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**Building's fate remains unclear**

## Inflation, time threaten Acton hall restoration

By MAGGIE HANNAN  
Herald Special

Attempts to save Acton's 99-year-old town hall may be fruitless because of the passage of time and inflation, a town staff member warned interested parties last week.

At a meeting of the council's town hall committee, representatives of the resident's restoration committee, the Acton fund-raising committee and town staff, recreation director Tom Shepard pointed out that six years of inflation have undoubtedly increased the original restoration estimates of \$238,000 made in 1977.

Uses for the restored building included in a grant application to the ministry of culture and recreation in December, 1979, may also not be totally acceptable.

The question of whether the red brick building at the corner of Willow and Bower Streets can qualify for Ontario

Heritage Fund grants is also debatable since buildings receiving such grants must now have a heritage or architectural significance in the province rather than just in the local municipality, he said.

Town clerk-administrator Ken Richardson said one of the prerequisites to a heritage grant is a municipal bylaw stating that the town will be prepared to assume all the financial obligations and maintenance costs of the project. This must be passed before the municipality can apply for a heritage grant. There is no guarantee that such an application will be even partly filled or completely met.

The notion that work could be done to restore the outside of the building with existing funds while the ministry debates the merits of the project won't work either since absolutely no funds will be given to a project which is begun without

ministry approval, Mr. Richardson said.

Mr. Shepard said the ministry of culture and recreation grants are based on the amount of space in the building which will be used for cultural and recreational activities in the community.

In the original application such things as town offices, a Chamber of Commerce office and a police office were suggested as possible uses for the restored building. None of these would be eligible for grant purposes and that space would reduce the size of the grant.

Mr. Shepard said he understands that there was never a complete structural analysis done on the building and the \$238,000 restoration costs set in 1977 were only estimates. Inflation could well have upped that figure to \$500,000.

"I'd like to see the whole project re-evaluated," he said. "Emotions have to be set aside and a decision made on whether the building is architecturally significant to the community or whether there is a need for a community centre."

"Although fund-raising has been done, it's apparent that inflation has pretty well eaten up anything that was raised. People need to look at the overall cost of the project and decide whether it's still viable."

"If it is, then they'll have to spend some more for a full analysis of what has to be done. Then a final decision will have to be made whether more money can be raised in the community - and whether council is willing to bear the cost of the project."

Acton committee treasurer Cathy Sanford said Acton will have raised \$27,000 by the end of August.

Restoration committee chairman George Elliott said his committee has just over \$7,000 now and hopes to increase it to \$10,000 through an industrial fund-raising campaign which will begin within the next two weeks.

Mr. Elliot said his committee has absolutely no power since the town must decide on what use will be made of the restored building, what grants it can apply for and ultimately whether it should in fact be restored.

"It's the town's ball game," he said.

The town originally wanted to tear the building down to make parking room for fire fighters at the adjacent fire hall. A petition from Acton residents persuaded council to change its mind in May, 1977, and fund-raising attempts have met with varying degrees of success in the interim.

Council promised to give the \$40,000 originally slated to demolish the structure towards its restoration instead if the rest of the money could be found from other sources.

A further meeting will be held to look at updated cost estimates and other changes which need more discussion, said council town hall committee chairman Coun. Terry Grubbe.



**ATTACK OF THE 'WONDERPETS'**

(Herald photo by Chris Aagaard)

It took two precarious trips to the parking lot to do it, but four Georgetown residents drove away from Canada's Wonderland Saturday with about 20 stuffed animals won at one of the new amusement park's coin-toss concessions. Utilizing the wind factor to beat a game that was confounding most other visitors, Brian King and Danny Cooper won the stuffed dogs and

pandas while enjoying a preview visit to Wonderland, which officially opens next week near Maple. Now Lisa and Sue Horvath and Brian and Danny have to decide what to do with their basement-full of "Wonderpets", but in the meantime, they'd recommend Wonderland's many adventures as ideal entertainment for people of all ages and interests.



### BABY HAD A BLAST AT BANG-O-RAMA

Bang-o-rama is for kids! (And adults who like to tag along too). Above, one-year old Jeff Telford, son of Al and Carol Telford of Georgetown, enjoys a fireworks display of his own, just before the real McCoy got underway at Georgetown's Fairgrounds Park Monday night. Youngsters like Amy Gordon, 6, were also thrilled by pony rides sponsored by Wildwood Manor riding club. Here she gets a little encouragement from helper Helen Brooks. Lots more Victoria Day photos on page B6.



### Golden Helmets bikers at fair

The Georgetown Fair Board has announced that the popular Golden Helmets Motorcycle Precision Team of the Ontario Provincial Police will be highlighting the opening night program of the Georgetown Fair, Oct. 2.

Although the 20-man team has appeared in the area before, this will be its first appearance in Georgetown and the Fair Board is very pleased that Georgetown will be included in their schedule of appearances for the fall.

Since this year is the 135th anniversary of the fair, the board is planning and hoping for an extra-special fair, with "pioneer" theme looking back to the early days of Georgetown Fair, established in 1846.

The OPP Motorcycle Team has been in existence since 1963 and has appeared throughout the province at fairs and in some of the larger parades. During Centennial Year in 1967, they also appeared in New York City, taking part in a special Canada Week celebration.

The ride has received much praise from the many thousands who have seen it performed. Although it is an exciting performance to watch, emphasis is placed on team precision and safety is emphasized throughout.

Confirmation of the appearance of the Golden Helmets has been received by the board from assistance Commissioner J.S. Kay, OPP Traffic Division in Toronto. The team is under the supervision of Ride Master Corporal A. Smouter of the Burlington detachment.

### Youngsters lead the way in campaign

Clean-ups, caring and community spirit abound in one area of Halton Hills these days as proud citizens of all ages pool their efforts to announce "I Love Georgetown".

Homes in the community are still being visited by volunteers from Georgetown's Chamber of Commerce and Area Ratepayers Association (GARA), who drop off explanatory pamphlets and the popular "I Love Georgetown" buttons.

The buttons have also been distributed among virtually all Georgetown businesses, where employers and employees alike are wearing the slogan on lapels and shirtfronts.

The public response has been "fantastic", according to campaign director Tom Ramautarsingh, who adds that proceeds from the button sales (at 50 cents each) offset the campaign's cost and aid fund-raising efforts for the library-cultural centre.

The campaign steering committee has extended citizens doing their part:

- Glen Williams cubs spent Saturday cleaning up Highway 7 roadsides in Georgetown and the Glen Ball diamond;
- Cubs from Georgetown's Fourth "B" troop will similarly clean up the highway debris between Mountainview and Sinclair May 30;
- Georgetown Venturers have arranged through Halton Helping Hands to paint a carport for a physically disabled homeowner and will do some yardwork for a Sixth Line senior citizen;
- Girl Guides will be escorting local seniors on neighborhood visits and shopping excursions;
- Georgetown High School teacher Chris Bertelson and the school's Outers Club will spend a weekend or week-nights cleaning up a footpath which is used by many residents, including seniors.

"Such a program should be continued on an annual basis and deserves everyone's support," Mr. Bertelson commented.

The campaign committee will be rewarding schools, groups and individuals who have participated with "I Love Georgetown" balloons, scrolls and framed Achievement Awards. Involved schools will also receive \$25 cheques to donate to a charitable cause of their choice.

Area dignitaries are expected to help deliver the various awards by making the rounds aboard a chartered bus and visiting selected homes whose owners have expressed their community pride and spirit in some way.

Organizers stress that there's still plenty of time to get involved. Individuals, businesses and service clubs should get in touch with committee members to coordinate plans and ensure they're in line for subsequent recognition.



thanks to the dozens of citizens directly involved. In the business canvass, Mr. Ramautarsingh reported, Walter Blehn, Doug Penrice and Rud Whiting - all Chamber directors - deserve special credit for getting the businesses and industries enthusiastically involved.

Among the examples of

**You want buttons?  
We got buttons!**

Yes, "I Love Georgetown" buttons are still available! Button campaign chairman Roy Vestad reports that there are a few hundred left. You can pick one up for 50 cents by phoning Mr. Vestad at 877-5630 or by visiting Joe's Tuck Shop on Main Street, Vito's Fruit Store in the Moore Park plaza or Georgetown Fabrics in the Delrex Market Centre.

The buttons are making the rounds, both inside and outside Halton Hills, meanwhile. As well as Ontario Lieutenant-Governor John Aldr, who picked up the souvenir during his recent visit with the Chamber, the buttons will be worn by members of the Optimist Club of Georgetown, Indiana, and by high school students from Port Leamington, Newfoundland. Both groups are visiting here this week as part of exchange programs with their Georgetown, Ontario, counterparts. If you've spotted an "I Love Georgetown" button anywhere else, the organizers would be thrilled to hear about it.

### Irwin-Dorsey Ltd. may close as Dow-Jones battles Ottawa

By ASTRA PAPE  
Herald Special

The president of Irwin-Dorsey Ltd., Dick Willis, told the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce Thursday that the publishing firm may have to be shut down in a matter of months.

Approximately 28 full-time employees would be affected by the shutdown, 21 of whom reside in the Georgetown area. The repercussions of a shutdown would not end there, with some of the town's tax revenues disappearing also.

The reason for the plant's potential shutdown is the Supreme Court decision not to hear the case of Dow Jones and Co. versus Canada's Foreign Investment Review Agency (FIRA). Approximately five years ago, the American-

owned Dow Jones acquired Richard D. Irwin Inc., an Illinois textbook publishing firm. Irwin-Dorsey is now a small subsidiary of the American company.

According to the Foreign Investment Review Act, however, no Canadian firm can have a change in foreign parent without first proving that it would provide significant benefit to Canada.

For the last five years, Dow Jones has challenged FIRA's jurisdiction in this matter since the merger occurred between two foreign companies. The case seems to have come to a standstill with the Supreme Court refusal to even hear it.

"We're not past the shock effect of this," Mr. Willis said, referring to the Supreme Court

decision on a case that he considers a landmark in FIRA's history.

It is the first time the Act has been challenged and now other Canadian firms are more or less "in limbo", unsure of what to do if their U.S. parents merge with another U.S. firm.

Mr. Willis agreed that there is nothing fundamentally wrong with the Act, which is more or less trying to protect Canadian interests from foreign investment, but he feels that the application of the law in this case is wrong.

The acquisition of Irwin-Dorsey by Dow Jones hasn't affected its Canadian operations but can be in fact beneficial, Mr. Willis noted that plans were made for growth, development and expansion due to the new

ownership.

At the moment, the options the company has are to shut down, sell out or have the employees buy the company. Mr. Willis doesn't know how realistic the latter option is since the cost of buying and maintaining a company would be too exorbitant for only 28 people to raise.

The fate of Irwin-Dorsey lies in the balance at a meeting June 5 between FIRA and Dow Jones. Here for the last time, arguments will be presented in the hopes that an agreement can be reached. If the firm does have to shut down, Mr. Willis hopes it can still operate for at least a few months in order to fulfill obligations to various campus bookstores.



John Matheson just loved being the first patient in the new hospital's In-Common Laboratory at the Georgetown Medical Centre Friday, because he got to be surrounded by all the nurses, (left to right) Pat Vaughan, Kathy McConaghie, Carrene English and Lynda Hall. All will work in the lab. (Herald photo)

### Specimen collection station gives hospital unique service

The installation of a new specimen collection station at the Georgetown Medical Centre - only the sixth such apparatus in Ontario - promises to save valuable time and effort for all concerned, patient, doctor and Georgetown District Memorial Hospital.

The station, provided through the Hospitals In-Common Laboratory Incorporated (HICLI) program, was on display during the medical centre's open house Friday.

"Courier costs were too great for small hospitals that had to send test samples to larger facilities," HICLI board chairman Dr. Murray Young explained. "So our organiza-

tion began collecting samples for the smaller hospitals and sending out in large batches for analysis."

HICLI pays the better-equipped hospitals to analyze samples which Georgetown hospital cannot handle. The smaller hospitals can thus more confidently refer the riskier and costlier work elsewhere, attract specific jobs to augment their own per-test cost efficiency and decrease the amount of paperwork burdening administrators by handling certain jobs in-house.

"The savings to taxpayers since 1975 because of HICLI have been significant," Dr. Carl Braun, the organization's

general manager, said, "because the rates charged the end users are less than it would cost the local hospital to do the work."

"HICLI offers essentially all medical, diagnostic laboratory tests available in Ontario. It has over 440 different test procedures, from the routine to the esoteric."

"Georgetown District Hospital has been affiliated with HICLI for eight or nine years," said hospital administrator Fred Morris, "which means that tests which were not economically feasible for us to perform would be done through the association. It's not that the hospital does not

have the equipment to do these tests. It's that it is too expensive to set up the equipment every time there is a need for it. We send the samples to locations where the equipment is already set up, for work such as hormone tests and therapeutic drug monitoring."

Dr. Alex Furness of the Georgetown Medical Centre endorsed the project so that "patients would not have to spend an extra day getting a blood test."

"Now they can go and have the test without an appointment (right away)."

The lab is open to all the patients in the Georgetown area, not just those from the clinic itself.