

# Region erodes sense of belonging: Elliott

# Municipal building expansion 1981

The Liberal Task Force on Regional Government was told Acton wants out of its marriage with Georgetown, when the Force held a meeting in Milton Wednesday night.

Norm Elliott, speaking on behalf of the Actonians for Action Committee, said his committee wasn't directing opposition to the regional government concept, but violently opposed Acton's role within the region.

He told how the town lost its status as a town and claimed the people in Acton lost control of their destiny under regional government and Acton's marriage to Georgetown.

Elliott said the province said in the beginning that community of interest was very important, but he insisted no such quality does or ever did exist between Acton and Georgetown.

building, Elliott said he was afraid the system would become so entrenched, nobody will be able to do anything about it.

"We don't want to be told that we are better off, we want to be shown how we fare better when we have to pay a share of everything that is done in other communities."



**NORM ELLIOTT**  
"Officials make statements but they won't back them up with figures. There has to be some kind of auditor general who would monitor expenses under regional government—or soon it will be out of control."

"We can't make sense of the accounts now. We could before. Then we looked at a financial report and said we are spending too much here or there, but now you can't

tell. Financial statements run a year and a half behind before they are available to the public."

Task Force member Jim Bradley suggested there were two ways to go under a regional setup. Either councillors play the back-scratching game, (I'll vote for this if you support that) or all of the major decisions are made on the basis of civil servants' reports, because the elected people can't possibly know the problems in all areas of the region.

Elliott suggested in response that parochialism isn't necessarily bad. If a local councillor isn't going to fight for a local issue, who the Hell will, not the regional council, he said.

According to Elliott the degree of accountability had decreased since regional government. He reviewed a recent uprising in Acton when Halton Hills Council wanted to demolish the old Acton town hall. The old building is of historic significance and is the only vestige of Acton's past.

"They wanted to demolish it for parking. The whole schizmo would never have happened under the old system. The feeling of belonging is being eroded. We need roots. We aren't the nuclear generation we are said to be."

More on the Liberal Task Force meeting inside.

The town has set a target of 1981 for a major addition to the Trafalgar Road Halton Hills administration building.

A plan adopted by Halton Hills building committee on January 17 will see \$878,520 set aside from lot levies each

of the next three years to finance the addition.

With the assistance of Treasurer Ray King and Planner Mario Venditti the committee, chaired by Councillor Peter Pomeroy and made up of all members of

council, reviewed various methods of financing the expansion and the way lot levy revenues are projected.

Engineer Robert Austin said the staff realizes it will take time to arrange enlargement of quarters and advised

against staging the project because it would be more costly and would prove disruptive to town operations.

The only really pressing accommodation need is for the planning department. Rental of offices somewhere

in the town will be examined. Austin said the staff would like to have a committed date for the addition so money can start being set aside this year.

He informed the committee that some of the smaller

aspects of the overall expansion plan discussed in the past such as more parking, landscaping and fencing will have been taken care of before the addition takes place and this will reduce the end cost.

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## The Acton Free Press

One Hundred and Third Year.—No. 30      ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1978.      Thirty-Six Pages.—Fifteen Cents.

## Paper drive for Christian school

The first monthly newspaper collection will be made February 4 in Acton.

The collection is sponsored by the Georgetown District Christian School, with the proceeds going towards Christian education.

This collection has been held in Georgetown for some time, with 22 tons collected last month. At \$32 a ton, one day's work can be quite beneficial to the school.

Because the school is not government financed, the institution relies on tuition, donations and fund-raising drives to support itself. There are 230 students in the school, of whom some 35 are from Acton. Twenty-five families in the school attend church in the Baptist, Presbyterian or other denomination.

Papers can be dropped at a collection box at Halton Hills Furniture and Appliances in the Becker's Plaza. For larger pick-ups, phone 853-2213. This collection will be held monthly.



**SCREAMING FANS THREATEN** to bury specially hired bodyguards Monday at the Acton High School. What was all the excitement about? Ba-Na-Na, a world unknown musical group, were performing one of their rare live concerts and

ecstatic girls could not wait to see their idols in person. Also it is rumoured the group paid them well to put on the show of support. More on banana day on Youth Pages inside today's Free Press.

## Extension to October to seek town hall restoration funding

A year's extension will be given the Acton Town Hall restoration committee, to give members time to determine what funding may be available on a pledge basis.

The recommendation to council was approved Monday night by Halton Hills finance and administration committee.

The committee had requested an extension in a letter last week. The Ontario Heritage Foundation had deferred decision on a grant for the restoration of the old town hall until the municipality showed some financial interest in the project, as the owners of the building, the committee had previously hoped to fund the restoration with grants, but without municipal funds.

take exception to the suggestion we indicated we would participate in the financing."

Tom Hill said he took exception to the paragraph about "Sizeable financial support". "I'm going to be very blunt," he said, "If people in Acton had to pay everything that has been done themselves, since regional

government, they couldn't pay the taxes. The water mains and road construction costs would astound you. The water mains were so old they broke when the roads were constructed."

Councillor Marks said "I have a high regard for George Elliott but the public must realize he doesn't talk for all the people in Acton."

Mr. Morris said he agreed with the extension of the deadline, but warned against giving false hope. "We have to decide if the town hall is worth saving, and it wouldn't be opposed to \$10,000 but that might not do any good," said councillor Walter Biehn. "\$10,000 is less than five per cent," added Mr. Marks.

Mayor Hill said they would give false hope if they promised to review the financial situation and said they could not commit another council.

After a discussion about extending the deadline to the end of the year, the committee decided it was crowding election time, which this year would be in November, so Mr. Marks upped the date

to October 1. Mr. Marks said they should give time to see if they can get considerable financial support. "Emotional support is one thing, and financial something else." They're not going to beat their head against a brick wall if they don't get support.

Mr. Morris said that would make it an election issue, with that time limit.

"\$235,000 is a lot of dough" commented the mayor on the estimated cost of total renovation. "I'm not supporting that much money, just asking to review when we find how much the public are willing to put up" Mr. Marks stated.

Mr. Hill said "If you don't mention finances I'll go along with an extension."

## Snowmobile tail ends with damaged cruiser

A 19-year-old Erin youth has been charged with criminal negligence following an incident on Churchill Rd. S. Jan. 20 which resulted in damage to a police cruiser.

Constable Tom Roduck reported that he and Constable Wm. Philpotts followed a snowmobile through various streets in Acton in an attempt to stop the vehicle. When the

machine finally stopped, it flipped, the Halton Regional Policeman said.

Const. Roduck advised the youth to stop, but the driver righted the machine and headed toward the officer. The officer escaped injury but the cruiser was damaged.

Damage to each vehicle was estimated at \$25.

will study land

The Royal Botanical Gardens will work with Halton Hills engineer Bob Austin and come up with some recommendations for the future of the wet area in Fairview cemetery.

Council asked the gardens to provide some assistance through its outreach program.

Replying in a letter, director Leslie Laking said that while a preliminary examination of the area in winter would be useful, the main study must await the approach of spring. He said he would be in touch with Mr. Austin at the appropriate time, "so we may have the benefit of his personal knowledge particularly respecting the natural water patterns of the area."

## Will study land

access for the two businesses onto Bower was dropped when the town rejected the idea of making Bower a one way street from Wilbur to Mill.

Councillor Les Duby said he was surprised Chandra didn't realize he would need access when he made improvements to his premises.

He said access onto Bower was a deep concern because of traffic hazards it would present.

Duby suggested a shared entrance-exit for the hotel and store might be the answer.

Chandra said if Bower is made a one-way street it

won't be hazardous to have access. He suggested trucks jamming up Mill Street making deliveries was more of a hazard.

Councillor Pat McKenzie observed trucks are stopping traffic on Mill Street and causing safety problems. He said an exit onto Bower is no more dangerous than Mill Street with truck traffic.

He said when the town rebuilt Bower the curve should have been made wider and wondered if the hotel and Viman's might like to give the town land to improve the curve so access could be allowed.

Mayor Tom Hill suggested



**GUESS WHO APPEARED** at Acton High School Monday? No, it is not Elmer the safety elephant. For the real identity of the mysterious visitor, see inside pages.

## Town renews 'Y' bldg. lease

The town of Halton Hills will renew their lease on the front part of the Acton YMCA, at an increased rent of \$360 monthly, if council accepts an administration committee recommendation.

The rent has been upped from the previous \$160.

The committee agreed to a five year lease, with a five year right of renewal. The increased rent will be paid retroactive to September 1 when the lease expired, but the town will no longer pay the insurance on the building.

Gordon Chapman, finance chairman of the "Y" board said that part of the building, and has no objection to the town sub-letting a portion to the Halton Regional Police.

He said the "Y" has been running on a break even basis the past few years and has been unable to do any renovations. He said "a major catastrophe occurred in December when a new furnace had to be installed at a cost of \$7,954."

Mayor Tom Hill said the police want to share the building and claimed that would make the paying of \$360 for a building for three people feasible. Otherwise we would have to go somewhere else."

Recreation Director Glen Gray pointed out if the police take two thirds of the town's space, accommodation has to be found for four summer recreation staff members who direct the playground, day camp, pre-school and youth development programs area.

"What would happen if council decided to close the Acton office, put Chief Mick Holmes in the firehall, and

the recreation department in the arena?, asked the administration committee chairman.

"Bite your tongue," quipped Councillor Peter Marks.

Gray said it was impossible to operate out of the arena, and suggested the only solution they could think of, was the use of a classroom in one of the schools.

Miller said the town could probably rent commercial space cheaper to keep an Acton office.

Finally the committee agreed to renew the "Y" lease and will leave it to the recreation director to look for space for the summer recreation staff. If space can be found and any alterations costs borne by the regional police, the committee indicated they felt the town and the police can be accommodated.

## Music festival in 50th year

The North Halton Music Festival will observe its 50th year this spring. About 1,000 students are expected to participate, and there will be a special memento for each one of them.

Meeting last Wednesday, the executive of the North Halton Music Festival Association agreed to mark the 50th anniversary festival in special ways.

There will be a contest for the design for the program cover, open to any students in grades seven and eight. There will be a presentation of \$10 to the winner at the festival.

The festival will be May 24 at the M.Z. Bennett School, Acton. Executive members were very pleased that Earl Clark agreed to be the adjudicator this year. He is a music consultant.

The music for the classes has been chosen. It goes out to the schools six weeks before the festival date.

Although participation has been good, the organizers hope for even more schools and entries in the golden anniversary year.

Gary Bateman is the new president of the festival with Doug Magwood first vice-president and Howard Allen Secretary-treasurer.

The engineering department will look into ways of allowing Viman's Arts and Crafts and Station House Hotel access onto Bower Avenue.

Monday Halton Hills works committee heard a request from Vijaya Chandra for access for shipping and receiving for Viman's onto Bower Avenue. Currently deliveries are made off Mill Street.

He said because of modifications to his building and other improvements he badly needs access onto Bower.

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## Vimans seeks Bower access

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## Permits drop \$4 million in '77

The value of Halton Hills building permits issued in 1977 hit their lowest point in the past four years.

The \$10.3 million total for 1977 is \$4 million less than '76, and \$5 million less than '74. The sharp drop in house building is evident with 322 homes built in '74, 280 in '75, 11 in '76 and 88 in '77.

In contrast industrial permits have not varied a great deal, with \$1 million in '74, \$1.4 million in '75, \$2 million in '76 and \$1.4 million in '77.

In the past four years 501 swimming pools have been built in town. The demand may be tapering off since '77 had only 86 permits compared to 154 in '74.

In the past year the town collected \$31,381 in permit fees, and \$126,911 in lot levies.

Alterations and additions to Cedar Spring Hotel on Highway 7 to be started soon will cost an estimated \$65,000, according to the permit issued last month.

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new walk isn't shovelled next winter the town will still have the same problem.

There is real concern regarding Delrex Boulevard because so many children are walking on the road, Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson said.

Austin noted the town has priorities in sidewalk



**THERE'S SOMETHING very special** about a country store! There are several of them in this area, and Jennifer Barr took a tour to chat with the owners. Donna and Tom Manes operate Manes' Country Mart near Brookville, a new venture for the Acton family. Baby Janice is the daytime assistant. More pictures and story on page 15.

## Town looking at cost of plowing major sidewalks

The town is going to investigate costs of plowing snow off sidewalks in both of Halton Hills' urban areas.

Monday, Halton Hills works committee debated sidewalk snow removal and directed the engineer to investigate the situation and report back.

The committee received a letter from police who are concerned about students

walking on the road between Maple Avenue and Edward Street on Delrex.

Police warned there could be a serious accident in which a child is injured because on the north side of Delrex between Maple and Edward there is no sidewalk. Children are walking on the road four and five abreast.

Another letter was also

received at the meeting from a resident who is concerned about snow covered sidewalks. Mrs. F. C. Therogood explained police have gone into the schools telling children to walk on sidewalks because it is illegal to walk on the road where a sidewalk is provided. She feels this is a bad situation since the children know they are

breaking the law but can do nothing about it because sidewalks are plugged with snow.

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