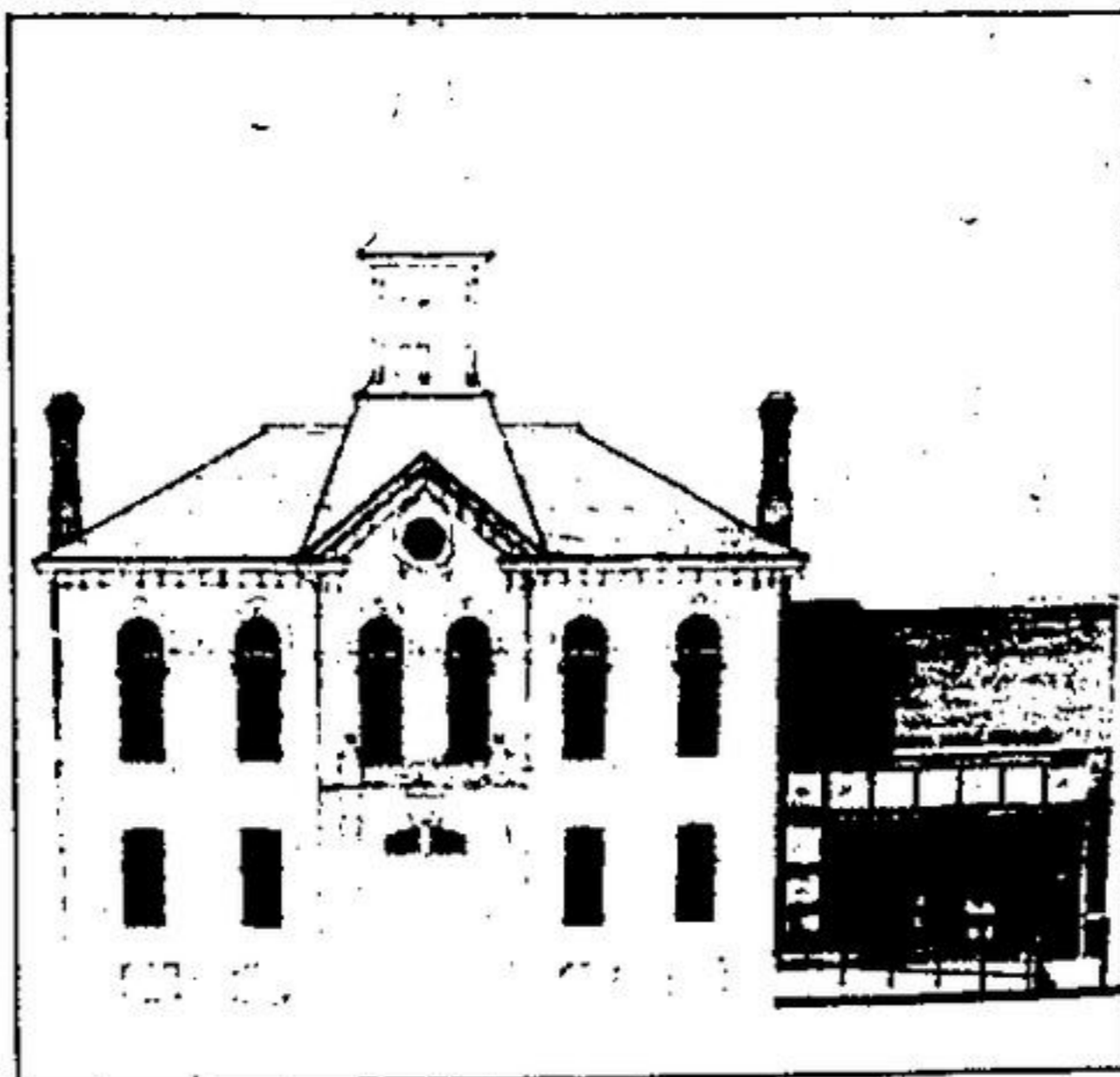


Full town hall crew on job next week

by Helen Murray
Preliminary work began on the restoration of the Acton Town Hall last week, with supplies being purchased and inspection of the various corners of the hall being done. Ted Tyler, of Heritage Acton (Made up of both the fund raising and the restoration committees pointed out only two of the 10 people employed for the project have started work. The eight others start next Monday, when the full scale operation of the restoration will get underway. The hall has been the subject of controversy for the past seven years, and was on the verge of being torn down when a \$133,000 federal grant was received to go toward the employment of 10 people for one

year. Matthew Todd, of Georgetown, started work February 1 as project supervisor. He has 15 years experience with Rex Heslop Homes Ltd. and 15 years with McNally Construction. He has been climbing around in the crawl spaces and in the attic the past week orienting himself with the building before the actual work is started. Cindy Arnold, Acton, the clerical assistant, also started work February 1. She has received secretarial and clerical experience in businesses around Acton, and attended a course in Toronto last week to familiarize herself with the way in which the government wants the books kept, Tyler said. (Continued on page 7)



An architect's conception of what the totally refurnished town hall will look like from the front.

Police seek information

50 pounds of dynamite stolen from Indusmin

Fifty pounds of highly powerful, dangerous dynamite was stolen from Indusmin Ltd. quarry south-east of Acton sometime overnight last Tuesday, Halton Regional Police report.

Just two ounces of the Iremite explosive can blow apart a large rock pile, according to Staff Sgt. Les Graham of the Criminal Investigations Bureau in Georgetown. The explosives are in round forms, in one continuous roll and are plastic coated.

Thieves entered the magazine where they were stored by knocking a 1' x 4' hole through a concrete wall, reinforced by steel rods.

Estimated cost of the dynamite is \$43. Halton Regional Police are asking anyone who has knowledge of the break-in or the whereabouts of the dynamite to call the Criminal Investigations Bureau, 11 division Guelph St. in Georgetown at 878-5511, ext. 292 or 294.



Criminal Investigations Bureau detective Tom Roduck shows a sample of the highly dangerous dynamite which was stolen from Indusmin Ltd. quarry sometime overnight last Tuesday.

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Cause "undetermined"

Fire destroys Thompson Fuels

by Gord Murray
A spectacular fire which destroyed Thompson Fuels and damaged two homes on either side of the business on Friday morning is estimated to have caused \$93,000 to \$94,000 damage to the three structures. Halton Hills Fire Chief Bill Cunningham said the cause of the blaze is currently classified as "undetermined". Cunningham had originally estimated damages in the fire at \$165,000 to \$175,000. However, Deputy Chief Bob Hyde revised that figure downward to \$93,000 to \$94,000 Tuesday morning. He explained the first figure was a guesstimate while the new figure came from the insurance company. At the time the blaze broke out, the fire chief said, Lloyd McIntyre, owner of Thompson Fuels and a member of the Acton Firefighters for over 20 years, was working on a frozen pump on an oil tanker in the garage of his 44 Young St. business. There was the smell of gasoline in the air at the time and maybe these fumes were ignited by some source which hasn't been determined yet, Cunningham explained. McIntyre was "lucky" to escape with only his eyelashes and eyebrows singed. "He just got out by the skin of his teeth," McIntyre's daughter Kim escaped unharmed from the office. Contrary to rumors Lloyd wasn't blown out the garage door. Also putting to rest other rumors, Cunningham said work being done on the street by Union Gas was not involved in the fire and McIntyre wasn't smoking or welding in the garage. Within a couple of minutes of the fire erupting, the homes on either side were evacuated, a passing OPP station wagon blocked one end of the street while

the other end. The OPP car remained on the scene for some time until the Halton Regional Police arrived. The call to the fire department went in at 10.54 and the first firefighters were quickly on the scene in minutes. But, by then flames were shooting as much as 150 feet in the air above the building, black smoke curled thickly overhead, and most of the garage portion was consumed by fire. Fire was also starting to spread into the office area and was headed towards McIntyre's own house on the north side. Flames were already licking at the walls and roof of the adjacent home on the south side. That was the awful scene firefighters found when they arrived. There were 400 gallons of oil in the four compartments of the tanker truck inside the garage and it burned off, Cunningham said. Besides the building and tanker, Cunningham said "considerable" cash, a computer worth \$27,000, records and cases of oil and other petroleum products were also destroyed. A large crowd gathered on the scene and people could hear a popping which was thought to be small explosions. Cunningham said they believe those sounds were the tires going up. The house on the south side had its windows on the fire side blown out, but there was no smoke or water damage. As well some shingles were melted. Windows in the McIntyre house were also blown out and some aluminum trim was damaged. That structure too suffered no smoke or water damage to the interior. Cunningham said when he and deputy chief Bob Hyde were coming up to the fire (Continued on page 2)



This photo shows Thompson Fuels as the building looked while being consumed by flames just seconds before the firefighters' arrival on the scene Friday morning. Black smoke could be seen from all over town and the flames were reaching about 150 feet above the building and coming dangerously close to igniting the homes on either side, especially the one on the left hand side in this picture.

Board gets \$6.5 million back, will review investment policies

Halton Board of Education will be reviewing its policies regarding investing funds in the wake of fortunately getting its \$6.5 million investment back from Central Trust, the new owners of Crown Trust. Finance Committee chairman Bill Priestner of Burlington said the board requested its \$6.5 million, plus interest earned, Friday afternoon. There's a 24 hour business day delay in getting one's funds back between the request going in and the money being refunded, Priestner noted. He guessed the interest earned would be \$60,000 to \$90,000. The board will be reviewing its investment policies. Possibly the finance committee will be involved or maybe a small board committee will be established to look at the investment matter, as well as auditing. Priestner agreed in light of the Crown Trust scare and the fact the higher the interest the board receives on an investment the higher the risk of losing its money, a

review is needed. The board will also examine its use of a broker to make their investments. Priestner said they must look at the value of advice from a broker, is the board removing itself from the investment decision making process by using a broker, should they even be using a broker at all, the impact on their investment of the fee paid to the broker by the firm seeking investments, etc. He noted these were just some of the questions he had in the wake of the Crown Trust affair, other trustees may wish to raise other questions also. Two or three questions have come up in regards to other financial matters trustees haven't been "enamoured with" which the board or a committee will also examine. For example trustees weren't pleased when they found out \$30,000 was spent on a consultant for the computer committee which hadn't previously been approved. Priestner said there have been "certain irregularities", money earmarked by the board for one thing but spent on something

else by an administrator. Those kinds of matters will be involved in the auditing review. Priestner pointed out there have been a number of changes in the top brass of the administration in the past couple of years and while Em Lavender and Bruce Lindley may have done things one way, Wally Beevor and Barb Moore may be doing the same things in a different manner or may wish to make some changes. Possibly the board has been "assuming too much," he said. The board doesn't normally get involved in administration procedures until something goes wrong, such as happened with the Crown Trust matter, Priestner added. When it was suggested the board was pretty lucky to get its money back, Priestner said he had to "agree". He noted he had been much more negative about the chances of recovering all of their investment and he was "pleased as heck" everything worked out.



Acton's Dirty Dozen have won the Halton Regional Police volleyball tournament two years in a row. On February 25, they battle to maintain their winning record at the third annual tournament in Acton high school. Accepting last year's trophy are, left to

right, Nick Leone, Mrs. Al Ruelens (it is her husband in whose memory the tournament is held), Bob Ustrycki (partially hidden), Art Goddard, Alex Fishbein, Jack Poot (team captain) and Don Consens.

Argos, Sunshine Girls here for police tourney

Acton's Dirty Dozen police volleyball team will be going for their third straight victory at the Al Ruelens Memorial volleyball tournament February 25 at Acton High School. The Toronto Sunshine Girls and the Toronto Argonauts will play an exhibition game at 8 p.m. the same evening. The tournament is an intra-force event for Halton Regional Police officers and is comprised of 10 teams from all over Halton. It is the third year for the tourney, with Acton winning all previous events. Proceeds will go to the Acton unit of the Canadian Cancer Society. Constable Al Ruelens died two years ago after a lengthy bout with cancer, at the age of 56 years. Ruelens is credited with dropping the bombshell on the Halton Police Commission about morale in the force in 1978 which eventually led to a force shake-

up. Ruelens also fought the evils of alcoholism and recovered to give lectures, raised money for crippled children, and was on the Halton District Health Council. While no admission is charged, members of the Acton Cancer Society will be on hand to "pass the hat". The general public is encouraged to attend for the Sunshine-Argonaut game at 8 p.m. However, seating is limited for the regular tournament, beginning at 8 p.m. and expected to end around 11 p.m. The winning team will receive a trophy, bearing Ruelens' name, and the physical education department of the high school will receive a trophy, in memoriam to Ruelens, for their continued use. Because of public demand, the tournament was brought to Acton, where the Dirty Dozen can play before home fans for the first time.

\$7,500 for space needs study of Town complex

The Town's space needs study for a future municipal complex will cost up to \$7,500 and the first two phases of the report must be in councillors' hands by March 7. Monday Halton Hills council endorsed the Building Committee's recommendation that the Toronto firm of Robbie Architects Planners, in "joint venture" with Young and Wright Architects and Walker, Wright, Young Associates Limited Planning Consultants, be hired to conduct the studies. The first two phases of the study involve assessing the Town's space needs in relation to anticipated growth of the municipality over the next 20 years, as well as a review of the present Trafalgar Rd. administration

building site to see if it could accommodate the size building Halton Hills will need. The third phase of the study will involve more detailed space needs evaluation by municipal departments. Robbie Architects Planners was one of eight firms and individuals to present the Building Committee with proposals at a meeting on January 31. The study needs to be done by early March so the committee and council can evaluate the findings prior to deciding what to do about the \$10,000 option to purchase the last council put down on the nearly 30 acre Stevens' Estate site on Maple Ave. in Georgetown.



Don't forget your Valentine next Monday, February 14. Little Kristen Murray of Acton Blvd. who made this lovely valentine Saturday at the Acton Library won't forget the special people in her life.

inside today's Free Press

<p>The Bardens of Eden Mills have won some more medals. More on page 6.</p> <p>A tentative contract agreement has been reached between Halton high school teachers and the board. See page 7.</p>	<p>The only delegate to the recent Terry convention from the Acton area voted for leadership review. Turn to page 8.</p> <p>Another councillor has taken a shot at school board financial affairs. Details on page 10.</p>	<p>David Capperault was honored Saturday by Branch 197. Photos on pages 9 and B1.</p> <p>There were five grade 13 grads at AHS at the end of the first semester. See page 8.</p>
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If you want to make your money go 'round ... change a dollar bill.