

Special drop-in this Friday on town hall

There will be a special drop-in this Friday for councillors and citizens to air their views on the town hall restoration issue.

This councillors drop-in session, and future drop-ins, will be held at the new home as of tomorrow (Thursday) of the Acton Social Services and Information Centre, the former Gal's Pals building, 113 Mill St. East, instead of the rear of the Y building.

Monday night councillor Dave Whiting drew his colleagues' attentions to the advertisements about the town hall appearing in Halton Hills newspapers and announced there would be a drop-in to give councillors, especially those who opposed restoration "a chance to present themselves" to the community. He suggested coming to Acton might save them a few phone calls.

The ads have listed the phone number of Councillors Harry Levy, George Maltby, Pam Sheldon, Walter Biehn, Marilyn Serjeantson, Russ Miller and Mike Armstrong, and urged citizens in all wards to call them and air their views on the issue. They opposed restoration.

Müller said he will be at the drop-in, but cautioned councillors attending not to expect much. He noted he has received just one phone call on the issue, that from a woman living in Guelph who used to live in Acton.

Pomeroy urged all councillors to "document" the calls they receive as information for the time "when and if" council discusses the issue further.

Serjeantson said afterwards she also received a call from the woman in Guelph, as well as one call from a Georgetown resident asking her to explain why she voted against restoration. She also received two letters.

Biehn has received three calls from Georgetown people and one from an Acton resident, as well as a letter.

Eleven people have called Armstrong and he said nine have backed his stand on the hall issue. He's also received two letters.

Levy and Sheldon were absent from the meeting and Maltby left following adjournment before he could be asked about what response he has received.

Clerk-administrator Ken Richardson said the municipality has received a few calls on the issue and a couple of letters.



Ann Thorpe uses icing to put names on cookies at the M.Z. Bennett craft and bake sale Saturday.

PA days to stay the same

Professional Activity, or professional development days for teachers in the Halton Board of Education system will remain the same in the next school year as they are in the current year if a recommendation by a modified school year committee is accepted at the next meeting.

In a report to the board trustees last Wednesday, the committee members explained Ministry regulations require boards to designate at least 185 days in any school year as instructional days. Any remaining days can be designated instructional or professional activity days. In the 1981-82 school year there were 194 days, nine of which were PA days in secondary and eight days for elementary. Because the 1982-83 school year has 196 days, a maximum of 11 days are available for PA days.

However, the report only recommended eight for elementary and nine for secondary.

"Professional activity days are used for many purposes," the report said. "These include school opening, school closing, parent interviews, student counselling, program planning, evaluation, promotion meetings and professional development. Although professional development is an important professional activity, it is only one of many activities essential to maintaining an effective education system."

The report continued "The committee believes that these professional activity days are used very productively in Halton. Each principal must develop a written plan for the effective use of each day by every staff member. These plans are monitored regularly by Area Superintendents. Professional activity days allow staff to complete important tasks in a way less costly than released teacher time from regular school days."

Responding to a question from Acton trustee Arlene Bruce, Bob Parry of the committee said PA Days are held on Fridays and Mondays so that parents can enjoy long weekends.



St. Joseph's Catholic Women's League executive are: front row left to right, Ann Donstan—1st vice president; Mary Margaret Dickinson—president; and Ruth McMahon—2nd vice president. Back row, left to right, Pauline Porter-Treasurer; Rina O'Brien—Secretary; Ann Montgomery—Community and Public Relations; Mary Whelan—Spirit Development; and Lorretta Sammit—Organization Convenor. Missing from photo were Julie Conroy and Marge Murray.

BIA loans approved

Halton Hills applications for loans of \$150,000 each for the Acton and Georgetown Business Improvement Areas (BIA) for revitalization have received approval in principle from Queen's Park.

Now the town has 90 days to obtain approval from the Ontario Municipal Board for repayment over a 10 year period of the loans as well as make arrangements with the province to repay the loans at \$16,500 a year from the special BIA levy for both down-

town areas. Clerk administrator Ken Richardson said the town won't be taking 90 days to clear these hurdles because some of the work downtown needs to begin this summer.

Monday council passed bylaws seeking OMB approval for town repayment of the loans as well as authorizing an agreement be signed between the town and province for loan repayments.

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