

Consultants put \$1 million price tag on Acton sewer, water improvements

By PAUL DORSEY
Herald staff writer

It will cost Halton region more than \$1 million to bring Acton's existing water distribution and sewage collection systems up to "an acceptable standard", consultants hired by the region have estimated.

In one of a series of reports commissioned by the regional public works department to evaluate existing facilities and future needs for sewer and water services, Parker Associates have placed a \$750,000 price tag on necessary improvements in the Acton water distribution system and another \$332,000 for similar revisions needed for the sewage collection system. The total cost is estimated to be \$1,080,000.

In the same report, the firm gives various estimates for the respective costs of expanding and improving the water and sewer systems to meet future needs. Depending on the direction Acton's future development takes, those costs would range from \$1,013,000 to \$4,981,000.

ASSOCIATES' REPORT
Parker Associates' report, presented to the regional public works committee last week, has been recommended to council for adoption, with staff being directed to utilize its contents as guidelines for future planning.

The consultants reported that Acton's water supply capacity and storage area "adequate" for current needs, but claimed the existing water distribution network is unable

to meet firefighting needs "in some areas".

Among the recommendations offered by the consultants to rectify the problem:

- the extension of a 350-millimetre (14-inch) trunk line to the community's reservoir on Churchill Road North;

- the installation of a 300-millimetre watermain along Wallace Street from McDonald Boulevard to the existing 305-millimetre watermain easement;

- the installation of a 300-millimetre watermain along Main Street, South from Church Street to Kingham Road;

- the installation of a 300-millimetre watermain along Churchill from Peel Street to an existing 152-millimetre

casing between highway 7 and Westcott Road, and the cleaning of the 152-millimetre line.

The completion of "certain loops" to improve waterflow for firefighting purposes.

A review of the effect the Prospect Park municipal well is having upon Fairy Lake.

UPGRADE SANITATION

To upgrade the community's sanitary sewer system to acceptable standards, the consultants have recommended the removal of several storm connections and the reconstruction, "where warranted", of some lines now facing maintenance problems.

The consultants appraised the costs of several construction and renovation work to meet future demands using four planning concepts which regional officials have devised. Each concept represents varying combinations of financing sources, development priorities and population levels.

In accordance with the region's "local-provincial" concept, Acton's population would grow from 6,800 to 8,241, necessitating an estimated expenditure on the sewer and water systems of \$1,301,000.

Under the "Halton objectives" concept, the population would reach 9,001 and \$1,346,000 worth of repairs

and extensions would have to be made.

TRENDS SCHEME
Under the "Trends" scheme, a population of 17,534 would require the expenditure of \$4,934,000 on sewers and water.

The "area planning" concept would cost \$4,981,000 for improvements to serve a population of 20,471.

All four concepts would require the region to develop alternative water supplies in the Acton area, some of which have already been identified in another regional consultants' report. All four also involve numerous watermain and sewer line extensions in areas outlined by Parker Associates, while the more expensive concepts call for the construction of pumping stations at key points.

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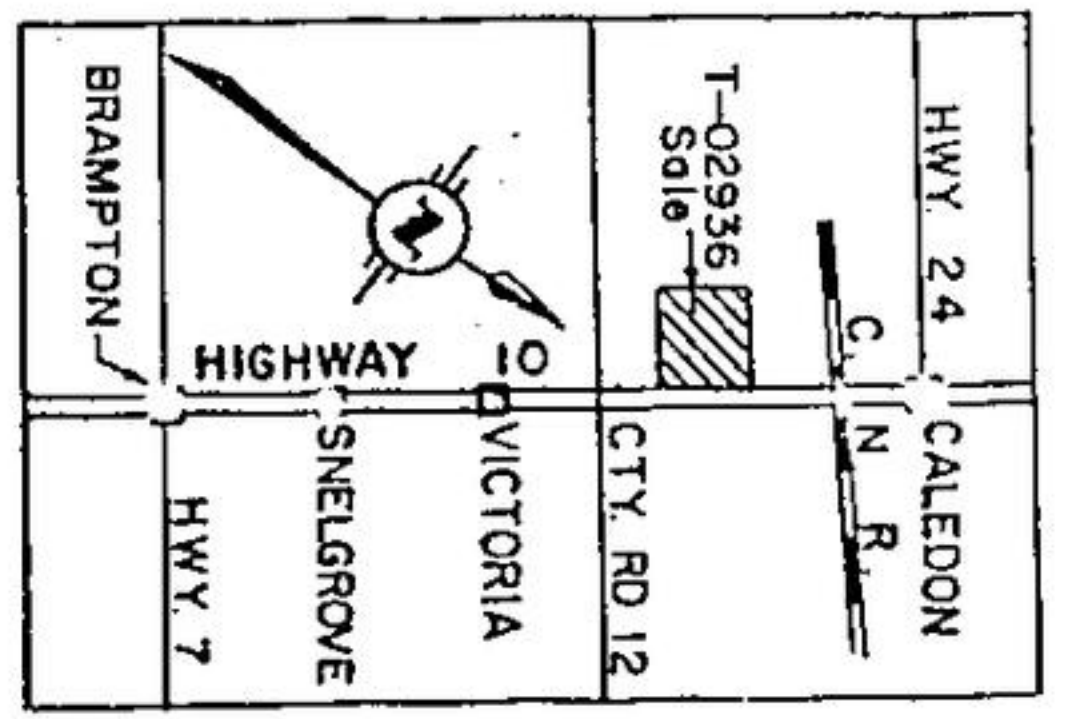


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Conrad Birdie, played by Ron Skeffington and Kim MacAfee played by Sonya Kroes strike a loving pose prior to curtain time Friday evening for the Acton High School production of Bye Bye Birdie. Conrad, the rock super star about to be inducted into the American army is told by his manager he must kiss one of his loyal fans, Kim, as a publicity gimmick and the play's action revolves around this event. (Herald photo)

Bye Bye Birdie Teachers' involvement maintains ADHS tradition

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald staff writer

Although high school principals come and go at the whim of the school board, school traditions are a more enduring matter as Acton High School teachers proved again last week by taking parts in the school musical Bye Bye Birdie.

The tradition of the principal and other teachers taking an on-stage part in the school play is apparently not very widespread although it has been happening at Acton High School for at least 25 years. Principal Wally Watkins and teachers Keith Black and Geoff Sansom all had minor roles and yet the production would have been the poorer without them. All three men proved raised eyebrows and swelling necks can add to the audience's mirth without a word actually being said. Mr. Watkins portrayed the mayor welcoming Conrad Birdie to Sweet Apple, Ohio and the three men filled the role of the Shriners for whom the play's big seduction scene is staged.

ROCK STAR
The musical comedy, based on Michael Stewart's book, centres around the efforts of Albert Peterson, manager of rock star Conrad Birdie, to cash in on Birdie's induction to the army by having him bestow a farewell kiss on one of his fans, Kim MacAfee of Sweet Apple, Ohio. Rose Alvarez is Peterson's secretary, inspiration and frustrated girl friend who has been waiting eight years for him to propose. Peterson is a mama's boy and thus Mae Peterson provides several funny moments as she thwarts her son's effort to cut loose and

announce his intentions to marry Rose. Other small roles go to Kim's boy friend, Hugo Peabody and her parents and little brother, Randolph.

While the play may be named for rock star Birdie, played by Ron Skeffington, he is definitely not the show's star. His role is much smaller than that of either Peterson or Alvarez but he made the most of it with a good voice and excellent winks and leers which seemed appropriate for such a dissolute character.

Giving top billing to either Peterson or Alvarez is difficult since both Paul Carter and Lynda Shadbolt gave fine performances as a weak-kneed mama's boy and an intelligent, managing female respectively.

Miss Peterson seems more memorable whether that's just because a dominant person always overshadows a weak one or because she really was a great young trouper. Her acting was right to the point as she pushed her timid boss around in Act 1. In fact, this reporter was waiting for the moment when she'd actually pick him up and heave him across the stage in frustration at his timidity. Her timing was good when she barged in on a Shriners' meeting in a sexy black sequined number and distracted the group into chasing her under the table and around the stage. Although she had some fine moments vocally at other points she obviously lost her battle with an extremely heavy cold and her voice cracked on high notes.

SANG WELL
Paul Carter sang well too and managed to drool appropriately at the gal his

mother picked out to replace Rose Alvarez as his secretary. He also did a nice job of losing his nerve over his promise to Rose when Mrs. Peterson started whimpering and whining about how mother's aren't important and don't bother about a nice funeral. Just put her in a garbage can and leave her for the pussy cats to crawl all over her.

A ninth grade student, Sonya Kroes, tackled the part of Kim MacAfee and did a good job on a relatively minor role. Her singing was excellent and although her role is not terribly demanding it does take a certain amount of forethought to make a young girl come across as a natural, believable young girl and resist the temptation to add sophisticated touches or an unnatural naivete to fill out her role.

Audiences appreciated the students' efforts and gave them standing ovations Wednesday and Friday nights.

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