

Portion of jail now up for sale

By PAUL DORSEY
Herald staff writer

Haltom region has offered to sell a 29,000-square foot portion of the old Milton jail complex to the town of Milton for \$80,000.

The offer represents the bottom line of a comprehensive proposal by regional staff for the disposition of a cluster of old buildings in downtown Milton that includes facilities for family and juvenile courts, the Children's Aid Society and the Haltom Regional Health Unit.

The historic jail itself was closed earlier this year after the provincial government announced plans for a new jail facility to be built in the area.

Regional council stipulated in offering to sell the old jail to Milton that its historic features must be retained.

Milton Mayor Don Gordon told council last week that his municipality will consider the offer and, if the decision is made to purchase the buildings, Haltom can attach any strings it desires as to their future use.

BEING BILKED
Despite Milton Coun. Jim Watson's assertion that Milton is being "bilked" and should be offered the buildings for a token price of \$1, the general consensus among regional councillors seemed to be that the asking price is too low.

Haltom's property agent, Vince Geraghty, advised council that the buildings are virtually worthless in their present state. The jail's one-foot thick cell walls seriously restrict its potential use, he said, and make the building a "detriment and a liability" as

far as the region is concerned. Mr. Geraghty revealed that other offers have been made for portions of the complex. Offered by the Children's Aid Society, the Sheridan Youth Organization has offered to buy sections of the jail site in the hopes of using the jail as a temporary detention centre for juveniles awaiting trial.

The property agent speculated that the organization's offer is probably the highest the region can expect, but conceded after the asking price had been debated at length that the complex should be placed on the open market for sale.

Mr. Geraghty also advised council that a group of seven businessmen who were interested in establishing a restaurant at the site had balked at his suggested price of \$100,000 because they were aware that extensive renovations would be needed and could triple the final expenditure.

PRICE TAG
Opposition to the \$80,000 price tag dominated the council's debate of the staff's proposal. Burlington Coun. Ben Ciprietti called the price a "bargain" and urged staff to negotiate a better deal. Coun. Carl Erikson of Oakville complained that the price does not reflect current market values.

"I'm not prepared to sit here and hand out gifts to Milton," he said. "That's how they got Drumquin Park."

Council determined that Haltom's new official plan will designate the jail site for low-density residential use, instead of the present institutional use.

Mr. Geraghty estimated the market value of the site to be about \$3 per square foot if it is to be used for residential purposes, \$3.50 for industrial use and \$7 for commercial use. He explained that there is no comparison by which he could determine its value for institutional use.

Burlington Coun. Tom Sutherland noted that the Haltom Board of Education recently sold Chapel Street public school in Georgetown, comprising about three acres, for approximately \$40,000 an acre, with the vacant school building included.

The portion of the jail complex being offered in Milton, it was noted, involves about five-sevenths of an acre.

HEALTH UNIT
Haltom Hills Coun. Pat McKenzie noted that regional staff have put a \$20,000 value on the Health Unit's offices at the site, but recalled that the Haltom Region Conservation Authority offered to buy the facility last May for \$60,000.

Chief administrative officer Ernie Reid responded that no formal offer has even been made by the Authority, prompting Coun. McKenzie to contact Authority officials while the meeting was in progress. He returned with the news that the offer had indeed been made, but for \$80,000 rather than \$60,000.

Mr. Geraghty explained that the Authority had asked him to investigate the feasibility of acquiring the facilities and stressed that no commitment to purchase was being made.

"I phoned (the Authority) the next day, when I'd stopped laughing, and told them to forget it," Mr. Geraghty said.

Coun. Erikson contended that selling the jail complex for \$80,000 would increase the anticipated deficit the region faces for the construction of its new headquarters. It had been hoped that the deficit could be offset by the sale of unused properties.

Debate continued over a suggestion that the Milton detachment of the Haltom regional police might be interested in establishing a small precinct at the site.

EXCELLENT CONDITION
Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett, a Haltom police commissioner, challenged the staff's assessment of the buildings as being in "excellent" condition, citing a leaky basement that was suggested as part of which would become the police precinct. Milton's current police facilities are more adequate, he said.

Mayor Barrett advised council that the Haltom police commission has asked the Ontario police commission to undertake a comprehensive survey of available buildings in the area, as well as housing accommodations for police officers. Despite the interest in the Milton jail site reportedly expressed by police chief Ken Skerrett and administrator Ray Munro, Mayor Barrett said, the commission itself is agreed that the facilities there would be of no use to Haltom police.

"If we start separating the overall package, we're going to box ourselves into a corner," Mayor Barrett added.

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Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Aube
Hannon-Aube Wedding

Saturday's wedding at Sacre Coeur Church for Linda Mary Hannon and Maurice Andre Aube, both of Georgetown, was a double-ring ceremony performed by Father P.A. Ouellette.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a long white gown of polyester satin, with a train of satin covered with white lace. The gown had an empire waist and sleeves of white lace. The bride wore a Spanish style veil of white lace and carried red and white carnations on a white ribbon.

The maid of honor, Doreen Allen, wore a long peach gown with a hat trimmed with peach ribbon and covered with white lace. She carried a bouquet of white mums. The flower girl, Carol Duguay, niece of the groom, wore a long blue dress and carried bronze and yellow mums.

The groomsmen were Paul Aube, brother of the groom, who attended the wedding from the groom's home town of Bedford, New Brunswick.

The organist for the ceremony was Sister Rita.

The reception was held in the church hall at Sacre Coeur Church. Receiving for the bride was her mother, Jean Hannon, wearing a short, long gown with a corsage of bronze mums. Receiving for the groom was his sister, Mrs. Jeannine Miller, wearing a long, rust gown with a corsage of white mums.

A bridal shower was given for the bride by maid of honor Doreen Allen and the bride's sister-in-law, Kathy Hannon.

The couple will reside in Georgetown, where the groom is employed at the Haltom Hills Herald and the bride at the Georgetown Answering Service.

Committee suggests laws to aid the BIA

The town finance and administration committee has suggested that the municipality's incoming council for 1979 should try and do what Haltom Hills could not do several years ago by implementing a Property Maintenance and Occupancy Standards bylaw.

The need for the bylaw appeared on the local scene again two weeks ago when members of the boards of management for Acton's and Georgetown's downtown Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) discovered that Haltom Hills does not qualify for provincial government loans, partially because the town does not have such legislation controlling property uses.

The bylaw is one of several criteria which the province set out for municipalities wishing to apply for portions of a \$5 million loan fund that are repayable at low interest terms, or, according to one source, at no interest.

TWIN BIAs
Haltom Hills' twin BIAs' quality for the loans by all other criteria except for the stipulation that the municipality's population must not exceed 32,000. Since Haltom Hills' collective population exceeds 32,000, Coun. Iroy Booth reported Monday night, members of both the BIAs are preparing to approach Queen's Park in the hopes of amending the criteria of winning an exemption for Haltom Hills, which includes two urban centres with relatively small populations.

Clerk-administrator Ken Richardson informed the committee that the province is aware of Haltom Hills' population problem, one which he said is shared by other municipalities across Ontario. No alteration of the pertinent criteria is being considered, however, he added.

"This municipality's a creature of regional government and the province goes and sets out this criteria knowing full well we don't qualify for their help," Coun. Booth complained. "The Lord giveth and the

Lord taketh away, but in this case, they're (the government) taking away all the time. It's time we went to Queen's Park and demanded some changes. Our BIAs are willing to go down there and fight it and I hope they get this council's blessing."

OTHER CRITERION
Meanwhile, Coun. Booth said, council should strive to overcome the problems that were anticipated in the implementation of a property maintenance bylaw so that the other criterion can be met.

The committee learned that Haltom Hills' new official plan, now being finalized, will include such a bylaw. In the interim, though, a comprehensive bylaw is needed that will suit the province's stipulations while at the same time avoiding the kind of "horrendous" enforcement problems which council foresaw for its once proposed bylaw.

"This bylaw may be a real problem," Coun. Walter Blehn agreed. "We're getting into a completely unrealistic field. It would be awfully hard to pin down."

Mr. Richardson confirmed that the preparation, enactment and enforcement of the bylaw will indeed be "difficult." He recalled one instance in which a municipality took years to enact the legislation

because of potential enforcement problems. The matter of preparing the bylaw was referred to the town's incoming council for further deliberation once Haltom Hills' new official plan is completed.

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Pioneer cemetery grooming okayed

Haltom Hills works committee has recommended that the Haltom Junior Farmers be given permission to proceed with a proposed landscaping project at the Pioneer Cemetery.

The Junior Farmers proposed the project in June, and works supervisor Frank Morlette met with the group at the site, located at the 8th Line and Steeles Avenue, to discuss the plan.

At the request of the town engineer, Bob Austin, the Junior Farmers submitted a drawing of their plans for the cemetery, and Mr. Austin recommended they be approved.

The agreement drawn up, between the town and the Ministry of the Environment, which sponsored the program on an experimental basis, allows that the agreement can be terminated by either the town or the ministry on 60 days written notice, effective no earlier than December 31, 1978, or at any time by mutual agreement.

The committee voted to recommend the program continue so as to give the ministry a better time period to analyze the success of the program.

'Y's campaign to raise funds

The Georgetown YM-YWCA will conduct a door-to-door fund raising campaign through the town's residential section on Nov. 6 according to president Cheryl Lightowers. Their target this year is \$6,000.

Members of Georgetown's industrial, commercial and professional community will also be contacted by letter about making contributions to the Y, she said.

While blitz night is Monday Nov. 6 the canvassers will be calling back again Tuesday at homes where no one was home at the time of the first visit. Then on the Wednesday four tellers at the Bank of Commerce branch in the Delrex plaza have donated their time in order to accept donations at the bank between 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.

The Y has already raised about \$3,000 through fund raising projects like a dance, a flea market and a 50-50 draw, Mrs. Lightowers says.

They managed to survive on \$7,500 last year but they had to give the staff person they employed to do programs.

Mrs. Lightowers says the Y only assesses branches 1.2 per cent of their gross income to support the National Y and in return they get a lot in terms of leadership training and contact with the world.

Canvassers can be identified on blitz night by the badges they will wear thanks to a donation by Labelmasters, Mrs. Lightowers says. She expects there will be 200 canvassers making calls in Georgetown and Glen Williams, and rural members will be contacted by letter. The Y has 600 urban members and 100 from the rural areas, she said.

WORKS CLOSELY
The Y works closely with the recreation department to avoid duplicating programs, said Mrs. Lightowers, and can respond more quickly to community needs because they hear from the community and staff their programs with volunteers.

"We're an alternative," said Mrs. Lightowers. "We can offer a variety of programs and cater to a much wider range of people."

While the Y does charge a fee for its courses this does not always pay the expenses of running the course. On top of this the Y has substantial regular costs to meet like an annual rent in the neighbourhood of \$5,000 and a telephone monthly bill. Its part time office staff and its director are also paid.

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