

Recommend \$4,860 grant to Acton Citizens' Band

Acton Citizens' Band had their grant of \$4,860 approved by Halton Hills finance committee, Monday night, but not before a few sour notes were struck. Eight members in full uniform attended the meeting.

Council has yet to endorse the committee recommendation.

The committee also voted to repeal the by-law, which authorized by plebiscite in 1969, an annual grant to the band.

Bandmaster George Elliott pointed out the grant to the Citizens' Band was less than Burlington's at \$103,456, Oakville's at \$8,000, Chinguacousy's at \$7,000 and Brampton's at \$10,500. He explained Acton's band supplies its own hall, while other municipalities are mostly built and maintained by the municipality or rented from

the school board.

Mr. Elliott showed committee some members wearing the 20 year old uniforms still used and the new uniforms, somewhat similar, gradually being phased in.

He said the Music Centre was largely built by the band members, on land bought by the town. He said the municipality has the deed.

Councillor Roy Booth asked why the financial statement for the hall was not included.

Mr. Elliott replied the band submitted all their accounts to Halton Hills when it was first set up, as they always had in Acton, but were told the town only wanted expenditures listed from the annual grant. He said the band could easily submit the hall statement.

Councillor Peter Morris stated on a per capita basis

Chinguacousy bands worked out to 17 cents per capita, Oakville to 14 cents, and Acton to 75 or 80 cents per capita.

"Why talk about Acton, aren't we Halton Hills now?" retorted Mr. Elliott. "When Acton was poor and free, the people could afford that dollar or so per head."

Morris said he was simply pointing out the brief claimed the grant is the lowest, but failed to point out the population is also the lowest.

Councillor Peter Marks suggested the committee not get into that parochial type discussion. Councillor Pat Patterson said the by-law should be repealed.

Booth said he would be happy to stay with the amount in the by-law, if the costs were assessed only against Acton, but said that seems to be impossible now.

He agreed the by-law should be repealed.

Marks claimed the need for the \$4,860 grant is substantiated in the brief and said the grant should be approved.

Mr. Elliott said the band is not supported 100 per cent by the grant, and pointed out last year they raised \$1,085 by themselves and with matching Wintario grants, to purchase two new instruments. He said the band raises the money for bus transportation to play Christmas carols around Acton, to Milton to play for the residents of the Manor, and the costs of entering the CNE band competition including transportation costs.

He said the band had been in continuous operation for 106 years, and suggested it was the oldest band in Ontario.

The brief said Georgetown

had a fine citizens' band, but because of lack of municipal support had to fold. "We feel that Halton Hills council has a moral obligation to continue the tradition of support started by Acton, since Acton was brought into a forced union it neither asked for nor wanted."

Patterson said he had received calls from people in Hornby and west of Highway 25 who say "they're dead pigeons who have to pay taxes for something they don't know exists or ever hear. The people haven't got the bucks. All the rural people have got out of regional government is tripled taxation."

Marks said the streets are lined with people from Esquering area when the Acton Citizens' Band plays in the fall fair parade, so some of them must have heard

about the band.

Questioned about the number and cost of instruments, Mr. Elliott said the cheapest instrument is a clarinet, so they are used as training instruments frequently. He said the band needs a French double horn, with the cost of one ranging from \$800 to \$2,500. He said two French double horns would take the whole instrument budget for one year.

Booth said maybe the French double horn could be put off until next year.

In comparing the grant of \$1,000 to Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band, Mr. Elliott pointed out a pipe band can function with 15 members but a concert band needs 40 to 50. He said pipes cost less than concert band instruments.

"The cut in grant proposed for the Acton band condemns it to a slow death and oblivion

in five years time."

He contended that had been the fate of the Georgetown Citizens' Band, and said they received a grant of \$1,500, out of which they paid \$600 rent at Cedarvale Community Centre, and \$900 to the bandmaster, leaving them nothing to operate on. "Finally they gave up and all joined the Chinguacousy Band."

Morris said he would support Marks, motion to approve the grant, pointing out he felt there was a moral obligation involved.

Councillor Walter Blehn said the band should be looked on as another form of recreation, and stated a great deal more than \$4,860 is spent on physical recreation.

The motion approving the grant to the band passed but a note of disharmony intruded when Booth and Patterson opposed it.



EMILY WALLACE was presented with red roses and a silver tray by former students last Saturday in the curling club. Fifty years of teaching were recognized by students whom she had taught in Dublin school from 1928 to 1939. Page 11.

\$700 grant to each board

Georgetown and Acton Fall Fair Boards will be granted \$700 each, if council accepts a recommendation of the Halton Hills finance committee.

For the Georgetown board this is an increase from last year's \$450, and for Acton it is the same as last year. Acton has requested \$1,200.

The \$250 increase to Georgetown was approved to help the Georgetown Agricultural Society, after last year's disastrous fall fair, when a downpour wiped them out for the first time in more than 130 years.

Finance committee had stated previously they could see no reason to up Acton's fair board grant from \$700 to \$1,200, and suggested the two fair boards should have an equal grant.

Clocks ahead

It's time to put the clocks ahead an hour come Saturday night.

Last week Halton Hills council proclaimed the start of Daylight Saving Time, Saturday, April 29. It will end Sunday, October 29, when clocks will be put back an hour.

Last year by accident, council did not proclaim Daylight Saving Time, so Councillor Booth commented, "We've been behind an hour all year, why bother changing it now."



TEN DAYS AGO this Great Horned Owl broke its right wing on Scotsdale Farm, R.R. 1, Georgetown. Today it exercises, and soon it may be back with nature. Veterinarian Ron Trenton,

of Acton, fixed the broken bone after calling on expert help from the Metro Toronto Zoo. Burkhard Nowak, of Hornby, who found the owl hopes to release it from where he found it. Page 14.

Region tests new well for iron

Halton region has shut down the Prospect Park pump in order to test the water, according to a region source.

Don Morrier, a regional manager of operations and maintenance, said Tuesday the pump was turned off after it was given a trial run.

"There was a different taste and the taste is basically a higher iron content, as compared with other wells," Mr. Morrier said.

For about a week water has flushed from the well and into Fairy Lake. The pump house is located on the western

point of the spit. The pumping will continue for about another week, according to Mr. Morrier.

We are hoping to remove concentrations of iron in the well itself, that is iron in solution, Mr. Morrier said. He could give no estimate on the number of gallons flowing into the lake.

He informed this paper the ministry of the environment is carrying out tests on the well. Also the region has contracted a private firm to test the water, he said.

For about a week some Acton homes received water

from the new Prospect Pump. We're trying to get fresher water, Mr. Morrier said.

Beardmore chief chemist John Greifeneder said he just heard of the pump water going into the lake Tuesday morning.

Mr. Greifeneder said he would like to learn more about the region's water, but he did say that iron spoils the color of sole leather.

About four million gallons pours over the dam, just north of Mill Street West, every day. The park pump would take about a million gallons.

Mr. Greifeneder said he was sure the lake level will not drop, but the new pump will mean a million fewer gallons going over the dam, he said.

The tannery, which owns the lake, takes about half a million gallons each day, according to the chemist.

He suggested that with a million fewer gallons in the lake, the water will become less fresh. He said in his opinion the freshness of the lake water has deteriorated in quality. He suggested the ducks as contributors to the lake's staleness.

Thieves bag shag carpet

Carpet baggers lifted a six-by-four foot shag rug from where it was airing in the backyard of a Church Street West home last week.

A lady told police she put the carpet out to air last Tuesday (April 18) at 4.30 p.m. Two hours later when she went to retrieve her carpet, she discovered it was missing.

Thieves hit arena again

For the second time in as many weeks the community centre has been the target of break and enter thieves.

Some cigarettes and cash were stolen sometime last Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning, according to Halton Regional Police.

Firefighters, police parking is questioned

Proposed parking changes for Acton have been held over pending a number of meetings with Acton firefighters, Halton Hills Parking Authority and the police.

Councillor Peter Pomeroy said meetings are needed since he believes 17 parking spots reserved for the firefighters may be "excessive". He added the fire chief agrees with him and a meeting with the volunteer brigade's executive is needed.

He added Parking Authority input is needed and wondered why the police are entitled to three reserved spots on Mill Street.

Councillor Les Doby agreed the by-law changing some parking regulations needs to be examined again. He said he was concerned with the number of spots taken up by the firefighters and also wondered why the police should have more spots than

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Average tax up \$21.91

The final figures on taxes are in and the word is "up".

Georgetown taxes are up \$59.22, Acton's are up \$21.91, and Esquering's are up \$43.28, on the average home.

The average home assessment used is \$5,615 in Georgetown, \$4,480 in Acton, and \$4,619 in Esquering.

When the Region of Halton set their tax rate this week, the last tax figure could be added to the town and the education tax.

In Georgetown the tax bill this year, on the same average house, is \$586.20. In Acton, again on that average house, the tax bite is \$581.72 and in Esquering \$519.31.

In mills, the increase is 10.55 in Georgetown, from 93.85 to 104.40. In Acton the increase is the lowest, with 4.89 mills, from 124.96 to 129.85, and in Esquering the increase is 9.38, from 103.05 to 112.43.

The new sewage plant in Georgetown is mainly responsible for the 4.76 mill hike in the regional levy, bringing the total regional mill rate to 16.95, an increase of 37.3 per cent, or \$25.88 in dollars.

In Acton the regional levy dropped 2.92 mills, from 22.82 to 20.07 mills, or a drop of \$12.32.

Acton's decrease may be short-lived, since next year when the sewage plant is completed the sewer charge will go up.

Esquering's regional levy increased 1.39 mills, from 10.61 mills to 12. mills. In dollars an increase of \$6.42.

Final tax bite

Acton house assessed at \$4,480	
Town purposes	up \$15.68
Education	up \$18.55
Region	down \$12.32
Total increase	up \$21.91
Esquering house assessed at \$4,619	
Town purposes	up \$15.61
Education	up \$21.25
Region	up \$ 6.42
Total increase	up \$43.28
Georgetown house assessed at \$5,615	
Town purposes	up \$15.66
Education	up \$17.68
Region	up \$25.88
Total increase	up \$59.22

Zehr's supermarket for proposed plaza

A Zehr's supermarket and possibly a Canadian Tire store may be the two main tenants in a commercial plaza on 8.7 acres of land at Churchill Rd. and Highway 7.

Jerry Sprackman of Sprackman Real Estate told Halton Hills planning board Tuesday that his company has a firm commitment from Zehr's for a 23,800 square foot store and a tentative agreement with Canadian Tire for a 29,700 square foot store. The whole plaza is 97,950 square feet with parking for 508 cars.

Mr. Sprackman said it is the same plan presented two years ago. "I am prepared to go ahead with it right away."

Mr. Sprackman explained Zehr's is a division of Loblaw's and said a comparable store can be seen in Alliston or Bolton. The spokesman emphasized he was prepared to go ahead with Zehr's only, but believed there would be a drug store and a bank as well. Jobs for 100 people were projected by

the speaker who claims Zehr's would keep food shoppers in town.

"Is Zehr's moving in contingent on the other stores being built?" asked councillor Pete Pomeroy. "No, but

they would prefer someone else there," replied Mr. Sprackman.

Mr. Sprackman's company is also building the shopping plaza next to Gordon Alcott arena in Georgetown.

No damage

Acton volunteer firefighters were called to their first grass fire of the season Sunday at noon according to fire chief Mick Holmes.

The chief said the fire spread across the 25 Sideroad between the Fifth and Sixth Line when E. Christie was burning dead grass. Mr. Holmes said the fire spread quickly.

There was no damage, he said.



MAD SCIENTISTS THEY'RE NOT: M.Z. Bennett students put on a display of their scientific expertise at one of many exhibits at the open house Thursday. Robert Walker, right, headed up this experiment, which created hydrogen gas. With him are Grant Smith, Lori Turtcher, Sean Heafner, and Ryan Persaud. It was one of the special events at town and area schools for Education Week.



PROSPECT PARK PUMP HOUSE has been gushing gallons of water from its source into Fairy Lake. According to the region's manager of operations and maintenance, the taste of the

water is mainly due to its high content of iron. Both the ministry of environment and a private firm are testing the water. The park pump is no longer supplying local homes.