

Region preparing financial rescue to keep Social Services Centre open

Details haven't been nailed down yet, but Halton Region will come up with a financial rescue plan for the Acton Social Services and Information Centre.

The consensus of councillors on the Social Services Committee is that "we will find the money in some way, shape or form. The Centre will remain open," Councillor Dave Whiting announced this week.

If the Centre doesn't receive an infusion of cash it will have to close for three or four months starting in mid-January at the latest. After making it

necessary move from the Y building to the former Gals' Pal building on Mill St. East near the tracks in May the Centre has discovered it has increased operating costs. As well renovation costs cut into the operating budget. While the move has proved most beneficial, business at the Centre has increased substantially since the move, the Centre needs \$5,000 in additional funds. There wasn't a quorum at last week's Social Services Committee meeting, so no recommendations were passed. But, Whiting said, the consensus was the region won't allow the Centre to be closed for any period

of time before it receives its 1983 operating funding.

He reiterated previous assurances that regional councillors know the value of the Acton Social Services and Information Centre, that it is very cost efficient and the region would spend much more if it had to provide the services which are handled through the Centre on its own.

Centre staff and region staff will be getting together to work out the financial rescue plan, Whiting said. He noted the region believes the way to go is paying the Centre directly for the time and space it uses the Centre for services like welfare, health unit, etc. This plan, Whiting said, would allow the region to put money into the Centre on a regular basis and would also mean the region would receive 50 per cent of the money paid to the Centre from the province. The province doesn't kick in for grants, just for purchases of service.

This solution also solves the problem of giving the Centre a supplemental grant and other groups in Halton then also seeking additional grants. Staff is already preparing a report calling for a six per cent grant increase limit for next year. Whiting says he'll be urging a five per cent grant hike ceiling. A grant for the Centre next year wouldn't cover its increased operating costs, but a purchase of service arrangement would.



The official ribbon cutting ceremony for the new offices of the Acton Social Services and Information Centre took place last Wednesday afternoon with various representatives attending. Left to right, Lorne Doberthien, Sally Smith, Halton Hills Councillors Ross Knechtel and Dave Whiting, Mayor Pete Pomeroy, Peggie Balkind, Rod

All-candidates meeting Oct. 20

The Acton Chamber of Commerce will hold an all-candidates meeting for the November 8 municipal election on October 20 at Acton High School from 7.30 to 10.30 p.m.

All candidates running in ward one (Acton) will be invited to attend. So far there are races for school board trustee (incumbent Ariene Bruce against Bert Hinton); area council (incumbent Ross Knechtel, Esther Taylor, Bruce Cargill—two to be elected); hydro commissioner (incumbent Wilf McEachren against Doug Mason) and Regional Councillor (incumbent Dave Whiting

against Ed Wood). So far Mayor Peter Pomeroy is unopposed.

Halton Cable Television will broadcast a tape of the meeting later and there will be press coverage of what the candidates say.

Former Acton Reeve and well known local citizen Ted Tyler will be the moderator.

Anyone wishing to participate should contact Corey Herrington, 100 Frederick St., Acton, 853-2401, between 8.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m.; or Janet Goy at 853-2968 in the evenings; so the program may be arranged.

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The Hide House Artisan Market was officially opened last Wednesday afternoon and was the finale for a big media tour of the North Halton Heritage Area. Dignitaries were on hand for the ribbon cutting ceremony. Left to right are: Steve Dawkins of the Hide House; Jo Lister of the North Halton Tourism Association; Mayor Peter Pomeroy; John G. Laschinger, Assistant Deputy Minister of Tourism; Councillor Dave Whiting; Janis Fread of the Hide House; Councillor Ross Knechtel; Don Dawkins of the Hide House; and Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid.

North Halton Tourism Assoc. gets \$1,750 Halton Hills grant

The newly formed North Halton Tourism Association has received a grant of \$1,750 from the Town of Halton Hills.

Steve Dawkins, president of the Association and Jo Lister, executive director, attended Council Monday evening to explain their organization and ask for the one time only grant.

Mayor Peter Pomeroy revealed there was \$1,750 left in the Business Development Fund and encouraged it be given to the Association. He stressed the eventual monetary gain to the municipality. The mayor said he recognizes tourism is a big industry and wants the town to take advantage of the potential of living within easy driving distance of several million people. Pomeroy pointed out the town spent \$10,000 in advertising and promotion with the region for other industries and businesses.

Answering a question from Councillor Russ Miller, Dawkins admitted he did not know how much of a grant they needed, taking into con-

sideration it is now in the middle of the municipality's fiscal year. He did however, point out if Milton matched Halton Hills' \$1,750, and the region gave them some money, all would help.

The people in North Halton have been very responsive to the Association according to Mrs. Lister. She emphasized a lot of businesses are one-person operations and the membership fee of \$150 is a lot of money. They cannot make snap decisions on joining. For this reason, she is convinced the membership will increase from its 38 in the two months since formation.

It is hoped another guide next year will be more extensive than the \$12,000 one which was distributed to 120,000 homes from as far away as Mississauga, Oakville and Brampton, today (Wednesday). It is hoped national advertising can be acquired to help foot a projected \$30,000 cost.

Only Councillor Mike Armstrong was against

the grant. He objected to taxpayers' money helping private enterprise.

"It is unfortunate Councillor Armstrong is not willing to put taxpayers' money into private enterprise," Councillor Dave Whiting stated, "because private enterprise puts a lot of money into our (municipal) coffers."

Whiting contended the association would put a lot of money back into the town. "We can only benefit from it."

In his presentation to Council, Dawkins outlined the Association's purpose of attracting the tourist dollars to North Halton, Rockwood and Eden Mills. By having a united front, the businesses can work together to serve the tourists.

Businesses in Acton, Georgetown, Milton, Campbellville, Norval, Glen Williams, Limehouse, Rockwood and Eden Mills belong to the organization which is growing rapidly.

Dawkins pointed out in the first three months of existence, the Association has acquired the 38 members, put out a North Halton guide and held a media tour of all the members' facilities. A promotions expert (Mrs. Lister) has been hired. Right now they have a deficit of \$5,426, which the grant will help offset.

Huge tracts of land may be frozen for quarries

by Gord Murray

Huge tracts of land on the east, west and south sides of Acton could be protected or frozen from development for years to come until such time as crushed stone is mined and the resource is totally depleted.

In interviews this week Councillors Pam Sheldon, Russ Miller, Dave Whiting and Ross Knechtel all expressed grave concerns about Halton Region's mineral resource policies as reflected in the Proposed Amendment Number 8 to the Region's Official Plan.

This proposed amendment will be the subject of a public meeting tomorrow (Thursday) night at the municipal building on Trafalgar Rd. and councillors are hoping for a big turnout of people expressing concern about this situation.

Councillors are painting a grim picture of many more quarries, haul routes all over the place, escalating road maintenance costs from the pounding roads will take from gravel trucks, increased noise and blasting and dust problems.

It is a very complex issue, and nothing has been settled yet, but councillors fear it will be finalized at levels above Halton Hills and the Town won't be able to prevent the rural area, including parts close to the urban areas, becoming the mines for Metro Toronto in the years ahead.

In addition, they say property rights will be taken away from many, many residents.

Sheldon said throughout council's discussions about the new proposed Halton Hills Official Plan her biggest concern has been how the aggregate issue will be resolved. "How we handle this in the Official Plan is critical."

She says the philosophy of the Ministry of Natural Resources is "inequitable and biased" in favor of the aggregate industries because they have such an effective lobby. Now their desire to freeze a lot of land for future stone extraction in Halton Hills is coming down from the province to Halton Hills through the region.

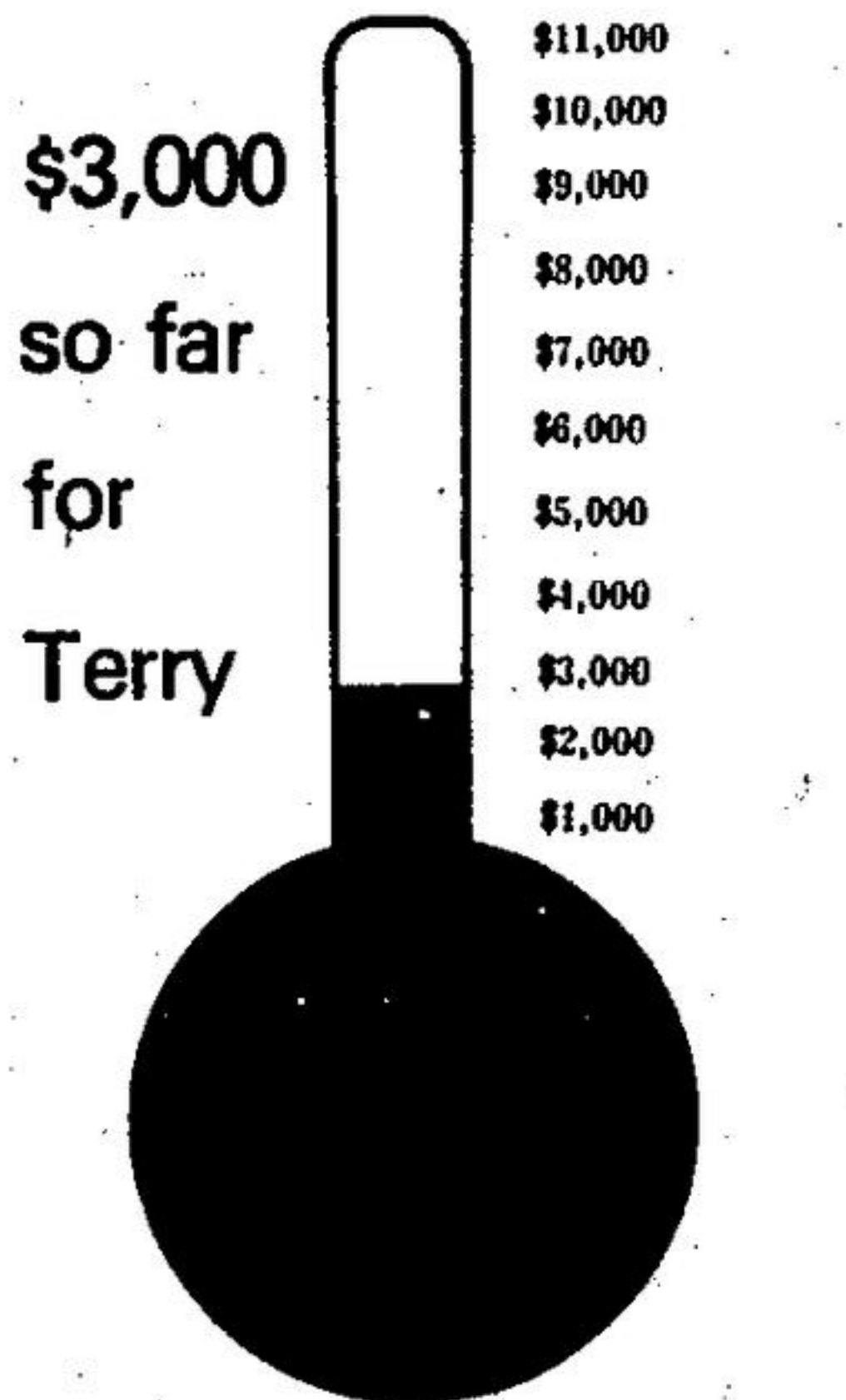
The provincial government was to adopt an aggregate policy back during the Tory minority government, but there were 127 amendments made by MPPs and the bill was never passed. Now there's a majority government, but no new bill has been introduced. When it does come,

Sheldon says, she's sure the Minister of Natural Resources will have tremendous discretionary powers to grant mining licences in Halton Hills.

With provincial policy leaning towards the aggregate industry through a 10 point policy which was never passed by cabinet, and the Halton Hills Official Plan having to conform to the region's, the "right and ability to plan is being taken away from us (Halton Hills)."

Earlier this year the Ministry of Natural Resources district office in Cambridge came out with a land use strategy showing large amounts of land in Halton Hills designated for mineral extraction. The province expects Halton, Sheldon said, to

(Continued on page 2)



So far \$3,000 has come in from pledges in last month's Terry Fox Run. The deadline for the money is October 15, but organizers will bend the rules and accept cash after that. Pledge money can be handed in at any Acton bank.

Saga continues on CN repairs

It is hoped the CN tracks crossing on Mill St. can be repaired and asphalted before winter, town engineer Bob Austin told Halton Hills council Monday evening.

In response to a question from councillor Dave Whiting, Austin pointed out the town is first on the list to be done as soon as CN can get the proper equipment.

Austin noted "the saga is continuing." The problem which was first brought up last March.

Whiting noted he has heard complaints of people losing their mufflers on the rough tracks.

Hallowe'en now Saturday Oct. 30

The goblins and shell-outers will be out Saturday night after all.

Halton Hills council decided they would support a move to have Hallowe'en celebrated Saturday October 30 instead of Sunday October 31.

The traditional October 31 date is also the Sunday when Ontario reverts to standard time, making darkness descend an hour earlier.

The mayor pointed out there is no legal authority over Hallowe'en, but council can only make it known they endorse the move to Saturday. "If kids want to go door-to-door on Sunday there's nothing we can do about it."

Councillor Mike Armstrong pointed out Metro Toronto has made the same decision.

Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson said she had received several calls asking for the Saturday date, and in a random mini-survey she conducted found Saturday the preferred date.

Both Mayor Pete Pomeroy and Councillor Russ Miller said they too had calls asking for the Saturday date.



United Church moderator Rev. Clarke MacDonald was guest speaker at Acton's Trinity United Church Sunday morning. Left to right, Edna Comfort, Trinity's Andy King, Rev. MacDonald and Edith Hoffman expressed themselves in conversation.

inside this week

Julian Reed, Jack Rafilis and Peter Pomeroy comment on the provincial restraint program. Turn to Newsmakers.

It's flu prevention week. See page B1.

Waldorf Schools are an alternative to public schools. See story and photo on pages RE16 and 11.

See the insert in today's paper from the North Halton Tourism Association along with the Homes section.

The town hall hearing is still up in the air. Details on page 11.

Acton shines when it comes to raising money for cancer research. More on page 8.

The BIA and Actario are planning a Leathertown Market and Oktoberfest. Story and photos on page 12.

Farm vacations are good any time of the year. Turn to page 15.

The Sabres won a pair on the weekend. Story and photos on page 13.

Doug Wood, Doug Mason, Tom Hill and Peter Norton are seeking office. More on page 2.

