

No word back on Acton ambulance

Queen's Park is pretty slow getting back to Acton on the issue of the need for an ambulance here.

Councillor Dave Whiting, who was picked by his colleagues on council to pursue this matter, wrote the Deputy Minister of Health for Ontario, Bob Mitchell outlining local concerns about the lack of an ambulance right in Acton in late January.

However, with the arrival of April, he says the letter hasn't even been answered.

This week he'll be calling Mitchell to find out why there's been no word back and also

pass on the considerable feedback councillors have received from the public on this issue since early this year.

Whiting says he also intends to ask Mitchell how Acton goes about formally applying for ambulance service.

His regional council colleague, Oakville representative Fred Oliver, who sits on an ambulance advisory committee, has heard nothing back from the Georgetown Ambulance Corps either. Whiting noted some time ago Oliver requested a report from the ambulance drivers dealing with

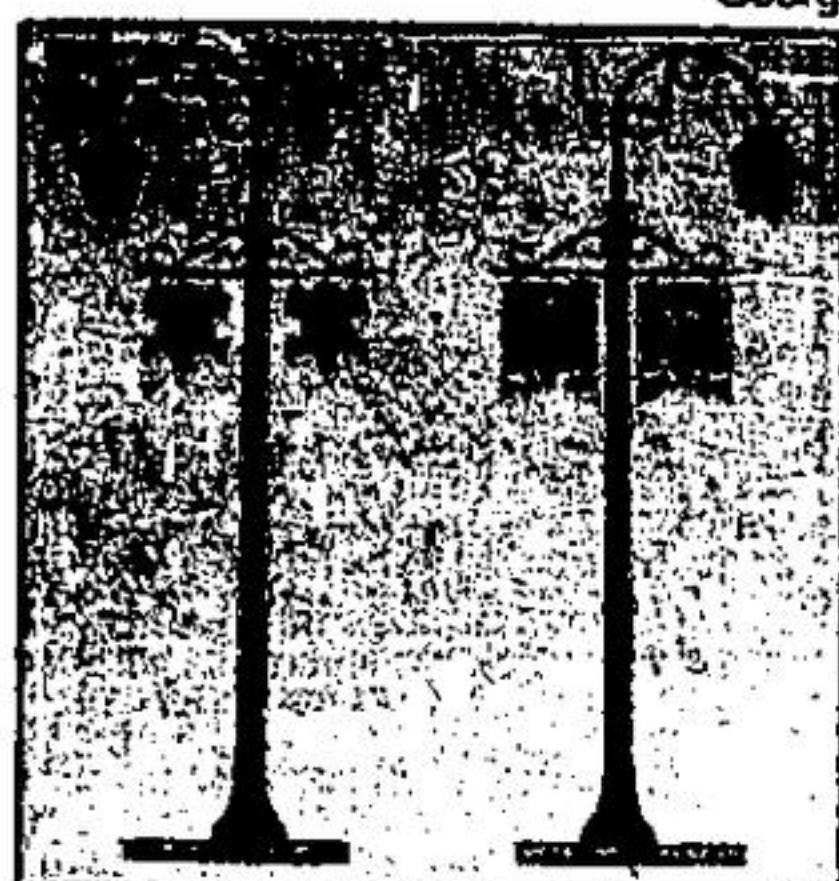
the community concerns and complaints which Halton Hills councillors were hearing. However, Whiting said, "as far as I know he's (Oliver) received nothing back. I'll be checking with him too this week and seeing how we apply for ambulance service."

He has continued to hear feedback from residents on this issue, in fact just Friday he was talking to an Actonian who had a good experience with the ambulance. This man was hit by a car at an intersection and a relative with him at the time asked that the victim be taken to Guelph Hospital instead of Georgetown Hospital, and he was taken to Guelph. "Mind you, that was after all the controversy had appeared in the paper," Whiting added.

Rural resident Kerwin McPhail first raised the issue at council drop-in in January, outlining numerous problems he and others have had getting ambulance drivers to take them to Guelph instead of Georgetown.

For the next few weeks councillors, particularly Whiting, heard from many residents relating their own experiences with ambulance service here and urging Acton pursue getting its own ambulance with a volunteer brigade of drivers-attendants.

Among the problems councillors heard about were complaints of slow service, ambulance drivers from Guelph and Georgetown not being familiar enough with the surrounding rural area, people being taken to Georgetown Hospital and then transferred further away from home to Brampton or Toronto, etc.



Artist's conception of the new street lights which will soon grace Acton's downtown. The plans were revealed at Monday evening's BIA annual meeting by chairman Ed Wood. At the present time it is unknown how many there will be but the project is definitely going ahead in 1984.

Council wants warning lights

Eramosa Township Council would like to see a four-way stop, flashing warning lights and rumble strips at the intersection of Wellington County Roads 44 and 28 (the Guelph Line and the Milton-Eramosa boundary, Concession 4).

Township council will petition the Wellington County Road Committee to start the necessary actions to improve the corner before a fatal accident occurs.

Man decides to move

An Eden Mills man has decided to move out of his garage rather than face court action.

Harvey Tuffin had been living in his garage while he rented his house out. This is in contravention of Eramosa Township by-laws according to clerk Lloyd Hindley.

Tuffin had received numerous warnings from Township Bylaw Enforcement Officer John Salmon and was asked to move several times in the fall, but refused.

Won't waive levy

An attempt by Councillor Phil Carney to have the Town's lot levy waived for a couple who lost their home and all their belongings in a fire last summer, went down to defeat, Monday night.

The King house on Chapel Street was destroyed by fire, and since then the large lot was separated into two lots.

Carney argued the Town's lot levy on the new lot, amounting to \$2029 be forgiven since the couple has suffered such a loss. The Region's lot levy is an additional \$2,460.

Carney asked council to make the decision with compassion. He noted the family represented three generations of taxpayers in the Town.

Councillor Mike Armstrong commended Carney for his effort, but claimed a precedent would be set, and similar requests would be forthcoming from others.

Councillor Ross Knechtel said the Town is

lucky to have someone like Carney "who takes such things to heart". He wondered how a council would pick and choose in cases of adversity. He noted there is a similar case in Acton, as he said he was "reluctantly" opposed.

Councillor Rick Bonnette also opposed the waiving of the lot levy, but suggested a grant committee be set up for fire victims.

Carney argued he would like nothing better than to set such a precedent.

Family unity month

Halton Hills has proclaimed the month of May Family Unity month as per requested from a provincial agency. The proclamation was made Monday night by council.

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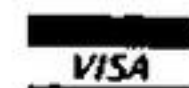
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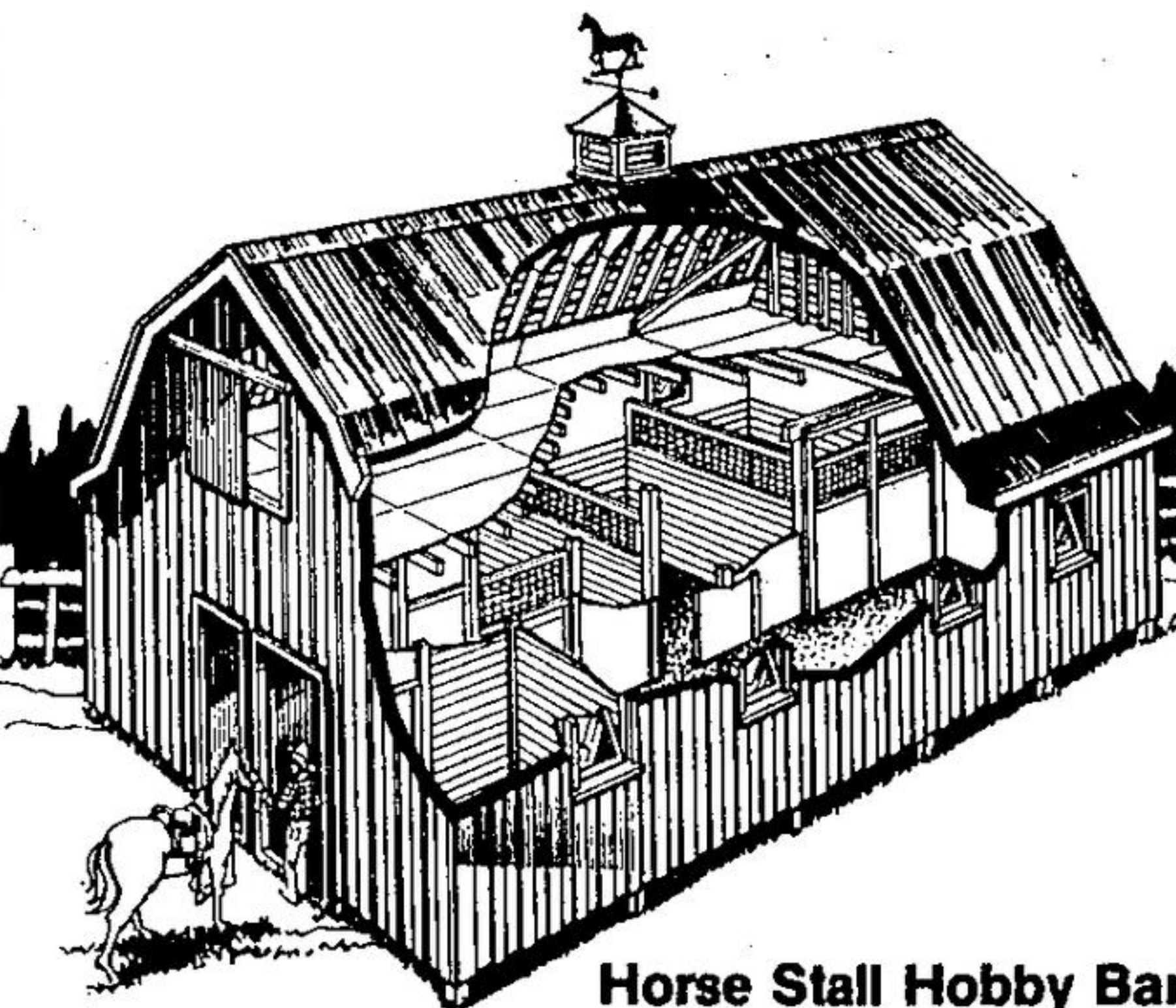
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