

Architect must make town hall addition smaller

Town hall restoration architect Patrick Cole must find a way to make the proposed entrance and handicapped ramp addition to the hall smaller.

Last week Halton Hills approved deeding most of the driveway and land on the south side of the town hall, which leads to the two rear entrances to the fire hall, to Heritage Acton subject to the fire chief, Bill Cunningham, being satisfied the firefighters would still have adequate access to their building.

Monday night Cunningham reported to council he had met with architect Cole and found the proposed addition was too large, there would only be six feet left for access to the fire hall between the south wall of the addition and the property line. Six feet for a walkway was not sufficient Cunningham reported, adding the driveway is used for deliveries to the fire hall as well as an entrance when firefighters are responding to a call.

Rather than reject the Heritage Acton request for the additional land Monday night, council urged Ted Tyler of Heritage Acton have his architect come up with a plan for a smaller addition and discuss the project further with the fire chief.

Cunningham noted Cole had indicated the addition couldn't be smaller because of the space needed for the ramp. The fire chief felt the only solution would be to have the handicapped ramp built so the entrance to the building was the main front entrance to the town hall.

The last thing Heritage Acton wanted was to get into a fight with their new neighbors, the firefighters, Tyler declared. He said he hated to see the addition project scrapped since it would serve an important need and if a new make work project grant for the addition was approved jobs would be created for local people. A federal job creation grant has already provided jobs for 10 people now working on restoration of the town hall.

Tyler said he couldn't understand why a 10 foot wide access from the street to the rear fire hall entrances was needed, a six foot wide access seemed sufficient. A six foot wide access would be wide enough for people walking or running to the rear fire hall doors and the best entrance to use for delivery of supplies was the big vehicle doors on Bower Ave. However, Tyler added, the fire chief knows best what his department needs in terms of rear access space.

Cunningham told council that the Bower entrances must be kept clear of delivery vehicles, that area is for exit of fire emergency vehicles only. His only concern was the fire hall and the driveway on the south side is needed by the fire department.

Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson said the situation was "frustrating" and there seemed there should be some room for compromise in the design of the ramp so the fire department would be satisfied and the addition could still go ahead. Tyler said Cole was already trying to find a way to make the addition smaller. Serjeantson added fire

hall efficiency can't be hampered by the addition.

Tyler said Heritage Acton would rather wait and see if Cole can come up with a plan acceptable to the fire chief than have the project totally rejected by the Town. He said the grant officials were "understanding" about the delay.

Councillor Russ Miller emphasized nothing can be allowed to hamper the fire hall operation. He warned if the addition was a problem for the fire hall but was allowed, it would lead to pressure for a new fire hall which the Town can't afford to build.

Mayor Peter Pomeroy said it would be better if the fire department and Heritage Acton could work together and find a compromise.

Councillor Pam Sheldon said she wasn't happy to hear talk of a compromise if the fire department had to compromise. The firefighters weren't to be inconvenienced, especially since seconds count when there's a fire in town or especially in the rural area.

Pomeroy countered no councillor was suggesting the fire department compromise on fire department operations or fire protection. However, since the addition had been endorsed by council there was no reason the fire department and architect couldn't work together. He said there was no reason to get "excited" over one "small" problem when a reasonable solution may be found. If there was still room for negotiation it would be better to look at the problem further.



Former Citizen of the Year Ron McKnight recently acquired a new wheelchair and donated his old wheelchair to the Acton Legion. The Legion now has four wheelchairs which are loaned to any Acton and area resident in need. McKnight made the presentation to Legion president Jim Higgins.

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The Scout and Guide movement in North Halton is celebrating both Scout-Guide Week and the 75th anniversary of Scouting this week with activities that culminate in church parades over three Sundays. Among those celebrating are, front row, left to right: Cub Chris Kempton, 2nd Acton Trinity, Beaver Jeff Zomer, 4th Georgetown, Cub Jason Bowers, 2nd Acton Trinity. Middle row: Ron Bai-

chelor, 1st Limehouse, Mark McIntyre, 1st Georgetown, Kyle Thompson, 1st Acton, Bruce Jacques, 8th Georgetown, Jason Wedemire, 1st Acton, Glen Ewing, 1st Georgetown. In back are Donald Campbell, 4th Georgetown, Venturer Brian Collier, 5th Georgetown, and Ranger Cathy Lenx, 5th Georgetown. More pictures and stories on Page B3. —Photo by Jean Layman

Town asks MPs help securing air raid siren

Halton MP Otto Jelinek and Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid will be asked to help Halton Hills push the Department of National Defence (DND) to secure air raid sirens in town so vandals can't set them off.

On January 1 pranksters climbed up to the platform at the top of the Acton air raid siren, opened the control box and flipped a switch turning the siren on. It wailed away for over three hours.

Following investigation the DND determined the siren didn't malfunction, pranksters had set it off deliberately. At the time a Defence spokesman said they were looking at ways to secure the hatch leading to the platform or find some other method of preventing the alarm from being set off.

Early this year Councillor Dave Whiting asked council to contact the DND to get an official explanation of the siren sounding in Acton and a definite answer on how future vandalism sounding would be prevented.

Monday council received an answer back from the DND and neither Whiting or Mayor Peter Pomeroy were pleased with the lack of action proposed to prevent the siren being set off again.

"We endeavor to tamperproof our equipment and make it as inaccessible as possible both to protect our assets and to protect those personnel who must work on it and those intent on mischief. We have been negotiating to have the control box located higher up the supporting pole, but unfortunately I have just been informed that Bell Telephone are not allowed to install above the hydro wires. However the control box for siren 4464 (Acton) is presently located well above ground level and is locked at all times. This is usually enough to deter the curious and mischievous, but there is little else we can do to hinder those persons bent on deliberate vandalism," Major R. Lang, Provincial Warning Officer for Ontario answered in his letter.

Whiting pointed out Major Lang's statement that there were only about eight accidental soundings each year in Ontario, but he thought even once was too many for the people living in a community when it wails away for several hours late at night.

He couldn't see why the hatch couldn't be secured, but apparently the DND wasn't going to do anything to solve the problem. He said he would write Jelinek on behalf of Acton citizens to see what help the MP could be.

Deputy clerk Delmar French said he had talked to Lang and the DND had tried to raise the box but couldn't. He said Major Lang "assured" the siren was secure.

Whiting countered the siren was as secure now as it was before it was sounded.

The mayor observed contacting the DND had "achieved nothing." Possibly the only

solution, Pomeroy said, was to petition the MPs for help, if council couldn't get the DND to secure the siren switch the Town would have to try another route.

The siren can be turned on by pranksters again and could well be because the issue has been raised again, Pomeroy warned. He couldn't "accept" the answer the Town received from the DND.

It wasn't fair to put the community through another sounding and then council would wind up going through the same scenario again.

Later in the meeting a motion from Whiting calling for Jelinek and McDermid to be contacted for their help in "obtaining a positive approach by the Department of National Defence to secure the siren so that the alert is not subject to vandalism acts."



Chris Wood

Chris Wood to Norway

Acton's Chris Wood is packing his parka and mukluks today in preparation for a five-week trip to Norway.

Chris, a Private with the Lorne Scots Regiment Company in Georgetown, was chosen along with eight other Lorne Scots to take part in a special military exercise taking them to Norway with the First Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment.

No doubt, Chris is excited. The 18-year-old former Acton High School student joined the Lorne Scots only last summer.

"I saw an ad in the paper for the militia, and it sounded good. So I signed up last May for the summer course," he explained.

Last week, he returned after a four-week exercise with regular forces at the Canadian Forces Base in Petawawa. "I heard about this Norway trip when I got back, and I applied for it last Thursday. I heard on Tuesday that I'd been accepted," he said.

Chris is the son of Ed and Pat Wood. The family has lived in the Acton area for the past 10 years.

The Norway junket is one of many interesting part-time job opportunities. Once he has taken advantage of the opportunities to travel and work with the militia, he hopes to join the regular forces and learn a military trade.

While he is on exercise with the Lorne Scots, Chris is paid a full-time salary through the Canadian Armed Forces.

Jim Barnes, formerly of Acton and now living in Brampton, is also going on this militia trip to Norway.

Pupil, 8 hit by car

An eight-year-old Kingham Rd. resident who attends Robert Little School was taken to Guelph Hospital last Wednesday afternoon after he was hit by a car.

Police report John Uranick, 253 Kingham Rd., suffered minor injuries after he ran out in front of a car at the intersection of Main St. North and River St. The boy was taken to hospital by his parents.

The driver of the car was Herman Pon of Edmonton. No charges were laid.

Celebrity winners pit talents against Acton

A few last minute changes in the roster of this Friday's Al Ruelen's Memorial Volleyball Tournament will see Acton's Dirty Dozen team join forces against the winner of the Toronto Argonauts/Sunshine Girls game, at Acton High School.

The tournament consists of teams made up by Halton Regional Police officers. No admission is charged, but donations will be accepted with the proceeds going to the Acton Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society.

The Dirty Dozen will be fighting to maintain their championship status which they have earned in the past two years of the two-year-old tournament. This is the first year the tourney will be held in Acton.

Word was received this week that the

Argonauts showed an interest in playing a game against the policemen. It was decided the victors in the celebrity game at 8 p.m. would play last year's champs—the Dirty Dozen.

Argos planning to form a team for the Acton tournament are: running back Bob Bronk; linebacker Tim Berryman; centre Bob Hameluck; guard Dan Ferrone; guard Roland Mangold; and tackle Tom Trifaux. Carrie, Ellen, Wendy, Elaine and Darlene and coach Veronica and another unconfirmed cheerleader will represent the Sunshine Girls.

While space for the viewing of the tournament is limited, the public is encouraged to be on hand for the Argo/Sunshine Girl game at 8 p.m.

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It's Scout and Guide Week. See stories on page B3.

There will be a public meeting about quarry blasting next month. More on page B9.

Pomeroy is taking Acton's lack of a car pound to Police Commission Thursday. See page 2.

\$500 was stolen from Acton Curling Club recently. See police beat on page 8.

There are drainage problems on Arthur St. More on page 7.

Sports coverage is on pages 9, 10 and 11.



Jack Milne

Jack Milne turns 90

Birthday celebrations were held Sunday at Eden Mills Presbyterian Church for John (Jack) Milne, who turns 90 years old tomorrow (Thursday).

Mr. Milne was born in Saginaw, Michigan, one of a family of seven children. In 1903, with his family, he moved to the First Line of Nassagaweya (RR1 Moffatt), where he lived most of his life until two years ago, when he moved to Oxford Lodge, Guelph. He has since moved to LaPointe Fisher Nursing Home, also in Guelph, where he now resides.

In 1919, Mr. Milne married Elva Hamilton, who died in 1977. He was a farmer most of his working days, having bought the family farm for his own in the early 1920s.

Mr. Milne is a veteran of World War I, and was wounded while serving his country. He

is a life member of the Acton Legion and has been active in Eden Mills Presbyterian Church. He has also been a member of the Eden Mills Friendly Seniors, Rockwood Sunshine Club and the Acton Golden Age Club.

In the 1950s, Mr. Milne began a successful career in politics. In the late 1950s, he made his way up to reeve of Nassagaweya township, and in 1959 was the warden of Halton County.

The Milne's had one daughter, Blanche McNiven, now living in Mississauga, three grandchildren, John, Linda and Gayle, and eight great grandchildren. It was his grandson John McNiven and his wife Linda who put on the birthday party Sunday when over 100 friends, relatives and political colleagues gathered to honor him.