

Heritage Acton seeks make-work grant for addition to town hall

If the fire chief gives his final approval Heritage Acton will get the land on the south side of the town hall where an addition will be constructed on the historic building for a handicapped ramp and elevator.

Monday night at general committee Ted Tyler of Heritage Acton, the new umbrella group replacing the Restoration Committee and Actario, revealed they have applied for another make work grant, this one funded by Ottawa and Queen's Park, to help pay for the building addition. Workers employed under a federal make work grant of \$133,000 are currently working on restoration of the town hall.

General committee failed to make a decision on Tyler's request that the group be given the remaining money, about \$28,400, from the old council reserve fund of \$40,000 set aside a number of years ago for demolition of the hall.

Lawyer Gord Chapman said the boundary line between the town hall and fire hall will go through the concrete wall and extend to the edge of the lot on the north side, giving Heritage Acton a small strip of grass beside the hall.

Heritage Acton also wants the lot line extended on the south side from the concrete wall dividing the two buildings almost to the lot line. A small piece of land would be left as an easement for the Town to get to the south side entrances to the fire hall. This would make the parking lot part of the town hall property.

Heritage Acton wants to use the fire hall stairwell on the south side as an emergency exit from the town hall, it would be controlled by the fire department, Tyler explained. Heritage Acton will pay about \$800 to "adjust" the entrances.

This new addition and elevator would mean there was handicapped access to not just the town hall but also the fire hall.

He noted there are more grants possible, and they have applied for a new make work grant and while there hasn't been a decision, the Acton application was "well received." He wants to clean up paper work on the application in the next week.

Heritage Acton needs some funds to pay for the elevator which will cost about \$45,000. While they'll find it somehow, Tyler wondered if council would consider giving them the money left over in the demolition fund. Money was spent from that fund to pay for a Town sponsored study of the hall restoration project as well as the Heritage hearing last December. A solicitors' bill still hasn't been submitted, so there could be less than \$28,000 left in the fund after that is paid, clerk-administrator Ken Richardson said.

Tyler said receiving the money left in the fund from the Town would make things easier for Heritage Acton, but wasn't absolutely necessary. They want to start the addition project in April and have it completed with the hall restoration at the end of this year.

Fire chief Bill Cunningham said he wants more details of the size of the addition before the parking lot land is decided with the town hall to Heritage Acton.

Councillors agreed Heritage Acton can have the land beside the hall subject to the fire chief agreeing and the new grant being approved. If they don't get the grant they won't be able to build the addition and so won't need the land. Town staff will report back on the situation next Monday.

In answer to a question recreation director Tom Shepard said Heritage Acton might be eligible for a Wintario grant for the elevator sometime in the future. Tyler said they will seek that grant, and if the Town gave them money and it wasn't used, they'd return it to the municipality.

Mayor Peter Pomeroy pushed for the Town to give Heritage Acton the money, but later withdrew his suggestion until another night because other councillors didn't want to make a decision on that aspect Monday night.

Councillor Finn Poustrup suggested rather than give Heritage Acton the money now council should wait and see if they get other grants for the elevator. He also suggested the addition could be built with a shaft for the elevator and that part of the project phased over time.

Tyler noted they'll still be about \$20,000 short for the elevator even if they got the money from the Town. Heritage Acton needs the elevator as part of the project to get the new make work grant, but the make work grant can't be used for the elevator because skilled labor is needed to install it.

The addition, including the elevator, will be about \$163,780. That figure won't cover architect's fees or contingencies. Materials and labor for the addition will be about \$141,000.

Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson said the Town has been "generous." It has given Heritage Acton the building and land for \$1 and she'd rather see them apply for grants before giving tax dollars to the project.

No public buildings should be constructed today without provision for the handicapped, Councillor Ross Knechtel suggested. He said since the addition and elevator would be part of the access to the fire hall, it made sense for the Town to pay part of the cost.

The mayor pointed out the second floor of the fire hall is a public meeting room used primarily by the firefighters. He said council would be doing no more than giving money to a public group to help pay for the handicapped facilities for a public building.



Rev. Gerald Renale presents Ted Hansen with a silver tray marking his 40 years as musical director at Knox Presbyterian Church. On the left is former Knox minister Rev. John Anderson while former minister Rev. Forbes Thompson is on the right. In the front row is Ted's mother Emma and his wife Kar. For details on the big night in honor of Hansen turn inside today's paper.

News story award for hotel fire trial coverage

A series of articles published in The Acton Free Press has been selected by judges as the second best news story in Ontario community newspapers last year.

This newspaper's six weeks of extensive coverage of the Dominion Hotel second degree murder trial won the CFRB radio award for second place for best news story in the Premier class of the Ontario Community Newspapers Association Better Newspapers Competition for 1982.

The articles were written by Free Press news editor Helen Murray, while sketches at the trial were done by freelance artist Paul McCusker.

Premier class competitions are open to all community newspapers in Ontario, regardless of circulation or size of community served, so the Free Press trial entry was up against news stories carried in papers serving such large centres as Mississauga, Oakville, Burlington, etc.

The Acton Free Press



A METROLAND COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

One Hundred and Eighth Year — Issue 32

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1983

38 Pages — Thirty Cents

Balmy days hurt ski area

The balmy winter weather up until last week has been wreaking havoc with ski operators and the Glen Eden area near Milton has been no exception.

Unless there are some drastic changes in the winter weather pattern, Glen Eden is likely to fall far short of its projected revenue of \$796,000, according to Bob Harrison, program manager.

With the average season running for 14 weeks, Glen Eden is well behind, he said.

"It has been an on again, off again season," said Mr. Harrison, adding the local slopes lost 15 per cent of its expected revenue in December as a result of the mild weather.

To date, the area which boasts total of 11 runs, have been open for 33 days.

During a "good" season, the ski area will record more than 100 skiing days.

An estimated 70,000 ski visits were paid to Glen Eden during the 1981-82 season. Harrison said the slopes were open last year from the first week of December until the end of March with a total of 103 skiing days recorded.

"Right now, we would need a ski season that would last until the middle of April," said Harrison.

"The prime time to go out skiing is between Christmas and the middle of February. After that point, skiers reach a saturation point and they start thinking about spring and golf.

Snowmaking is given a large credit in keeping the gates open at Glen Eden for the season so far.



A warm and wet winter is spelling trouble for Glen Eden which may fall far short of \$796,000 in expected revenues before the ski season is over. Jason Kindale, above, is shown during a Molstar event held Jan. 23, one of the few skiing programs to come off as planned at Glen Eden.

"Preliminary" capital budget Few new major '83 Town projects

It would appear likely few if any new major municipal projects will be launched in this year of restraint. If budget committee and council approve the "preliminary" 1983 capital budget prepared by Town staff, most projects will only be continuations of works began in previous years or items deferred last year. The price tag for the over 50 projects and purchases is a little over \$3 million.

Capital projects are generally works carrying a \$5,000 or more price tag, though some major projects may be included in the regular operating budget. Halton Hills budget committee is currently reviewing the capital budget suggested by staff. Committee may make additions, deletions, decide to do only part of a project suggested by staff, etc. Council can also make changes once the budget committee has completed its work.

Most of this year's proposed capital budget projects were already earmarked for 1983 in the capital forecast 1983-86 passed last year.

Staff has proposed four major purchases and projects for the fire department: replacement of the Georgetown department's air compressor, buying a utility van, purchasing a four-wheel drive vehicle, and an energy conservation program for the Georgetown fire hall. These projects and purchases would cost \$50,308, of which \$10,154 would come from local taxes, \$35,154 from provincial subsidy and \$5,000 from reserve funds.

15 roads, works projects There are 15 proposed road and works projects.

In Acton phase three of Lakeview subdivision reconstruction is planned, as well as reconstruction of part of Mill Street West and Park Ave. Engineering for phase two of the Glenlea reconstruction is also suggested for 1983.

In Georgetown staff has suggested the Town make improvements to Anne St. and the Moore Park storm sewer outlet, as well as put in sidewalks on John St., Temple Rd. and Dufferin St. have been suggested for

reconstruction, while sewers would be put in, traffic signals installed and the road reconstructed on Guelph St. The traffic signals are suggested for Delrex and Guelph, the road reconstruction to five lanes between Sinclair and Delrex and storm sewers put in the same area.

(Continued on page 10)

inside

Councillor Bonnette joined the chorus rapping the board of education for its financial affairs, but the mayor countered councillors shouldn't comment until they have at least called trustees. See story on page C3. Trustee Betty Fisher isn't taking councillors nosing into board business lying down either. See story on B1. Also the board might not put money in anything but banks in the future. See page B1.

Should the Town pay for creative playgrounds at schools? Story on page C3.

We have reports on three fires and photos from two. See page 5.

Grubbe bakes the cake, but the mayor takes the cake. More on page 3.

There may be a golf course on the Duff pit. Turn to page 2.



Canada Battery bankrupt, firm still operating under new owners

Canada Dominion Battery was petitioned into bankruptcy last month, but a new group of owners have acquired the machinery and continued production in the same plant using the same workers. The numbered firm which bought the firm's machinery from the Federal Business Development Bank can't officially buy the land and building on Commerce Cres. until later this month.

The new name of the firm is Canada Commercial Industrial Battery Service Co. Ltd.

Canada Battery was born 13 years ago and moved to Acton 10 years ago. Plant manager George Tichbourne explained

when the creditors officially petitioned Canada Battery into bankruptcy on January 5 there were 13 workers at the Acton factory with another seven on the rolls. In addition there were six working at the Mississauga service depot. Currently there are 13 workers at the Acton facility and five or six people working in Mississauga.

The firm manufactures batteries for lift trucks, mine locomotive etc. for the Canadian market.

Tichbourne said in his opinion the shrinking market and generally poor economy were the reasons the firm was forced into bankruptcy. Canada Battery was retaining

its share of the market, but the poor economy resulted in the market being too small to keep the firm going.

None of the old owners are involved in the "reorganization" of the company and to his knowledge none of the employees of Canada Battery have an interest in the new firm.

Tichbourne said the "reorganization" is still going on and it will take time to get the plant operating on a "full-tilt" basis again. In the future a press release will be issued giving final details of the new arrangements. Tichbourne expects.

Despite the problems, the plant was closed only for a few days in December.



The Royal City Ambassadors thrilled the audience with their Barbershopper songs.

That's Acton's Don Lindsay at the far right of the picture.