

Just before deadline

Town Hall Wintario grant application gets nod

Less than 48 hours before the final Wintario grant applications will be accepted, Halton Hills general committee voted unanimously to apply for a grant to restore the Acton town hall.

Today, (Wednesday), is the final day applications will be accepted for any capital grants by the Wintario committee.

General committee members were hesitant to fill in the appropriate papers, wanting clarification on several points.

Councillor Russ Miller did not understand the label of "community centre" in relation to the hall.

Clerk Administrator Ken Richardson explained that in order to qualify for the grant, that terminology had to be used. He said the suggested uses of the building once restored were for the senior citizens, day care, choral society, office space, health care and social services, and legal aid.

Councillor George Malby was concerned with the wording of the resolution, which sounded as if the municipality is responsible to provide the restoration funds should no further money be raised by private contributions.

The resolution in part said "The council of Halton Hills advises it is their intention to pursue the restoration of the Acton town hall as a community centre."

Richardson assured the Esqueping representative the town was not getting itself in over its head. All the Ministry of Culture and Recreation wanted was a firm commitment from the owners. He explained that it said on the application the municipality was only giving \$40,000.

The \$40,000 was promised by the town if the people of Acton could come up with the rest of the money needed.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy noted all the Wintario application is doing is buying time until the next step.

Councillor Ross Knechtel told the members no one is trying to pull the wool over anyone's eyes. He explained that without the Wintario grant, there will be no restoration. But by not applying for the grant, they were killing the project on the spot. The councillor repeated a pledge by councillor Ed Wood last June, that if the people of Acton could not raise \$60,000 by June, he would personally move the project be shelved.

The town hall restoration committee will never able to prove themselves if council does not apply for the grant Wood said. "All we are doing is opening the doors to make funding available. By not processing these applications, we are closing the door."

Wood told the members the Acton committee felt if the present council was in power two years ago, when this controversy started, the restoration would be completed by now. He said the parochial doors have been broken down by the present council.

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ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1973.

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10 years for plot to import dope

Ten-year jail sentences were handed out to two men—one who lived in Acton—for conspiring to import cocaine from Brazil.

County Court Judge Thomas E. Quinlan stressed the importance of deterring people from entering the drug trade. "This was not a spur of the moment plunge into importing," said the judge prior to sentencing Geoffrey Dubois who lived in Acton for about a year, and Norman Hunt of Belwood Friday at Milton.

Mr. Dubois' lawyer, Keith Wright, said an appeal is seriously being considered. His client has been in custody since his arrest by the RCMP December 15.

The shortest sentence the pair could have received is seven years, the most was life. "They were at a reasonably high level in the drug scene," said the judge.

The conviction turned on RCMP and OPP evidence, some of it taped tele-

phone conversations, which documented an agreement to import three kilos (6½ pounds) of cocaine.

"All courts from east to west follow the principle that high level drug dealers do not deserve leniency," remarked Judge Quinlan.

"More than \$1-million in cocaine in Burlington, Hamilton, Guelph and area creates a hat of misery," he said.

Mr. Dubois was given a discharge concerning a fraud case last year. In another case involving a bank, the conviction was quashed, so according to his lawyer he had a clear record until the cocaine conviction.

For a time, while living in Acton, Mr. Dubois' three children lived with him.

There are two sons and a daughter. His wife, who was in residence in England, committed suicide last June, according to Mr. Wright. The children now live with Mr. Dubois' mother in England.

Mr. Dubois is tall and of slight build. He has short dark brown hair. He and

Mr. Hunt sat side-by-side in the prisoner's dock. They did not talk. The only words Mr. Dubois said at court were a crisply given "No thank you, your honor," when he was asked if he had anything to say prior to sentencing.

In the early '70s Mr. Dubois was recruited from England by the Bank of Nova Scotia where he worked for a year as an assistant manager. In 1973 he joined the Unity Bank in Mississauga as manager.

Mr. Dubois was apparently Mr. Hunt's banker when the latter operated Northway Gravel in Guelph.

Born in India of British parents, Mr. Dubois was educated in England. While the previous charges were being cleared up, Mr. Dubois was held in custody, according to his lawyer this incarceration meant association with people he might not otherwise have met.

Martin Goose, Mr. Hunt's lawyer, told the court he had never been in

trouble with police before this case for even so much as a traffic ticket.

"Madness perhaps got him into the scheme."

"This is a man who sort of lived in a dream world. Much has been made of the street value of the drugs. The total he (Hunt) made was \$500. Had to be a world of fantasy," Goose said.

Crown Prosecutor Noel Bates characterized Hunt and Dubois as being people in the middle rather than ring leaders. In the case of Mr. Dubois, the crown stated, he was a clear case of someone relapsing into crime. "He knew the risks; was prepared, for money, to proceed."

"Those risks ought to be real, as a deterrent to others in this community," said Mr. Bates.

In the case of Mr. Dubois, there was no indication of repentance, said the crown.



Heather Thatcher was Acton High School's top finisher at the recent Halton and Peel-Halton Cross Country Championships at Kelso Conservation Area. Heather paced the Acton junior girls' team with a sixth place finish at the Haltons two weeks ago and a ninth placing at the Peel-Haltons which were held last Wednesday. Georgetown continued to show their dominance capturing each division at both meets.

Continue and expand "Divide and Conquer"

The town plans to keep the Divide and Conquer project going, and expand it into the Acton urban area.

The program where newspapers, glass and cans are put out for the garbage pickup in separate containers, was started in Georgetown in April, 1972, and slated to end in December of this year. The Ministry of Environment who inaugurated the plan

have been paying costs.

Town engineer Bob Austin reported a deficit of \$12,155 in 1972 and an anticipated deficit of \$20,000 at the end of this year.

Staff will obtain proposals from private companies for the sale of the collected refuse.

The engineer recommended the continuation of the program despite the deficit, suggesting agreements

with private industry and changing markets for the papers, cans and glass could reduce the deficit.

The starting date for "divide and conquer" operation in Acton will be in the spring, since according to the engineer that is a better time for residents to begin such a program rather than during the winter.

The expected deficit over both the Georgetown and Acton areas for 1980 is approximately \$22,000.

Inside



Ron McKnight, affectionately dubbed "The Voice of Acton", visited his favorite NHL team's dressing room recently. Robin Insoce reports on B1.

The Shoemakers, Bruce and Rhoda, are celebrating 25 years of business in Acton this week. Jennifer Barr has the story on Page 5

Acton Sabres dominated Thornhill as they took their first victory of the season Saturday. See B1.

Dump closes in Georgetown but there is assurance residents will have a place to dispose of their garbage. See Page 2.

Plans laid to raise funds for town hall

With growing enthusiasm, plans are being made to raise money for Acton's share of the cost of the renovation of the town hall.

An office will be opened downtown, where information on restoration, uses and maintenance of the building and financing will always be available. This is being done after hearing advice on the raising of funds for the Lions swimming pool. Arrangements for this office are being finalized this week.

The legal responsibilities of a non-

profit organization are being researched so financial arrangements will be meticulously correct.

Fund-raising projects are being closely considered, as well as pledges. About \$10,000 has already been pledged. Another cheque for \$50 was received by the town hall committee this week. With inflation, the sum required from Acton is now about \$60,000 altogether.

A group of interested people have been meeting together at Swetman's Shoe store.

Telephone rate hike meets with opposition

With telephone rates already frozen in Erin township, the Community Telephone Company has applied for another increase.

The firm announced last week they are applying for the hike to offset costs of waiting for the last increase which went through this summer. Strong customer objection forced the postponement of the increase for over one year.

"Between the last date of filing (for the increase) and now," the company said in a press release, "we find the cost of borrowing money, the general expense of doing business and the additional service needs of our customers has simply outstripped any increase in our income that the previous rate order generated."

The increase affected all other areas the private company deals with except Erin, Hillsburgh and Erin township. The Ontario Telephone Commission ruled a freeze in this area until the service is improved.

Customers in this area complain of poor service, poor connections, not enough lines into and out of the area, and the fact it is long distance to call anyone who is not under the Community Telephone system, in some cases including neighbors, schools, hospitals and fire departments. This small calling area is their major complaint.

Community Telephone has put in for an increase of approximately \$3.25 per household. The Committee for Better Service, formed to fight the last increase claims that in most cases, the proposed increase would double some bills.

The Committee is "shocked" at the latest request. "We knew they needed more money to operate, but continue to question why they should remain in business at the expense of their customers," says Jeanette Cox, of the committee. "We as telephone subscribers are not after special treatment, only equal treatment."

Mrs. Cox forewarned the telephone company. "The overwhelming negative response of last fall was only a small preview of the reaction that the Ontario Telephone Service Commission, (the governing body of all privately owned phone companies) and the Community Telephone Company of Ontario can be prepared to meet this time," she said.

Dairy Princess title to Catherine Rich

Catherine Rich is the 1979-80 Halton Dairy Princess.

Catherine was crowned Friday evening at the Dairy Princess Competition and Ball at Acton Legion. She is 22 years old and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Rich, Oakville. She recently graduated from the University of Guelph.

Also vying for the crown were last year's winner Marie Murray, 19, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Murray, R.R. 1, Acton; Laurie Early, 17 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Early,

R.R. 1 Campbellville; and Kimberly Peddie, 17 years old and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peddie, R.R. 2, Georgetown.

Judges for the contest were Mrs. Osborne Sager, Earl Osborne and Larry Ritchie. Mrs. Pat Thompson, Milton, was the contest co-ordinator.

The following contributed to the evening in some way: The Royal Bank; West Agro Chemical Limited; Diversy (Canada) Limited; Eramosa Flowers; Acton Legion; and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.



Witches and bogabubs will have much competition for this Halloween from lots at Acton's Co-Op Nursery. They have their colorful costumes ready and their pumpkin's carved with devilish faces. Rabbit Melanie Cook, grey mouse Maureen Thom-

son, clown Heather Kidd and princess Michelle Quick get in the mood for some trick 'n treat in the nursery's rooms at Knox Presbyterian Church. Tonight is Halloween.

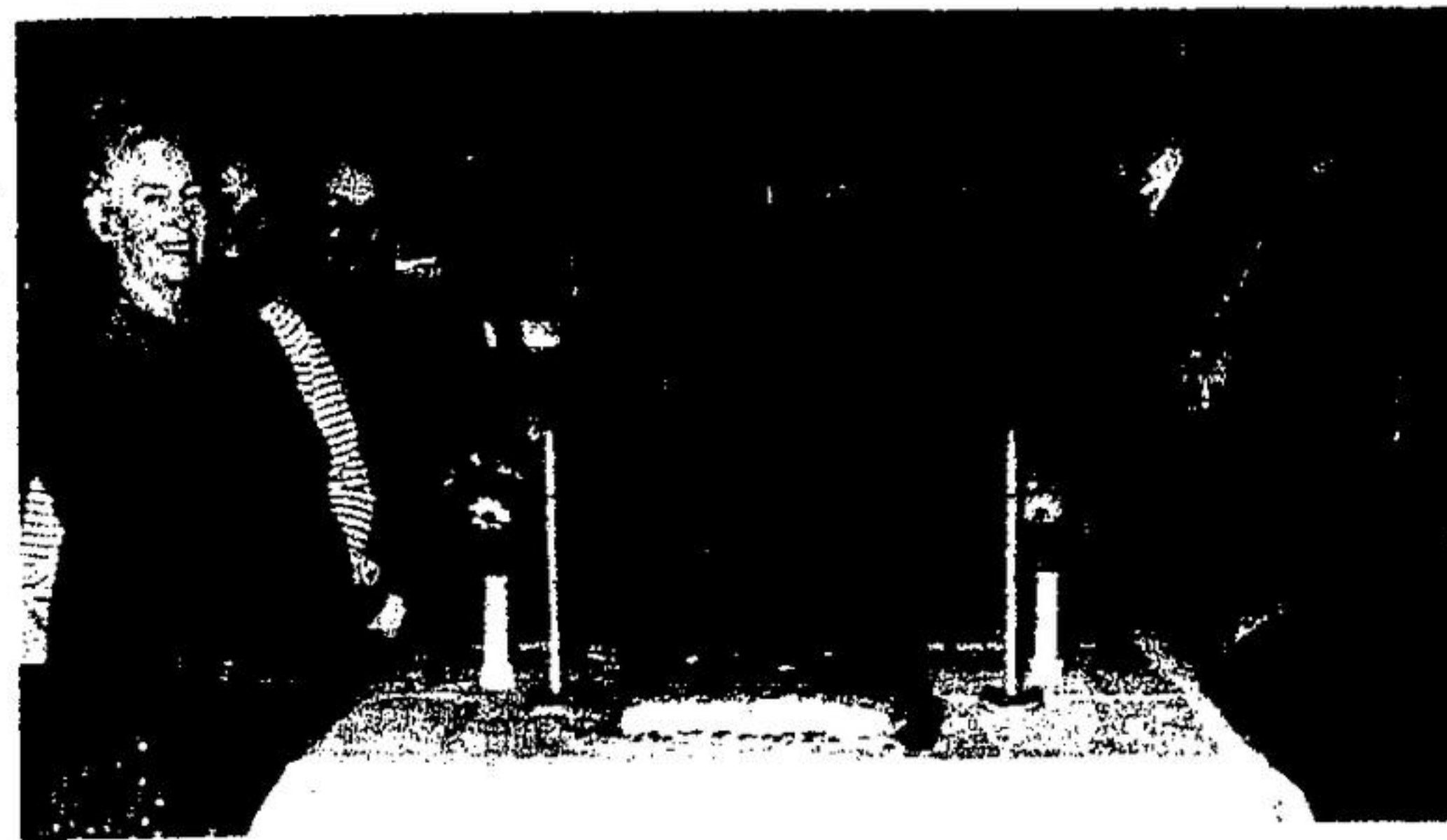
\$17,000 goal for Red Cross

Georgetown and District Red Cross Society will launch its annual campaign for funds starting March 1, 1980.

The target this year for Acton, Georgetown and rural area is \$17,000, according to Campaign Chairman John Wickens, who is asking volunteers to come forward.

More than 500 volunteers are needed to canvass the area, including the industrial and business sections.

If willing to help call the local Red Cross.



The Heather Club marked the 25th anniversary of its founding with a special dinner at Knox Presbyterian Church Thursday evening. Many of the founding members were present. Standing, left to right are May Dumarsk, Meryl Kirkness

(secretary), Mary Mann (treasurer), Oral Norton, Renee Watson, Vera Inglis, Alice Waidie, Rev. Bob Armstrong, Margaret Armstrong and Helen Otterbein. Rev. Armstrong was the minister at the church when the group started.