

THE ACTON FREE PRESS
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Grants to groups total \$23,000

Organizations who received a town grant last year, will have a shock when they discover they are not included in this year's budget, unless they answered the letter sent to them by the treasurer, stating their request.

Included in the group who have not sent a request is the Georgetown Fair Board, who have received \$450 a year for many years. However, money for anticipated requests has been set aside, but not specifically allocated. The Acton Agricultural Society, or Fair Board asked for a \$500 increase this year, from the \$700 they received last year to \$1,200 this year. This request was turned down after some debate and the grant was left at \$700.

Councillor Peter Marks made a motion saying the Georgetown Fair Board should receive \$700, the same as Acton. This was first agreed to, then decided against, when the finance committee said if no answer to the treasurer's letter stating a request was received it would be dropped. Councillor Walter Biehn argued they knew very well the Georgetown Fair Board request would come in, so the \$450 should be left in. He said he was opposed to an increase to \$700.

A grant of \$600 not in cash, but in the equivalent of work done by the town, was included in the grant recommendations for Halton Hills

Art Council. The work will be done for the Summerfest in Fairgrounds Park June 3.

The list of grants suggested by finance committee, Monday night includes \$450 to the Kinsmen Bantam Hockey Tournament, \$175 to the Acton Atom Hockey Tournament, \$3,360 to the Acton Citizens' Band, a cut of \$1,500, \$5,438 to Acton Community Services Centre, \$700 to Acton Agricultural Society, \$50 to Canadian Mental Health, \$15 to Georgetown Minor Hockey Support Group, \$1,000 to Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band, \$4,334 to Halton Helping Hands, \$100 to Halton

Agricultural Society, \$25 to Norval Community Group, \$2,500 to North Halton Contact Centre, \$180 to Royal Canadian Air Cadets, \$100 to St. John Ambulance, \$200 to Ballinafad Hall Board, \$300 to recognition of persons by town, \$500 to North Halton District Council of Boy Scouts and Georgetown Raiders for hosting the Yugoslav dinner \$200. A special grant of \$125 was made to Kris Barber for bringing world recognition to the town.

With no allocations for some groups who received grants last year the provision for other requests throughout

the year totals \$2,628. The total grant budgets amounts to \$23,000.

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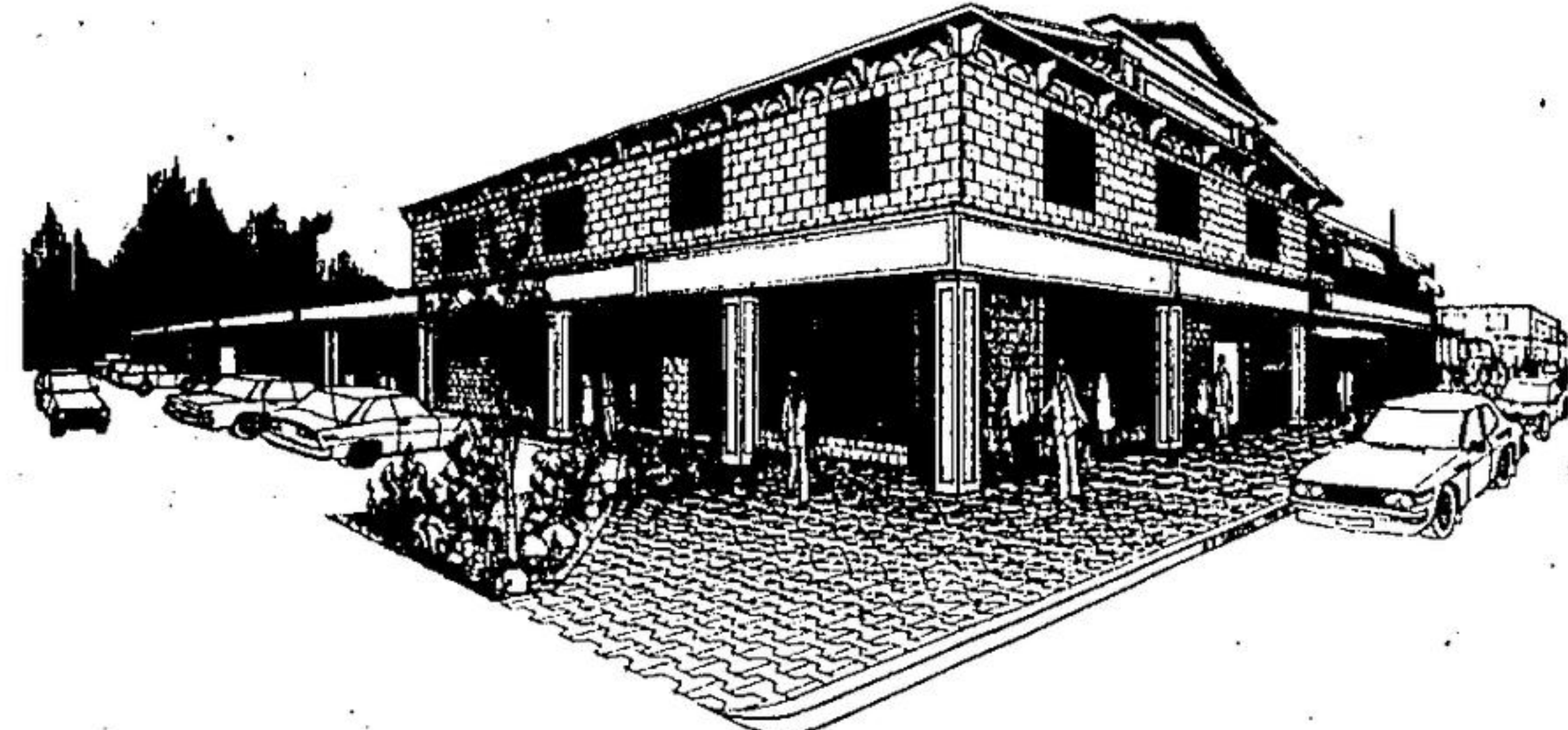
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REDEVELOPMENT of the old Free Press building on Mill St. will incorporate the architectural features of the existing structure. The project, to begin immediately, will develop the site for retail and office space. A covered lighted walkway on the east side will lead to the retail

spaces or boutiques. Interlocking paving stones will be used to co-ordinate with those in the street. A small landscaped area will be developed to enhance the street and building exposure.

Maintain old features

Old Free Press building will become shops, offices

Re-development of the old Free Press site on Mill St. to provide retail and office space was announced this week by David Dills, president of Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd.

The building, which was occupied by the Free Press until it moved to the present location on Willow St. in 1959, will require a reconstruction of the front section.

The design of the project incorporates the imposing architectural features of the original building, but reconstruction was considered essential when the condition of the building was studied.

"The undertaking of the project reaffirms the confidence of our firm in the future and identity of Acton as a viable community with a potential for growth in the retail and service area. We hope too that it may supplement the revitalization program of the Business Improvement Area," Mr. Dills said.

The building will be divided into five retail spaces on the main level and two offices on the second level. A service area basement will be located in the front section of the building. A covered, lighted walkway along the east side of the building will provide

access to the retail areas which vary in size.

Exterior lighting on the building will highlight the architectural features which are being incorporated. Display signing for tenants will be co-ordinated along the side and face of the building.

A special exterior block treatment will be used in the new section of the building and existing cement block section at the rear will be altered so the entire building is co-ordinated.

Each of the retail and office units will be separately heated and air conditioned. Paving stones, as used in the Acton business section, will be incorporated in the walkways. The upper section of the building will project over the walkway at the east side and also over the Mill St. exposure of the building.

A small landscaped area at the north east corner of the building will be developed at the entrance to the parking

lot owned by Trinity United Church and used for municipal parking.

The building permit for the project, estimated at \$110,000 has been obtained and work by Fread Construction is expected to start within two weeks.

"We are anxious to retain the features of the present building which have been a part of the business section for many years, but attempts to restore the present structure which has no foundation, were just impossible," Mr. Dills said. "The alternative was to design the replacement structure to match the existing structure as closely as possible."

The building has been largely vacant, except for storage, since Dills Stationery was closed in 1972.

The Yarn Barn has occupied a small section of the building since it was established by Linda Nellis. Previous tenant

Susan Lee's shop was Jenry's Nook.

Construction of the project is scheduled for completion in late August and it is expected to be available for occupancy in September.

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Playground rates up

Costs per child at summer playgrounds will go up from two dollars a week to four dollars, if council goes along with a Halton Hills finance committee recommendation. The charge for the whole season will go from seven dollars to \$20.

Recreation director Glen Gray said he felt it was a reasonable charge, and would end by having the town break even, instead of losing money as they have in the past.

Councillor Russ Miller claimed if people pay they make sure their children attend.

Councillor Roy Booth asked if there would be a special rate for a family. Gray said he would bring in a report on family rates, but suggested six dollars for two children and \$8 for more than that in one family.

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