

'Sad day for Acton' as town's last mayor dies in hospital

"It's a sad day for Acton when we lose a man like Les Duby," former Acton councillor G.W. (Pat) McKenzie said, as Acton residents mourned the death of the former mayor.

Mr. Duby died Saturday in Guelph General Hospital after a long illness.

Mr. McKenzie was a close friend of Mr. Duby, having served on council with him for 12 years.

"He was mayor all the time I was on Acton council," Mr. McKenzie said. "I always found him very concerned about issues, and dedicated to his work. He was proud of Acton."

"Acton has lost a very dedicated and capable councillor," he continued. "One thing I always appreciated about Les, he was always there. If the mayor was supposed to be present, then he was there. Maybe he pushed himself too hard. I don't know how he did it all, raising a family, working for the community and being active in the church. Of course, his wife, Alice, stood beside him and helped him."

HIGHLY RESPECTED

"He was a highly respected man," Mr. McKenzie said. "It's unfortunate that a man of his leadership and his capabilities has to leave so young."

Halton Hills councillor Russ Knechtel said Mr. Duby's death was "a great loss to the town."

"He's part of the history of the town, and we'll miss him," Mr. Knechtel said.

Former Acton councillor Peter Marks, who served on Acton council with Mr. Duby, as well as on Halton Hills council, said Mr. Duby was one of the hardest working people he had ever known.

"Two things come to mind about him - he was very tolerant of my mistakes when I first came on to Acton council, as a rookie, and he was totally dedicated to the community," Mr. Marks said.

Rev. Len Ewing, minister of Mr. Duby's church, St. Alban's said the parish was shocked by his death, although people were aware that he had been ill.

"I would look at him as a complete Christian," Rev. Ewing said. "He served the community as a Christian, and he did it ungrudgingly. In spite of his deep involvement with the community on the political and social levels, he was able to attend church regularly, and to serve the church, as a choir member, a chalice bearer and a lay reader."

"To say he was very much loved by everyone would be to put it mildly," he continued. "One thing about Les, the

things he has done have left an impression, an example for people to follow. It's a continuing example."

ENCOURAGED DUBY

John Goy, president of Acton Legion Branch 197, said he encouraged Mr. Duby to enter politics.

"I was the guy, as mayor, who talked Les into joining council," Mr. Goy said. "I considered him a pretty good guy."

"Over the years, he's certainly participated in any special events we've had, be it Legion events or community events," Mr. Goy said. "Les was a real good Legion member. He supported the Legion, and he enjoyed belonging to it."

"Les was considered one of the original members," he continued. "He was president of the branch in the early days when it was still struggling."

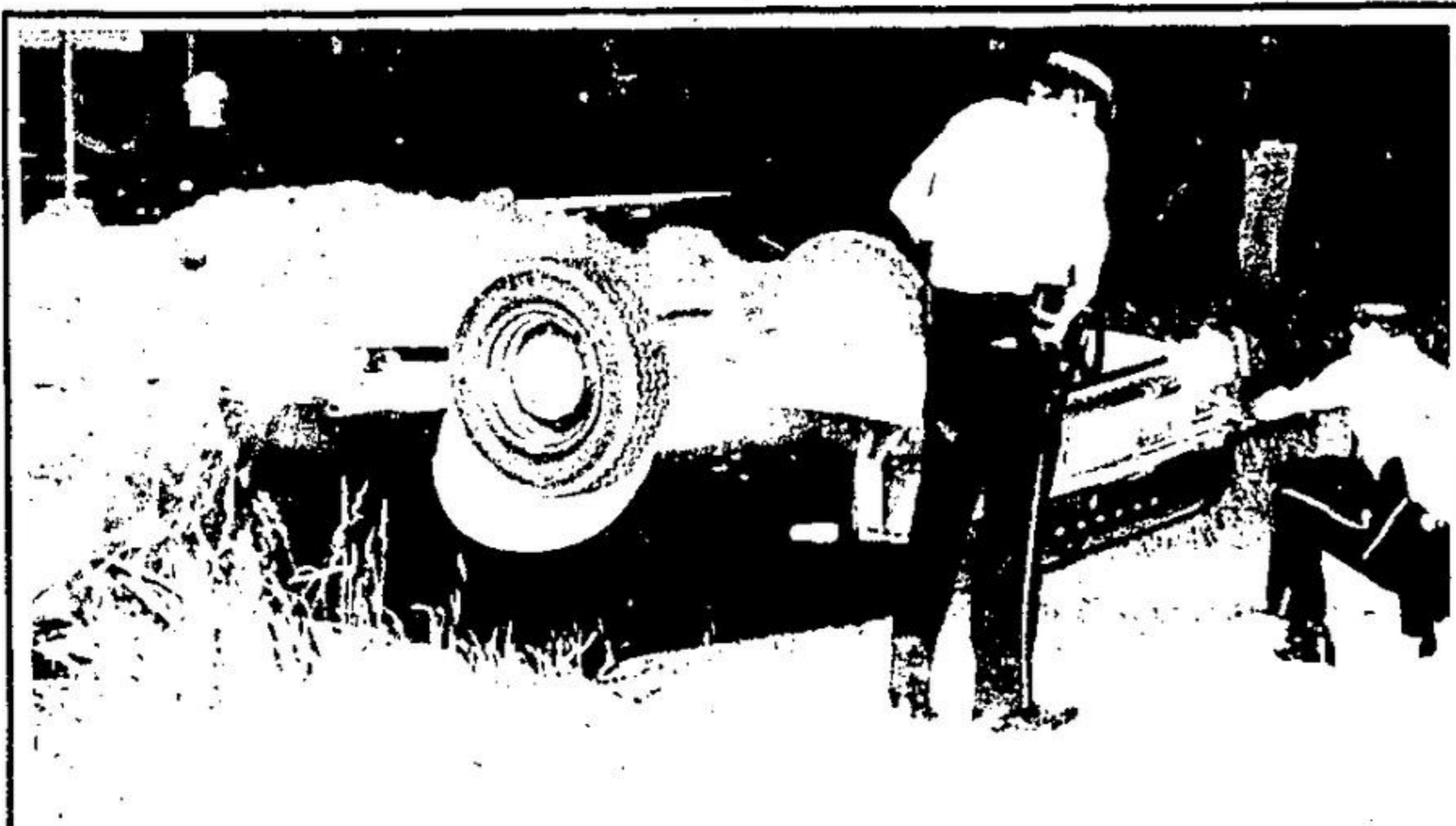
"He had a lot to offer, and he offered it," Mr. Goy said. "I think he's been a real contribution for the town, whatever office he held. He was proud of Acton and he was supportive of Acton. Once it became Halton Hills, he became a Halton Hills supporter - that's the kind of guy he was."

Mr. Duby's wife, Alice, agreed that her husband be-

came a supporter of Halton Hills following the formation of regional government.

"He began to think of Georgetown as home, too," Mrs. Duby said. "When we used to drive out east of Norval or south of Georgetown, he'd say, 'That's the end of the town of Halton Hills.'"

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Constables Ken Woudstra, left, and Brian Farrell of the Halton Regional Police, examine an unmarked cruiser which was involved in a collision following a high-speed chase from Acton to Georgetown, Saturday night. Constable Ron Welsh of the

Investigations division received head and chest injuries in the accident. The other driver escaped with minor injuries, and is being held for a bail hearing on charges ranging from impaired driving to driving while disqualified.

Officer hurt in chase

A Halton police officer was seriously injured in a collision which ended a high-speed chase from Acton to Georgetown Saturday evening.

Constable Ron Welsh, 30, of Georgetown, suffered chest injuries, broken ribs and a broken nose, and his condition is reported as stable. He was admitted to

Georgetown District Memorial Hospital.

The chase began in Acton after police observed a man driving in an erratic fashion. The car was pursued from Acton to the outskirts of Georgetown, where it collided with an unmarked police car which had joined the pursuit. The collision occurred at Hyland Avenue

and Highway 7.

The police car was overturned and came to rest in the ditch. The suspect vehicle came to rest right side up in the ditch on the other side of the road, some distance away.

Police have detained the driver of the car, who received only minor injuries, and was treated by a doctor

and released. The man has been charged with dangerous driving, impaired driving, having more than the legal limit of alcohol in his blood and driving while disqualified. He is being held for a bail hearing.

Both vehicles in the accident were a write-off. Damage to the cruiser was estimated at \$5,000.

Question financing for cultural arts centre

By PAUL DORSEY
Herald staff writer

The current freeze on Wintario capital grants may force town council to issue debentures for the construction of the proposed \$1.5 million arts and cultural centre complex.

A report submitted by town treasurer Ray King last week and an indication from the provincial ministry of culture and recreation Thursday that the Wintario freeze will continue indefinitely has left municipal officials wondering about financing for the arts complex proposed for the site of the Georgetown public library.

Mr. King outlined the Wintario capital grants program among the possible funding sources in a preliminary report on the centre's financing, but still calculated a \$384,000 shortfall which would have to be raised by council and the citizens of Halton Hills.

red."

Mr. King said council would have to either reallocate a portion of its levy fund which has been set aside for other purposes or else request debenture approval.

Including a Wintario capital grant of \$192,166, which public donations would have to match equally in order to qualify for the grant, Mr. King listed several funding sources for contributions to make up the \$1,625,000 estimated capital cost of the complex.

At Mr. King's suggestion, the general committee agreed that the Ontario Heritage Foundation should be notified of the town's intention to designate the old library building an historical site, a move which would qualify the project for a Foundation grant, estimated at \$75,000.

feasibility of obtaining other financial assistance from the province. The mayor reported that Mr. Kriesel could give no indication when the province intends to lift its freeze on Wintario capital expenditures.

Mayor Pomeroy advised the committee last week that there may be an additional problem in obtaining Wintario funds if the town is "too hasty" in designating the old library building as an historical site.

Coun. Russ Miller said he had been under the impression debentures would not be necessary for the project. He

speculated that if they are needed, the debentures could remove much of the "enthusiasm" which has surrounded the proposal.

"In confident, firmly convinced that we can raise most of the money without debenturing," Mayor Pomeroy said.

Coun. Harry Levy informed the committee that the subject of financing for the arts complex will be discussed at next week's meeting of the town's special budget steering committee, which he chairs. The steering committee has yet to establish a capital forecast for the years 1980 through 1983.

REALISTIC AMOUNT

"Council would have to decide whether this is a realistic amount to be raised from the community at large, or whether for example, one half of it should be funded by the town," Mr. King explained. "If... it was decided that at least \$200,000 would be funded by the town, a further question is raised in that the funds would not be available at this time unless one of two things occur-

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FURTHER FUNDS

The Ministry of culture and recreation would be asked for a further \$75,000 under its Community Recreation Centres Act and an equal amount through its handicapped access program. The arts centre, which will see theatre and exhibition facilities added onto the library building, will have special ramps and other amenities for handicapped visitors.

Mr. King also counted \$307,000 in municipal lot levies and \$516,000 in debentures among his sources, leaving \$376,000 to be raised through Wintario and the general public.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy met Thursday with ministry official Bill Kriesel to discuss the

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