

Town will set standards for snow plowing

Town engineer Robert Austin has been directed to prepare a "policy position paper" on winter maintenance: snow plowing, sanding, salting, and snow removal.

Monday council passed a resolution calling for the policy position paper dealing with "level of service" provided the community.

This position paper will not only be information for councillors, but will also need to be confirmed or endorsed.

Clerk-administrator Ken Richardson said the policy paper will set down in writing if plows go out after one inch of snow has fallen or six and which types of streets are plowed first, etc.

Richardson noted the current level of service has been established by historical practice over the years rather than council policy.

Council also received a report from the engineer outlining the reasons for a policy change this year for snow plowing and removal for cul-de-sacs and streets with median boulevards.

Previously on cul-de-sacs snow was plowed in a clockwise direction, against any theoretical traffic flow, piled in the centre and later hauled to the snow dump. Now operators of snow plows have been directed to stay on the proper side of the road with the snow plowed to the right and not the centre of the cul-de-sac. As well there is no snow removal on cul-de-sacs now because they aren't heavily travelled and snow removal isn't really necessary the works department feels.

Austin explained this change was necessary because of rising costs, problems with snow dumps and drivers must be operating the plows on the proper side of the road.

Operating plows on the proper side of the road was the reason for plowing median boulevard streets to the right and not plowing the snow onto the boulevard in the middle of the road anymore. Previously plows were going down the wrong side of these streets.

Austin noted there was a fatality in another Ontario municipality because a snow plow wasn't being driven on the right side of the road and the municipality is facing liability problems because of the accident.

Several councillors reported having received complaints from residents about these two changes in snow plowing.

Councillor Dave Whiting asked if the residents were given any prior warning other than a supervisor on the scene suggesting people call their councillor and Austin said there was no advanced notice of the change.

Councillor Harry Levy suggested they should have been informed of the change before they started receiving calls from citizens.

Austin said his department is looking at getting a reversible plow so snow can once again be plowed onto median boulevards.

Social Services Centre meeting

The annual meeting for the Acton Social Services and Information Centre will be held next Wednesday, January 20, at 7:30 p.m. at the centre in the rear of the Y building.



Keith Black checks the plaque on the high school time capsule. Former board of education trustee Tom Watson officially put the plaque in place yesterday morning (Tuesday). The capsule will be opened November 6, 2006.

Time capsule sealed into high school wall

A time capsule, to be opened in November, 2006, was sealed into a wall at Acton High School yesterday (Tuesday).

In a quiet ceremony, former trustee Tom Watson, who was instrumental in the building of the new high school five years ago, was on hand to officially put up the plaque on the site where the capsule is buried.

The idea for a time capsule came partly from the architect who designed the building, admits one of the organizers, Keith Black.

He explains that in the original blueprints of the school, was an area in the bearpit floor for a capsule. The building was built to accommodate the plans. However, says Black, that spot is not only inconvenient but also damp.

Black and fellow teachers got thinking about the possibility of a capsule, and that it would be a good excuse for a reunion 25 years down the road.

With the original site cast aside, the staff decided to put the capsule where the old phone booth was, just past the bearpit, across from the school store. The telephone had been moved closer to the office, leaving an empty cubby hole. The capsule has been built into the bottom half of the cubby hole, and a glass display case for the art department will be built over top of it. The plaque will be fully visible.

The woodworking class of Murray Swanton played an important part in the construction of the container, and English classes wrote stories of what they feel life in 2006 will be like. A local chlorine dealer for swimming pools, Dave Johnson provided plastic containers and two barrels for items

to be placed in, and Mike Kinal of Acton Home Hardware supplied the plaque.

Some items placed in the capsule were:

- Pictures of students who participated in intramural and interschool sports programs for 1978-81; photographs of sports programs and the student association; a model of the Columbia space shuttle; student cards; Canadian coinage medal; car rally sheets; color photographs of students; Acton High School jacket; box of artifacts; Board of Education material i.e. staffing, physical plant, long term plan, needs assessment, consolidation; Acton High school documents, i.e. future directions, official opening of Acton High School, November 29, 1977 pamphlet, copy of prayer of dedications prepared and given by Rev. Charles Beaton, Trinity United Church, Acton; Minister of Education documents, the SERP report and a copy of Bill 62; a Terry Fox album; Acton Remembrance Day Service pamphlet; Acton High School Poet Laureate's "The Time Capsule"; November 11, 1981 issue of the Acton Free Press; a letter from Mayor Peter Pomeroy; notes, poems, statements by local residents including parents and students; a high school yearbook, Acid Rain pamphlet, travel tips, Teen Cuisine (cafeteria) statement, staff handbook, Halton Regional Health Unit paper, and staff bulletin; a hand calculator, store catalogues, from Sears, Home Hardware and Canadian Tire, and current magazines; a McKenzie-Smith yearbook; Halton Region plans; and electrical switches, and wire.

Viewers miss Movie Channel, may have Canadian version soon

The Movie Channel is gone but not forgotten.

Halton Cable Systems has received many calls from subscribers wishing to sign up for the American Pay-TV channel which aired for a couple of weeks during the holidays on Halton Cable's converter channel 25.

Halton Cable general manager James MacGee explained they brought in The

Movie Channel because they wanted to test satellite signal reception and answer some technical questions.

Halton Cable isn't authorized by the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to offer The Movie Channel or other American Pay-TV services to its subscribers so once the testing was completed The Movie Channel went off the air in

north Halton. However, Halton Cable hopes to have a similar station, a Canadian version of The Movie Channel, available later this year.

The CRTC accepted applications for Pay TV networks (The Movie Channel is an American Pay-TV Network) and a decision on which bidder or bidders were successful is expected later this month.

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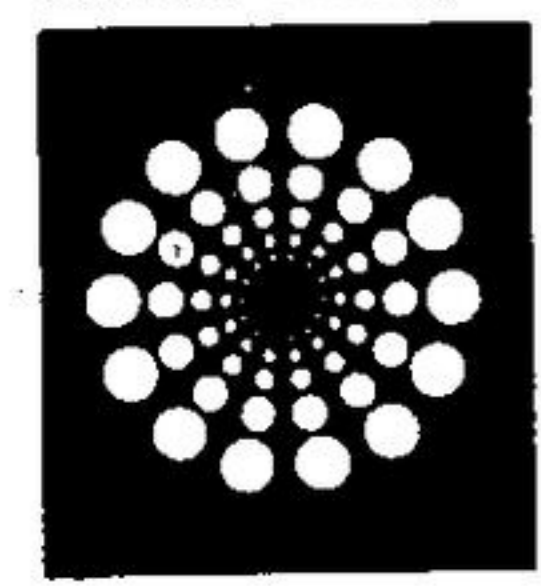
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