

End in sight for town hall restoration, need to raise funds

The end of the mammoth town hall restoration project is now clearly in sight, Heritage Acton spokesman Ted Tyler says. There are only small bits and pieces of work remaining on the roof and exterior walls, he reported in an interview this week. Also the building now has temporary heat, half of the electrical work has been completed, most of the insulation is in and dry-walling is being done now. The new chimney is 75 per cent completed.

"Our biggest problem now is while we have lots of money left to pay for labor, we could use some more funds for materials. The materials budget is really tight now," Tyler explained.

Some changes made along the way by the architect and engineer have resulted in some extra costs which weren't expected, such as the need for much more steel for reinforcing, Tyler said. Unexpected changes in plans have put a big dent in the

materials portion of the project's budget. "We'll accept donations, in fact we've received some lately. There was \$5,500 in donations in one week recently," Tyler said. They are also eager to see the community "help us go the last mile" on the project by buying Actario tickets.

Bringing the Town Hall lottery, Actario, back to life hasn't been easy. There's only a handful of people on the Heritage Acton committee and to make a draw you need lots of ticket sellers. Tyler explained the first two years of Actario, community organizations sold tickets and earned commissions. But they haven't climbed on the handwagon this time around. They are looking for ticket sellers as well as lots of buyers.

The Actario draws at the town hall start again on December 10 and there will be four weeks of draws ending December 31. Tickets are just \$10 for four weeks and there

will be three cash prizes drawn weekly, \$200, \$100, and \$50. As well, the final week's draw will feature not just the cash prizes but a trip draw too, valued at between \$1,300 and \$1,500, or the winner can take \$1,000 cash. After they see how the first month's draw sells they'll decide if they should run more.

"We found it easier selling tickets at \$100 for a year than it is selling \$10 tickets for a month. We've got to make money on this," Tyler declared.

Tickets are available from committee members or at stores displaying Actario posters.

"If we can raise \$15,000 to \$20,000 things would look really great. Then we could do her (the town hall) up good. I don't want people thinking we are falling on our faces. We'll finish the project for sure. I think we've done really well. We only had a budget of just over \$180,000 compared to the

estimates of over \$400,000 to restore the hall."

If and when an addition on the south side of the building can go ahead, the plans are all drawn up. Heritage Acton has a line on a new grant to fund this addition, but they'll have to raise funds for that too.

There are also signs they'll be successful in securing a small provincial grant which would pay for materials and labor not covered in previous grants. This is an on-going grant, Tyler explained, and they'd receive funds for 1983 as well as the next three years. However, to secure this grant they'd again have to raise some funds because it is a "matching dollars" type of grant. The maximum they can receive yearly would be \$2,000.

This grant could be used for things like new windows for the hall, some windows

have just been patched for now. As for New Year's Eve at the town hall, Tyler says there's still a good chance they'll have a dance, an orchestra has been booked. However, it won't be a big grand opening affair. They still plan a gala formal opening for the restored hall, but that will have to wait until next year.

Tyler explained all they have to do is complete the second floor auditorium and have the washrooms finished, and they can hold a dance.

"The town says we can occupy the parts of the building which are completed as long as the hall is structurally sound, which it is now," he said.

If there is an event at the town hall New Year's Eve, Tyler says it will simply be a fund raising event. He added he should have definite word on plans for the night of December 31 very soon.

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Legion happenings

by Al McKerracher

The Acton and District Poppy Campaign covers the area serviced by Branch 197 including Acton, Rockwood, Eden Mills and Brookville. Poppy boxes were placed in most stores and businesses in the district and door-to-door canvassing was carried out in Acton on November 4. Many local industries also co-operated by allowing volunteers to sell poppies on their premises.

Collections increased by 10 per cent over last year and the Branch 197 executive and membership wish to thank the citizens and businesses of the Acton and District Community for their co-operation and generosity. The main purpose of the campaign is to provide immediate assistance to ex-service people in need.

The poppy chairman, Comrade Harry Norton, also would like to thank the many volunteers for their help. It takes the dedication of our volunteers and the co-operation of the community at large to accomplish such a successful campaign.

On Tuesday, November 22, about 200 were served at the Senior Citizens dinner. Thanks

Drop charges

Five charges recently laid against Cameron St. resident Edwin (Red) Cole were dropped in Milton Provincial Court Wednesday, when police admitted they did not find any firearms in his possession.

On October 22, Cole was charged with pointing a firearm; dangerous weapons; possession of a firearm while prohibited from doing so; threatening death; and breach of probation.

Crown Attorney Anthony Vale told Judge William Sharpe the charges were laid after an altercation with Burton North. However, the Crown said, no firearm was ever found. There was alcohol involved in the altercation, Vale reported.

Cole had signed a peace bond stating he would have nothing to do with North for 12 months. Breach of this order will result in him having to pay \$500 to the courts.

Rockwood

by Barb Funk

This coming Saturday morning is the Lionette bazaar at Rockwood Centre. There will be tea tables, a penny table, and many craft tables. This will be a good opportunity to get those stocking stuffers and add a few more presents to your lists.

For Saturday, December 3, "Slinger", a 4-piece country and western group, will be providing entertainment in the games room.

Driver, passenger hurt

Gary Dunn, 18, of Lot 6, Concession 5, Wellington County received minor injuries in a crash on the Ninth Line Friday night and the passenger of his car, Neil Sinclair, 18 of Lot 10, Concession 2, Acton, suffered minimal injuries.

As it was approaching a sharp curve which lacked a warning sign, the car is believed to have hit a pothole. Police say the road was wet and the driver lost control and hit a tree stump.

The 1982 Ford had about \$8,000 damage done to it. Both driver and passenger were taken to Georgetown hospital.

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