

Yule decorating contest returns

Actonians have just nine more days to decorate the exterior of their homes for Christmas and have a chance at winning an Actario ticket.

Once again the Acton Beautification Committee (ABC) is holding a contest with prizes to the best decorated homes to promote Christmas spirit here and made the town look its prettiest ever this holiday season.

ABC chairman Bill Coates noted last year's first contest was for the best decorated door, but there was no question judges were influenced by the rest of a home's holiday season motif.

So, this year the entire exterior of a home will be judged on the basis of "the most creative design in the Christmas spirit."

Last year people who wanted their homes judged, or impressed friends or neighbors, sent in the contest entries. This year ABC members will tour the entire town and come up with a list of potential prize winning homes which will then be judged by committee of Acton citizens.

All selection and judging will take place the weekend of December 19, so residents should complete their decorating by the night of December 18.

First prize is an Actario ticket donated by the Acton BIA while second prize is a voucher from Acton Family Cleaners.



Ten Little Indians... Robert Little grade two teachers Berna Ormsby and Maureen Hyde were in fine form during their class's Indian Day. The teachers and their class donned home-made Indian apparel and played tom-toms.

Jelinek against constitution Charter of Rights concern

Halton MP Otto Jelinek voted against the House of Commons constitutional resolution last week not because he doesn't want patriation but because he was concerned about the Charter of Rights.

He was one of 17 Progressive Conservatives and 24 MPs altogether who opposed the constitutional resolution which was supported by 246 MPs.

Jelinek said in an interview this week he wants to make it perfectly clear that he wasn't voting against patriation, just Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's cherished Charter of Rights.

In October of 1980 Jelinek recalled voting for a resolution calling for patriation unamended and with no Charter of Rights. "I agree 100 per cent the British North American Act should be brought back to Canada and made in Canada."

However, Jelinek fears, rights and freedoms Canadians have enjoyed out of tradition will disappear in the years ahead because they aren't included in the new Charter.

"Once you begin to write down rights and freedoms those that aren't written down become suspect for the future."

He is most concerned that the right to own property isn't in the Charter of Rights.

Halton's MP notes Canadians have long enjoyed

more freedoms and rights than anyone else in the world and these have been based on tradition, tradition which is recognized by the Supreme Court.

"All of a sudden now we write down some rights and freedoms but some others we enjoy are left out. The right to own property was left out on purpose. We proposed an amendment to include it and it was defeated." The Charter of Rights is a "step backwards" and is a dangerous precedent. Protection of rights by tradition will now be "overpassed" because the only rights protected will be in the constitution.

Jelinek said he was also concerned aboriginal rights weren't improved and the rights of the handicapped aren't included in the Charter.

A secondary concern, Jelinek says, has to be the deeper wedge which has been driven between Quebec and the rest of the nation.

Many nations have constitutions which are full of rights and freedoms, such as the Soviet Union, but Jelinek notes the people in fact have no freedoms so writing things down are no guarantee.

He said voting against the constitutional resolution might have been politically wise but he felt he had to vote his conscience.

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Surely you jest?

Jesters, wenchers and peasants did a good job of entertaining at the Boar's Head dinner Sunday evening. Front row, Gretchen Sankey, Katy Brewes, Laura Moore. Middle row, Marg Tamblin, Gwyneth Gibb, Miriam Beaton, Judy Shadbol, Connie Saros and Jane Sewell. Back row, Melanie Jonston, Laura-Ann Leslie, and Lisa Kryzik.

More photos on page 3.

Decide town hall fate in 12 days Pomeroy favors full restoration

All signs point to a close vote when Halton Hills council decides the fate of the Acton town hall on December 21.

Monday night, after council received the final report from the Kleinfeldt Consultants looking at restoration, Mayor Peter Pomeroy gave notice of motion for a resolution calling for complete restoration of the building from an historical/heritage perspective for use as a community centre.

Pomeroy's preferred option, named scenario four in the consultant's report, is the most expensive but will also yield the most in provincial grants.

The mayor predicted Halton Hills contribution from tax dollars to the project will be only \$225,000 and the project cost has been estimated at \$440,000 plus furnishings, equipment, furnishings and architects fees. The difference between the municipality's contribution and the total cost would be made up by Wintario, Heritage Foundation and Community Centre's Act grants as well as \$80,000 in public contributions.

Actario and Restoration Committee has raised about \$40,000 so far and Pomeroy predicted once the town commits itself to restoration the fund raising

efforts will take off. He also said he expects the Leathertown Association, which has shown support for the town hall, will join in fund raising efforts.

Pomeroy wasn't the only person to tip his hand on the town hall issue. Councillor Harry Levy vowed to resign immediately as chairman of the budget committee if tax dollars go into the town hall. The decision will be made close to Christmas and Councillor Mike Armstrong said he hoped they didn't get carried away with the spirit of the season and "give away like crazy." He added the town won't be able to make a beautiful edifice out of an old building.

Councillor Ross Knechtel predicted the municipality will get the cost of restoration back through increased assessment from spin-off development in the downtown area. It is important the town maintain the health of the industrial-commercial base in Acton because it carries a third of the tax burden and the town hall is a key part of downtown redevelopment.

Pomeroy recalled the town designated the town hall an historical building a few years ago, adding the town hall restoration would give Halton Hills an excellent municipal presence in Acton. Besides

various municipal offices the mayor wants a seniors' drop-in located in a restored town hall.

He cautioned the project can't go ahead until eligibility for provincial grants is confirmed and once the project goes to tender the town will apply for the grants. He called for the municipality's portion of the project cost to be included in the 1982 capital budget.

The town hall has an important role to play in Acton's "emergence" as a tourist centre, something the mayor says will happen for "sure."

Final figures can't be nailed down until architectural drawings are developed, however, Pomeroy said, the library-cultural centre in Georgetown cost \$70 to \$75 a square foot to build and to build a new facility in Acton would cost about the same. On the other hand, restoring the town hall will only cost \$50 to \$60 a square foot.

The only reason he wasn't presenting the motion for a decision Monday night, Pomeroy said, was to give all councillors two weeks to consider such an important decision. He wanted all councillors on hand for the December 21 meeting too, Councillor Roy Booth was absent Monday.

Nearly 400 object to spending tax dollars restoring town hall

Almost 400 Actonians have come out against tax dollars being spent on town hall restoration.

A petition containing 397 names has been sent to Halton Hills council along with a written presentation.

The petition and presentation is described as a "sampling" of public opinion in Acton about the question of tax dollars being spent to restore the town hall. The presentation and petition come from C.L. Rognvaldson, Harry Offerbein, Leonard Lovell, Art Gordon, Ed Footitt, Pat McKenzie, Joe Hurst and John Krul.

"Your consultant's report in the local newspapers which announces the spiralling costs to the taxpayers if the project to restore the old town hall in Acton proceeds has caused much concern among local residents. Too much publicity, we feel, has been given to the group that favours the restoration of this building without due consideration to all the taxpayers in Halton Hills. With this thought in mind a small group of citizens decided to sample public

opinion in Ward 1 last weekend. The petition read as follows:

"We the undersigned ratepayers in Acton (Ward 1 in Halton Hills) wish to inform the town council that we do not approve of additional tax dollars spent on restoring, furnishing, and maintaining the old town hall. We do not object to any local group of citizens attempting the project provided our tax dollars, that are urgently needed for other projects, are not used for the renovation of this building."

"We wish to emphasize that this is only a sample as time would not permit us to contact all the taxpayers in Ward 1 but we learned that almost all the people approached are very concerned and definitely opposed to their tax dollars being used on this project. There will be councillors present, we are sure, who will recall that, when this project first came to the town council, it was not going to cost the taxpayers a penny."

"Mr. Mayor and members of council with increasing costs of living, with high interest rates, and with rising unemployment in Halton Hills, all

taxpayers expect that the council will exercise restraint and eliminate unnecessary expenditures. If it is additional office space that council seeks in Acton we see a modern hydro office that is not fully occupied. If it is a heritage building to enhance the community we see the Stone School which will be vacant in 1982. Incidentally your recent study shows that this building is structurally sound and it has excellent parking facilities. We also feel that there are better ways to assist the downtown merchants, if that is your goal, than spending tax dollars restoring and maintaining a building with very limited uses."

"In conclusion Mr. Mayor and members of council with spiralling costs to restore this old building, with the very uncertain times in which our taxpayers find themselves today and with the fact that more economical facilities are available to meet the local needs this sample of public opinion leads us to conclude that the town council should not proceed with this project if additional tax dollars must be used."

Add homes on Mill West and east of Acton — report

Homes for 2,900 new residents could be built east of Acton and west of the site of the new St. Joseph's School on Mill Street West by the year 2001.

A year long study of Acton's potential growth was unveiled at a public meeting sponsored by Halton Hills and the region last night (Tuesday) at Acton High School.

There were over 30 people; developers, planners, land owners and lawyers, on hand to learn the contents of Proctor and Redfern's Acton Urban Area Review Study. The Acton urban area is the area of the town where water and sewer services are available. Acton's ability to grow is hampered by the capacity of the sewage plant, the capacity of the receiving Black Creek stream, and the water supply.

The study calls for a slight increase in the urban boundary. This is something of a surprise since municipal officials had been fearing that not only could Acton not grow, but some approved housing developments wouldn't be able to proceed.

Halton Hills and regional council will deal with the recommendations to allow more development here next month and interested parties have until the end of this month to file submissions on the urban boundary study.

The Ministry of the Environment has decided Acton can grow from about 7,100 people to 10,000 over the next 20 years. The study calls for 51 acres of serviced land to be added to the town east of Churchill Rd. North and north of Highway 7 and another 63 acres east of Churchill Rd. South and south of Highway 7. Included in this addition of serviced land, almost completely designated for residential development, is property on both sides of Churchill Rd. North near the high school, the Cedar Road project.

The urban servicing boundary would be extended

east both north and south of the highway about 1,750 feet from Churchill Rd. Tyler's is about 800 feet east of Churchill. The new eastern boundary of Acton would be roughly a line south from the rear of the high school property.

The other major area for residential development would be 20 acres of land on Mill St. West beside the site of the new St. Joseph's School. Expansion of the urban boundaries will permit the school to be serviced with water and sewers, the school was previously approved for septic tank service.

Acton is also going to be able to accommodate 150 more acres of industrial land, 57 of those acres serviced by water and sewers. The consultants felt more serviced industrial land wasn't needed because there is vacant industrial land in Acton now.

Once the population grows to 10,000 people Acton won't be allowed any further development by the province.

Some low scale commercial development can be allowed on the south side of Highway 7 east of Churchill, but nothing big like a plaza because the Downtown Acton study completed earlier this year says all supermarkets should be located in the BIA.



Actario returned Saturday morning with Ron McKnight drawing the winning tickets.

16-year-old hit by truck

A 16-year-old Acton resident was taken to Georgetown Hospital last Thursday evening after she was struck down by a vehicle on Mill St. E. in Acton while crossing the road.

According to police reports, Terry Dunliffe was running across Mill St. when she was hit by a small pickup driven by Leigh Bowmaster, also an Acton resident. The victim was treated for facial cuts and released in satisfactory condition on Saturday, a hospital spokesman said. No charges were laid following the accident.

Lottario winner takes home \$9,424

A Kingham Road man is almost \$10,000 richer after coming up with a winning combination in Saturday evening's Lottario draw.

Wilson Cochrane, 177 Kingham Rd. used family birthdates to select his numbers for the pick-your-own-number lottery. It was only the second time he had ever purchased a Lottario ticket, according to the Ontario Lottery Corporation, and he only had one ticket on last weekend's draw.

His ticket was worth \$9,424.90, not a bad return on a \$1 investment. Cochrane was unavailable for comment.



Denise Hodgson, daughter of Rev. Cliff Hodgson, sang a solo at the Evangel Pentecostal Tabernacle Sunday School Christmas Play Sunday evening and, Brennan McKenzie gave a good performance as a shepherd.



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