, and the parking aisles widened for easier access. He said there would be a privacy fence and trees planted in paving stones on the front of the building.

He said balconies had been added at the rear of the



**GOT ANY tidbits?** All the animals on the farm of Angus McEachern are friendly. Mr. McEachern has farmed on the Fifth Line all his life and spent 50 years custom threshing. He's a real "old time" farmer. See story and more pictures inside.

## Morrow is firm: Region is best

Regional government was the correct decision for Halton, region chairman Ric Morrow told the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce Monday.

Our job is to take the system and make it work as well as we can. To make it work is harder than to be critical, he declared.

I'm here to dispell any misgivings on regional government, if any are left.

It has been four years since regional government was instituted and much of the critical negative response could have been avoided if people had been made aware of the pressing need for change. He faulted the ineffective public relations program from the province.

When the county of Halton was operating, 100 years ago, it was unthinkable that there



Chairman Ric Morrow

would be a quarter of a million people in Halton. There was no need for master planning. There wasn't a framework that would effect solutions. "It was doomed to failure." The new system of regional government can deal

with these problems, he asserted.

There's a lot on the positive side, and many benefits have accrued. They are trying to eliminate duplication which is often criticized.

Our police force is probably the envy of any area.

Annexations of former times bore little resemblance to the planning of today. He had copies of the draft official plan on hand and asked for input.

There have been many false facts circulated about landfill, he said. Resource recovery would be impossible under the old system.

Together, we are better financially, he said, speaking of the region's double A rating in New York. What would Acton's chances be?

In public works, there is a better utilization of personnel

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## Town hall referred for committee study

A letter from George Elliott, chairman of the Acton Town Hall Restoration Committee, a consultant's report on the building, a financial statement from the restoration committee and letter from the Heritage Foundation will all be forwarded to Halton Hills finance-administration committee for review next Monday.

Monday Councillor Peter Marks called for the entire package to be referred to finance administration for comments and recommendations.

Councillor Russ Miller said he was willing to possibly go along with the restoration committee's request for an extension on its deadline to decide how refurbishing will be financed.

He said it really doesn't matter how long the people have to raise money for restoration since the fire hall is close to being completed and downtown parking has been obtained.

Miller said a long extension might be construed as an indication the municipality might help financially and he doesn't feel that is the case.

Councillor Les Duby said residents had sought support from the town for the restoration project and have never received any.

He said everyone acts like "battering rams" whenever

the town hall issue comes up.

Duby said he is receiving pressure from many people for council to get going and sit down together and discussed the hall when plans for the expansion of the fire hall were asked council to set up a committee and they never have.

Miller objected noting residents and councillors have sat down together and discussed the hall when plans for the expansion of the fire hall were

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## Acton fall fair is "B" class

Friday the 13th was a lucky day for the Acton Agricultural Society! However it was hard work and dedication as opposed to luck that made it possible for the "C" class fair to move up the ladder to a "B" status.

On Friday, January 13, the representative from the Department of Agriculture came to check over the books of the fair board and verified the fact they were to become a "B" class fair.

In order to qualify for a Class B Status, a fair must meet the required amount of prize money pay-outs for breeding classes of animals for three consecutive years. In 1975 and 1976 the Acton Fall Fair qualified and 1977 made it the third consecutive year for the fair. The 1978 Acton Fall Fair will be known as a "B" class fair.

According to secretary-treasurer John Rowe, the promotion will not alter or change the type of fair in any way, but it will give the Fall Fair improved benefits such as prize money grants and grants for buildings and facilities.

## Report police could join staff at 40 Mill

Halton Hills finance-administration committee will throw out the town's lease with the Y for the municipal offices and also look into accommodating the police in the same building.

Monday Halton Hills council decided to forward a report regarding police usage of the building at 40 Mill Street to committee.

Recreation director Glen Gray and fire chief Mick Holmes prepared a report stating the police can be accommodated but adjustments will be needed.

Any alterations required for the police and Acton Community Services Centre in the building wouldn't be paid for by the town.

In addition adequate space would have to be made available to accommodate summer playground program recreation staff.

Councillor Russ Miller cautioned against a long delay in a decision.

He said the police are anxious to find new quarters and want to be on Mill Street. There has been talk of putting all police for Halton Hills and Milton in one central location and there

wouldn't be any police stationed in Acton if action on a headquarters isn't taken soon.

"The Police Commission is urgently awaiting an answer."

Acting clerk Delmar French said the town must negotiate with the Y for permission to sublet space to the police. He said the Y board will be represented at the committee meeting next Monday.

Councillor Les Duby said the town solicitor should also be present but this was turned down by council.

In the report submitted to council, Mr. Gray and Mr. Holmes said the arena had been examined concerning the possibility of accommodating the recreation coordinator there on a full time basis, but this was found not practical.

They reported that the recreation co-ordinator, fire chief and clerk, along with the police force, could all be accommodated at 40 Mill. The move would eliminate the board room area which has been used for meetings.



**SIX HOURS A day,** 16-year-old Kevin Parker practises in Acton arena, preparing for the Canadian figure skating championships in Victoria in two weeks. Last Saturday he retained his Junior Men's championship in the Central Canadian divisional competitions in Winnipeg, the youngest of the five contesting the crown. More on the sports pages.

### Business Association

## Approve police move ask longer bank hours

The Business Association will write to council, approving the moving of the police office to the Y building and the moving of staff from there to the town hall. The decision was made at the regular monthly meeting held last Wednesday evening in the 747 lounge.

Some concern was expressed about the possible loss of parking spaces at the Y.

Chairman Ed Wood proposed the letter saying the move should encourage council to consider uses for the town hall.

The Business Association has promoted the town hall restoration, and made a donation following last summer's Back to Acton Days.

At a meeting of concerned people with police Chief Skerrett some months ago, merchants had said they would like the police in a more visible location. That meeting was called to discuss vandalism.

At Wednesday's meeting, members also debated uniform store hours, with all stores possibly open Thursday evenings as well as Fridays. Although some of the merchants present pointed out the difficulties involved, the general feeling was "If everybody stays open, I will too." Some larger stores are already open Thursday evenings.

Business Association members agreed not being open Thursday encourages people to go to the plazas to shop.

Some shop keepers find that customers prefer to buy from them, rather than from part-time clerks, and so the

open evenings mean extra hours of work.

The secretary, Art Cooper, was asked to write to the head offices of the banks in town, asking their consideration for staying open to the public more hours. B.A. members agreed if the banks were open Friday nights and Saturdays, it would be good for the whole business community.

Banks are open more hours in neighboring towns, such as Erin and Milton.

A suggestion box somewhere in town for customers' comments was recommended

by one store owner.

Chairman Ed Wood reported the block ads would start again this week. He said Wayne Ruse is already working on the next Back to Acton Days, and would appreciate any help he can get.

Announcement was made of the Joint Business Association and Business Improvement Area meeting on February 15. There will be election of officers of both groups. There will also be a speaker on downtown development.

## Open house

"Let's discuss the draft Official plan", says a brochure sent to every home in Halton Region, and the opportunity for Halton Hills residents will be given February 8, at Acton library and February 23 at Alcott Arena, Georgetown.

Anyone wanting a copy of the plan should mail the card at the bottom of the brochure.

The Halton draft plan sets out policies on hazard lands, open space, forestry, settlement, heritage, transportation, mineral resources, agriculture, population, housing, energy, parkway belt, sewage and water, Niagara escarpment, economic services, and environmentally sensitive areas.

Following the public meetings, comments on the plan will be received until April 14.

A target of June 1 has been set for the Planning Committee final review.



**ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER MARK ROWE** melts snow over a Coleman stove to make tea during the Scouts winter camp last weekend. Mark explained that the snow must be stirred while over the heat or else it will pick up a burnt flavor. See the Youth Pages for the story.