



Pat Little learns about working at the Acton Community Services Centre from co-ordinator Peggie Balkind. Mrs. Little, an Acton resident started working at the centre part-time last week.

Town will fund downtown studies

Halton Hills council will spend up to \$35,000 for studies of both the Acton and Georgetown downtown areas as a prelude to the Business Improvement Areas Act over the next 10 years on revitalization projects.

Both downtown areas are eligible for study grants of \$5,000 each and since much of the information gleaned in the studies will become part of the town's new official Plan another \$15,000 can be obtained from Queen's Park.

Monday night council passed bylaws amending the old Georgetown and Acton Official Plans as well as approving a minimum maintenance and occupancy bylaw. This completed the first

step towards making Acton and Georgetown downtown areas eligible for study grants as well as possible loans of \$150,000 for each BIA for revitalization.

Before the two areas can obtain the loans a study must be performed by a consulting firm to determine what work will be done on municipal land in the downtown areas, such as sidewalks, streets, lighting, off street parking etc.

Council received a joint presentation from the Acton and Georgetown BIAs as well as a report from the town planner dealing with the proposed study.

A sub-committee looking at the studies was directed to nail down cost figures and then report back by March 16.

George Marko of the Georgetown BIA described their proposal as one which they "can't refuse."

A number of consulting firms have been contacted about downtown studies and costs are estimated at a high of \$60,000. With \$25,000 from the province the maximum the town would have to kick in would be \$35,000.

The town and BIAs only have until the end of this month to apply for provincial funds so timing is now critical.

The BIAs will each receive \$150,000 in loans as well as invest about another \$400,000 of their own money from the special BIA tax levy over the next 10 years, Marko explained. He said the BIAs have reached a crucial "turning point" in the drive to revitalize the core areas.

"It's a terrific proposal. Our investment in municipal land will be phenomenal."

Council voted to go ahead with retaining consultants for the studies, subject to provincial funding being firm and the town's contribution being settled.

Planner Mario Venditti said half of the studies are for eventual downtown revitalization and half for the Official Plan which council wants completed this year. He said if these studies hadn't come up his department would have had to budget money for downtown studies for the Official Plan.

Councillor Harry Levy said the two business areas were showing "strength" but was concerned the town hasn't received a written commitment to spend \$700,000 over 10 years on revitalization.

He noted there is no money in the proposed operating budget, which hasn't been finalized, for the studies.

Councillor Dave Whiting said the town does have commitments from the BIAs. He said the town won't have to spend more than \$35,000 and now has a minimum maintenance and occupancy bylaw, so everything is in place to get going on the studies and revitalization.

Trustees chop \$130,000 from proposed board bill

A \$130,000 scheme for the "systematic development of the skills and capabilities of all staff" got chopped from the budget by Halton Board of Education trustees.

Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) District 9 Ron Ness said he was "not disappointed" that trustees voted the item out of the budget. "I think a plan will come and the dollars will be there," he said.

Board education director Em Lavender said after Thursday's vote that he thought trustees were perhaps reflecting the view of the finance committee.

Lavender suggested that the board's executive committee list priorities for finance committee members.

The chairman of finance committee, trustee Noel Cooper, said in debate with trustees that committee "cannot support the additional expenditure."

Trustees approved the principle of improving the skills of staff members, however, they did not vote the funds for the 1981 budget. The board's budget, to be presented Thursday, is expected to approach a 15 per cent increase. That amounts to \$116,000,000. Last year's budget was about \$101,900,000.

Georgetown trustee Betty Fisher established that the program which would be used for "development and implementation of a systematic supervision, evaluation and development process for all staff" has not been tested.

"We've approved it in principle, perhaps we should put it off until there's an evaluation report," said Fisher.

Acton trustee Arlene Bruce took another tact. She indicated concern about the amount of time teachers must spend outside of their schools. Coming on the heels of a previous program, Bruce said "it seems to me we

Legion happenings

Kevin Conroy PRO Br. 197.

We now have four teams entered in the zone dart competition at Branch 15 in Bramalea. Don't forget the bus leaves our Branch at 9 a.m. and competition starts at 10 a.m.

Last week, Comrades Ken Hildritch and Peter Comstive reached the semi-finals of the singles and Fred Allen and Norm Roy reached the semi-finals of the doubles. This is a strong performance when one considers there are over 100 dart players competing.

Branch 15, Bramalea, is hosting a Vimy Dinner on April 8 and have invited World War I veterans from Branch 197. Comrades Ed Footitt and Pat Waldie will accompany those wishing to go.

Comrade E.G. Townsley, the district service officer, will be the area on April 6. Those veterans who have questions or wish to see the officer should contact Comrade Vic Patrick by March 23 at 853-0066.

At a recent executive meeting it was agreed to maintain our annual donation to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Comrade Frank Langley will represent the Branch at a meeting to discuss services notice board at the entrances to town. This is sponsored by the local BIA and will be held at the Acton Library on Wednesday, March 11.

We received a request from a city branch to visit our facilities during the summer. The date coincides with our beef barbecue which they felt was a bargain so we may have to set up a couple of extra tables.

Souvenir mugs for the Golden Anniversary are now available at the Branch and members will shortly be able to pick up their complimentary copy of the Branch history. This book is a credit to the efforts of Comrade Joe Hurst and will make a valuable to any library.

Comrade Jim McKnight is home from hospital and hopefully taking things easy for a while. Comrades Ev Whitred and Arnold Perry are in Guelph General Hospital and we wish them both a speedy recovery.

See you all the Anniversary Ball.

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Elisabeth Bradburn of the Canadian Heart Foundation shows how it's done during the YMCA's heart saver course Wednesday nights.

Adams Crd. extension

The developer of a 12 lot subdivision planned for the area of the intersection of Ransom St. and Main St. South, Adams Court, has been given town approval for a one year extension of approval of the draft plan of subdivision.

Final details of the proposal are now being worked out, but the draft plan approval was due to run out March 5. Council gave its approval Monday for the one year extension.

Clerk-Administrator Ken Richardson said the delay in finalizing the development has been caused by "an approach which has been made by a single use purchaser who is perhaps interested in acquiring the site. This may mean amendments to our agreement."

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Leaving in good form. The Record of Employment is one way we can make sure no one gets short-changed and no one gets overpaid. This saves time and money for everyone involved. Angel found out that the most common mistake in reporting the "Insurable Earnings". Insurable earnings are not necessarily the same as payroll earnings. Because Angel fills out the ROE accurately, ex-employees don't have to come back to her for changes. And neither do we.

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