

Wood says

Donate demolition cost to Acton town hall fund

The cost of tearing down the old Acton town hall, which would have to be paid by the town if no renovations are done, might as well be contributed by the town to the Restoration Fund, Councillor Ed Woods suggested Wednesday night at Halton Hills general committee meeting.

He put forward a motion to have the costs of tearing down the old town hall, relocating a fire hydrant, refinishing the wall of the abutting firehall and paving the parking lot estimated by town staff, and have the executive of the Restoration Committee and the Acton Chamber of Commerce attend a council meeting to try to resolve the question of the old town hall.

Woods said the people of Acton are anxious to see something happen, but admitted everything comes down to money. He suggested the town donate the cost involved in tearing down the building to the restoration fund.

Councillor Les Duby said the whole matter had been badly handled since the beginning. He said the Restoration Committee has been working in limbo

and really needed an indication of support from council, so they can enlist the support of the residents. He said the committee had been doing everything in their power to raise money, but what they have raised is a far cry from the \$260,000 estimate.

Councillor George Maltby said he had been severely roasted for saying he could not see giving town money until the citizens can prove they can raise money. He said the money should be collected the same way the fund to restore the Georgetown arena was raised, through public subscription and Wintario grants. "There was no cost to the taxpayers at all."

Mayor Pete Pomeroy pointed out this motion was simply to find out costs. "There's no way anything is going to be done this year, even demolishing the building we can't afford it."

Woods contended the Town Hall Restoration Committee had been waiting to be told when to appear at council. He said the cost of demolition will have to be done at some time anyway.

Councillor Russ Miller opposed the motion. He

said he had asked for a report which has not yet appeared. He said the Restoration Committee's obligation to approach council, and reminded the members an extension until the end of last year had been given to see if the money could be raised. "If there's no interest from the people of Acton why are we doing anything?"

Councillor Ross Knechtel said some money has already been raised.

Woods replied only \$11,000 has been raised, but claimed the main issue is simply no-one has ever stated definitely the hall will be saved. He said money is available from the Heritage Foundation provided the town contributed financially. "If the people of Acton knew the town hall was going to be saved various clubs would go out and collect money." He said the Chamber of Commerce has agreed to act as a board of management to operate and maintain the building if it is restored.

The motion passed by a slim majority.

Once the recommendation reached council Mon-

day evening however, a few snarls were hit.

Councillor Roy Booth announced he could not support the second half of the motion for the council to ask the Chamber of Commerce to attend a council meeting to discuss the situation. He said he was in favor of the first half of the recommendation requesting that town staff find out the costs of demolition though. He suggested the motion be split in two parts. This was supported by Councillor Ross Knechtel.

Councillor Les Duby said Wood was making an effort to get council to take a stand one way or another on the matter, "something which should have been done in the first place." He pointed out his colleague was just trying to get things ironed out.

Councillor Russ Miller favored the split recommendation but also wanted an addition. He suggested the clerk be instructed to send a report to the Acton town hall committee. He was against inviting the Chamber to a meeting on the premise they can make an appointment to get on the agenda themselves.

Police news

Man assaulted when car stops

An R.R. 1, Acton man will think twice before allowing anyone to stop his vehicle again.

According to Halton Regional Police, the man reports he was driving in Acton, when persons unknown stopped his car. When he got out of his car, the suspect struck him in the face and about the head, causing cuts and bruises. Police are looking for a man between 26 and 28 years old, 6 foot, one inch tall, 200 pounds, black hair and sideburns below his ears. He was wearing a black jacket, blue jeans and work boots.

An Acton woman found out nothing is face anymore after she tried to get away with not paying a taxi cab bill from Bramblea to town. The meter was at \$21.50, police say, and she refused to pay the bill.

When police were called in, it was discovered the same

person had outstanding warrants totalling \$412. She was arrested and released when the money was paid.

Two Acton businessmen were stuck with rubber cheques last week, according to police. Acton Automotive was given a cheque worth \$148.09 by a Hillsburgh man. Viman Arts and Crafts notified police of a \$731.28 cheque she was given by a Wingham man.

Car stereos were favored by thieves last week, when two local residents reported thefts of their radios. One was stolen from a van parked in a Church St. parking lot. Also taken were one power booster, one Pioneer tape deck, and assorted mechanics, tools.

The other car radio stolen was taken from the vehicle of an R.R. 3 Acton woman while it was parked in the Dominion Hotel parking lot. A check of vehicles and persons at the rear of the Hotel produced the stolen article, according to police. A Rexdale man has been charged.

An 18 year old Acton youth put up a fight when police responded to a call at a Main St. home. Police Constable Michalski was struck and kicked during the incident. The man was in an intoxicated state, police say. He was subdued and arrested.

Another Acton man was held by local police until Metro police could come and get him. Police report the man was arrested on an outstanding warrant for a Weapons Dangerous Offence, held by the Metro squad.

Halton Regional Police arrested a Milton man Saturday night at Glenlea Plaza. The charge is possession of a narcotic.

Fifteen dollars in cash was the take from a weekend break and entry at Superior Grove on Vimy Street. Entry was gained by breaking a window.

Sunday afternoon a thief took about \$3 from the men's change room at the pool.

T.V. taken in break-in

Thieves made off with a color television, a digital clock, and a man's diamond ring from an R.R. 1 Orton home, reports the Guelph detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police.

The residence of Frank Bristensky was broken into sometime February 22 between 9:30 a.m. and 9 p.m., according to police. Entry was gained by forcing a rear door, causing \$10. damage. Value of the goods stolen was estimated to be \$510. The OPP are still investigating.

The Acton Free Press

One Hundred and Fourth Year—No. 36

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 1979

Twenty Pages—Twenty Cents.

Town continues legal fight over hydro corridor

Halton Hills council Monday decided to continue the legal battle to prevent Ontario Hydro from building a transmission corridor through town despite charges that it was a waste of money and "complete folly" to do so.

By an eight to four recorded vote, council voted to have the lawyers launch an appeal to the court of Appeal on a question of law and to make an application to Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) for a new hearing regarding an earlier decision by the OMB in a recent Hydro hearing.

Councillor Roy Booth said legal expenses to the town are "in excess of \$20,000" and he can't support spending any more public funds to fight construction of the line.

This point was later disputed by Councillor C. G. (Pat) Patterson who told council the sums mentioned by the town's solicitor Ray Steele, were in the order of \$1,500, \$3,000 and \$5,000.

Booth said the NEC has approved a development permit, which has also been upheld by a hearing officer, for construction of the transmission towers on the escarpment in Halton Hills.

Booth said that in a meeting that morning with NEC chairman Ivor McMullin, NEC staff and staff from Ontario Hydro and Ministry of Natural Resources, there was discussion on how to get the gravel out from under where three towers (numbers 661, 662, 663) are to be erected in the Duff gravel pit, which is

near Halton road 3 and Highway 7.

"In spring they'll go gung ho," Booth said, but there'll be a line in Halton Hills "from nowhere to nowhere."

Council Walter Biehn supported Booth. The town is in the middle of budget squeezing and cutting, "and at the same time talking of throwing thousands of dollars into a hopeless law case," Biehn said.

"It's complete folly to go ahead," he said. "Council has done more than enough to support the ICG (Interested Citizens Group) which opposes the line."

Patterson said the town has got to protect the people along the proposed route of the line. "We should help them out to the nth degree."

Councillor Russ Miller also supported the majority decision. He said he was impressed with the way Halton regional council has upheld what Halton Hills has done to protect its citizens. If the motion to direct the lawyer does not pass, "We are letting our area down when other people in the region are supporting us," Miller said.

Councillors Booth, Les Duby, Biehn and Harry Levy opposed the motion. In support were councillors John McDonald, Miller, Ross Knechtel, Marilyn Serjeantson, Patterson, George Maltby, Ed Wood and Mayor Pomeroy.

Meanwhile, Divisional court on Monday granted leave to appeal after a number of questions of

law had been brought up.

According to town solicitor, Fred Helson, leave to appeal was granted on an OMB decision which appeared to say there had been no submissions regarding alternate routes, although evidence indicated otherwise.

However, the date of the appeal has been adjourned until after the renewal of the OMB hearing which arises out of an OMB decision in January in which they directed council to rewrite the old Esqueving bylaw to permit construction of transmission corridors.

Helson said if the OMB refuses to reopen the hearing, the appeal will be moved forward.



Photo by ERIC ELSTONE

Board turns down houses

Goldfan Holdings Limited again had their 132 lot plan for Acton East termed premature by Halton Hills Planning Board Tuesday night.

Planning board did however, agree to study the concept of suburban type development as single family homes on large lots serviced by town water, individual septic tanks and located on the outskirts of town.

The proposal covering only the southerly 83.5 acres of the total holdings of 167.2 acres is on Churchill Rd. S. south of Highway 7.

Howitt claimed the sandy soil is ideally suited for septic tanks. He said in the past council indicated they wanted growth in Acton but due to the limitations of the sewage plant, it had been impossible. He contended that septic tanks development seemed a reasonable alternative.

The solicitor admitted the plan called for policy changes and suggested a classification in the Official Plan such as "suburban develop-

ment" or another term covering the same category. He asked planning board to instruct the staff to report on the concept and draw up requirements for such a designation. He said such designations are now included in the official plans for the region of Durham and Mono township.

To avoid the concern of setting a precedent, Howitt suggested the area adjacent to Acton be pinpointed. "I know you don't want to open a Pandora's box here."

Councillor Russell Miller commented, "132 lots scare me." Howitt countered with a possibility of a cut and suggested the number desired should be part of the requirement for suburban type development. "Either my client meets the criteria or it's a no-growth situation."

Murray Goldman, of Goldfan Holdings Limited, explained the land was purchased in 1973 when Acton was forecasting development east of town. He claimed there were resolutions

showing council agreed with that idea.

Goldman said there is a demand for houses in Acton. He pointed out the soil tests showed the southerly third of the land ideal for 50 septic systems due to the 60 foot strata of sand.

Food stores mum on ownership talks

Talk of changes in ownership involving A-B Supermarket and Foodland Stores are more substantial than rumor. Both sides, however, are keeping pretty mum about any deal.

"You're a little early," Foodland Store business owner George Lumsden said in a telephone interview yesterday.

"All you can say is there have been negotiations for a takeover," Don Lindsay, part owner in the A-B Supermarket business said. Mr. Lindsay confirmed management of the two food outlets have been talking for about five months. He was, however, reluctant

to disclose details for fear of jeopardizing negotiations. Mr. Lumsden too said nothing has been finalized.

Don Matheson and Mr. Lindsay took over the A-B Supermarket business last year. The A-B Supermarket has been in business about 15 years.

Business Improvement Area spokesman Paul Nielsen made an oblique reference to the deal at last week's Halton Hills planning board meeting on the plaza. He said there are plans for the amalgamation of two downtown grocery stores.

describing the plan as premature and was backed by councillor Ed Wood who pointed out the lots are down by the sewage plant across from a quarry, near a railroad track, and beside Beardmore's lagoon. "If we put \$100,000 homes there the people will be down here screaming all the time. There are better areas in Acton to develop."

This motion passed, and another to study the concept also passed, after a clause to have the staff list the standards for suburban type homes was deleted.

Maltby contended the same concept could apply in other areas so a report should be made with no particular proposal in mind.

Councillor Ross Knechtel pointed out the fastest and easiest way to get the information would be from municipalities who have such a designation in their official plans.

Arnold Wise, planning director for Goldfan Holdings Limited met with council Monday evening in an attempt to secure a reversal in planning board's recommendation. He wanted council to reconsider the motion ruling the proposal premature. Wise asked the men to hold off their decision until town staff had a chance to examine the concept when the report is completed. The director emphasized to council Goldfan would in no way think this was implying any type of approval.

Councillor Roy Booth corrected Wise on the term 'premature, saying planning board had flatly refused the proposal. Maltby, on the other hand, told Wise that the proposal he was offering was premature.

Council passed planning board's recommendation.

Teddy bears, lions, dogs, elephants, dinosaurs and, of course, rabbits populated Acton library children's room Saturday morning when the colorful stuffed beasts were judged by writer Jennifer Barr. The most interesting category was won by twin-five-year olds Allen (left) and Bradley Wildish of Wynford Place. Their rabbits are named Wilfred the First and Wilfred the Second respectively. They were flown here from England where the boys' great-grandmother knitted the rabbits. Michael O'Meara's 31-year-old teddy bear was determined to be the oldest entry. Michael's sister, Katie

brought the largest contestant, a lion. The O'Mearas live on George Street. The smallest entry came from Ben Ubbink of Doby Road. Ten-year-old Warren Blain, Elmore Drive, entered the hairiest of the menagerie. The most original name category was also won by Warren. His elephant is named Ethel. All of the children who placed their stuffed animals into the library's zoo for the day received a "More than meets the eye" T-shirt transfer from the Ontario Public Libraries. Runners up, like the winners, received ribbons.

Photo by ERIC ELSTONE

Clinic in danger of closure

Acton Red Cross blood donor clinics are in danger of closing their doors if more people do not get out and give blood.

Organizers, according to Henry Kroes, are "discouraged" with the lack of interest shown the clinics in the past few events. At the last clinic, in October, only 103 pints of blood were donated, which is not nearly enough for a town the size of Acton, Mr. Kroes said.

The setting up of a clinic is a timely and costly procedure, Mr. Kroes said, but if no one wants to give blood, why bother?

The next clinic is March 13 in the legion hall. Various hours are set to convenience everyone's working hours. Most people are eligible to give blood excepting those who have had blood diseases such as hepatitis, jaundice, anyone taking medication within 24 hours of donating, and those less than 110 pounds.

All are encouraged to come out to next week's clinic. If there is enough support, another clinic could be held later in the year.

Other winners have been former librarian Isabel Watson, the Acton detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police, Les Duby, Dr. Frank Oakes, M.Z. Bennett, David Dills, Steven Pappilon and Arlof Dills.

The award is given to person or persons contributing most to the community. Last year's winners were fire chief Mick Holmes and the Acton fire department.

Other winners have

and is done through ballots in the Acton Free Press. Ballots will appear in today's paper, next week and March 21, with the deadline being March 26. A winner will be chosen by the Chamber March 27.

Harassment of the neighboring couple went on until about 3:30 Sunday morning when a rifle shot was fired, according to a police press release. The bullet broke the husband's truck windshield. The woman fled her home with the children following a domestic quarrel. After she found safety with neighbors, the husband came by several times.

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Y expansion plan for 1980

The Acton Y members are planning an \$80,000 expansion onto their existing building to hopefully be completed by December 1980.

The idea germinated last fall according to program committee chairperson Carol Clark. Since then, a committee of president Keith Robbins, Gord Chapman, Bev Owens and Ken Grubbe has been considering a fund raising drive.

Mrs. Clark explained that construction would not commence until the entire \$80,000 had been raised so that the Y would not find themselves in financial difficulty later on.

Members hope a Y Week could kick off the campaign. Mrs. Clark suggested having the week officially designated by Halton Hills council in hopes of making it an annual event. Hopefully the campaign would last from one year to 18 months, Mr. Robbins told Y members at the regular meeting of the board last week.

Local architect Doug Freed estimated it would take four months for the actual construction.

The two storey expansion would be built onto the back of the building, extending some 18 feet. Upstairs would be two squash courts, which could also double as handball and racquet ball courts. Downstairs would be a weightlifting and boxing room, games room and maybe shower stalls. There would be entrances from the existing gym, the Mug in the basement, and one from outside.

The fund raising committee plans to look into the possibility of a substantial Wintario grant, but Mrs. Clark said, they are not going to budget for this to avoid possible disappointment later.

It is expected an expansion like this will help boost membership at the local Y. Members feel the rental fees of the squash courts alone will help pay for it.

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