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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1981



## THEY LET THEIR FINGERS DO THE WALKING

It sure smelled good in teacher Betty Ayotte's Grade 2 class last week. Students made gingerbread houses last Wednesday by gluing Graham crackers together with melted white sugar. Thursday the students decorated their houses with marshmallows, chocolate chips, gum drops, licorice goodies, jujubes, candy canes and marshmallows. Mrs. Ayotte said she'd let the boys and girls, (left to right) Adam Poushtirup, Miranda McLean, Jake Mashlster,

Luanne Libbenga, Scott McGulgan and Michael Delouche, take the goodies home this week. The Herald visited students taking part in Pioneer Days at the school last week. In a photo published Friday, though, we incorrectly identified the students in teachers Kathy Platt and Gillian Firth's Grade 3 classes as being from Centennial School.

(Herald photo by Ani Pederlan)

## Levy's finance post tied to town hall's fate

# Mayor throws weight behind restoration

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
Herald Staff Writer

Months of speculation on whether plans to save the century-old Acton town hall would receive crucial support from Mayor Pete Pomeroy ended Monday night as he heartily endorsed a \$440,000 restoration proposal despite indications that he will be stiffly opposed by two senior councillors when the town hall's future is decided Dec. 21.

In a lengthy notice of motion presented to council, Mayor Pomeroy cited the need for a "strong municipal presence" in Acton among the reasons why he embraced the fourth of six scenarios for the building offered by Kleinfeldt Consultants of Brampton at the end of their seven-week feasibility study.

"I am so concerned about this that, if we adopt it, I will immediately resign as finance chairman," Ward 4 Coun. Harry Levy told council. Fellow Ward 4 Coun. Mike Armstrong said he will not support the restoration proposal either. Neither councillor elaborated on his reasons for opposing.

Mayor Pomeroy argued that the town has already recognized the building, located at the corner of Willow and Bower Streets, as an historical site, and a number of community groups have expressed an interest in seeing it restored.

**DROP-IN**  
A recently completed study on the Acton downtown core has also urged some kind of

### 'Not with our money'

Although some Acton residents will be overjoyed by the prospects of having the 100-year old town hall restored as a fulcrum of Acton's budding Leathertown image, others will likely be a little discouraged. Until Monday night, opponents to the use of town tax dollars in the restoration were largely overshadowed by town hall enthusiasts. However, council received a 379-name petition from Acton residents who object to tax dollars being spent on the hall. They argue that municipal money is better spent on other projects and have suggested that if the town needs additional public office space, it should use the community's hydro building. The residents agree that they don't object to the idea of having the town hall restored, as long as the money comes from somewhere other than the town treasury.

recreation community centre for the community, he added, and also said that the building could be used to house a senior citizens drop-in facility.

"The town hall is important in the emergence of Acton as a tourist attraction," Mayor Pomeroy maintained, inviting the community's tourist-oriented Leathertown Association to help in fund-raising for the project.

While building costs for the town's library-cultural centre in Georgetown were approximately \$75 per square foot, the mayor estimated that restoration costs for the town hall would be considerably less, possibly as low as \$50 to \$60 for the same area. He said that the taxpayers may have to pay \$250,000 for the project if it is eventually accepted by

council, while the balance of the restoration costs would come from government grants, including assistance anticipated from the Ontario Heritage Foundation and the provincial culture and recreation ministry.

**SHORING UP**  
The fourth scenario in Kleinfeldt's package is the most expensive one, restoring the building for public use and maintaining its historical character. Other proposals for saving the town hall include shoring up the structure to prevent further decay while funds are raised for its complete restoration. Two scenarios, one proposing private office space in the building, don't concentrate on detailed historical restoration; a fifth scenario calls for historical restoration and private office space and a sixth option proposes demolition, the building's original fate when it was condemned in 1973.

**MAIN FLOOR**  
In the fourth scenario, the building is described as a community resource centre, the main floor possibly being used as public office space. The upper floor would retain its traditional role as an open meeting place-common hall.

If the town accepts this proposal - or any of the other restoration proposals - it will have to plan the building's management and arrange for additional parking in the area. Acton Coun. Ross Knechtel told council that the town will likely recover the costs of the building from additional benefits the restoration brings to the community, like more development and redevelopment. He said that a restored town hall will keep the industrial and commercial tax base "healthy" and help the community grow.

Kleinfeldt reps Dr. Bob Graham and structural analyst

## Fourth Line's gravel plan approved

Fourth Line residents living near three wayside pits soon to be mined for gravel bound for Highway 401 reconstruction have reluctantly agreed to conditions concerning the pits' operations.

During Monday night's town council meeting, residents expressed concern that their privacy and peace was being invaded by the opening of the pits just north of Sideroad 17. Although the conditions for the pits stipulate that crushing operations will not be carried out after 8 p.m., the town agreed to try and get an earlier daily closing time.

Trucks will be allowed to haul gravel out between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. and will move south from the pits to Sideroad 17, eventually linking up with

Trafalgar Road. Councillors Russ Miller and George Maltby assured residents that the crushing operations will only continue for a brief period once the pits are opened.

The province's ministry of transportation and communications needs 300,000 tons of various gravel grades from the three pits for road repairs on the highway around the James Snow Parkway interchange and a short stretch west of Trafalgar Road. Gravel hauling will be done by private contractors.

Meanwhile, the ministry has agreed to subsidize road repairs along the Fourth Line-Sideroad 17 hauling route. The town has proposed raising its share of the costs by imposing a per ton royalty when it issues the wayside pit permits.

## Landawn protests plaza restrictions in Acton BIA among study's options

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
Herald Staff Writer

A last minute protest against some of the recommendations in the recently-completed Acton Core Area study failed to stop council Monday night from taking initial steps to securing the futures of the Acton and Georgetown downtown business communities.

Representing Landawn Shopping Centres Ltd., the company which wants to build a commercial plaza in Acton's east end, lawyer Jeffrey Goldenberg failed to have council revise sections of the core study which specifically oppose shopping centres on the community's fringes.

Instead, consultants for the downtown core studies, Walker Wright Young Associates of Toronto, have stressed in their report that supermarket facilities belong in Acton's downtown centre and that such development on its boundaries could be disastrous for Main-

Street merchants. Statements in the study regarding shopping centre development in Acton and Georgetown are intentionally meant to warn council about the threat, consultant chief Peter Walker told council.

"(The statements) are definitely intended to prevent the development of the Landawn proposal outside Acton," he said, adding that the market for additional grocery facilities doesn't exist in the community, according to his firm's study.

Revisions requested by Mr. Goldenberg on behalf of his client, Mr. Walker said, "are in no way minor in the Acton context."

Mr. Goldenberg maintained that the future of the Landawn proposal rests in the outcome of the Urban Area Review, scheduled for release last (Tuesday) night. The shopping centre project has been planned for the southeast corner of

Highway 7 and Churchill Road abutting the community's urban boundary, but has been unable to proceed until the review has determined Acton's capacity to treat sewage from additional development.

Landawn's Jerry Sprackman unveiled a scaled-down shopping centre proposal to the town's planning board last May, trimming off over half the original plan's 90,000 square feet. Zehr's Foodstores Ltd. was still interested in coming to Acton, he told the board, despite the six-year wait.

Planning policies suggested for the core areas have been sent to the town's official plan task force for review before they are included in the proposed plan.

Mr. Goldenberg reiterated earlier statements made by Mr. Sprackman that a large shopping centre located outside Acton could benefit the community by drawing new trade. He pointed to Zehr's

VIAL OF LIFE  
MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE  
This is the Vial of Life. It could save your life. See pages A4 and D4.

locations in Alliston and Bolton as examples where the small community-oriented supermarket has successfully established itself apparently without adversely affecting these communities' downtown areas.

Meanwhile, guidelines changing the character and beautifying downtown Acton and Georgetown have been approved by council. Proposals include ways of enhancing Acton's historical Leathertown flavor and strategically placing trees and shrubs to break up building drabness in both business communities.

Municipal planning staffers will also start preparing applications for funding from the provincial government for the downtown core changes under Ontario's Main Street Revitalization program. The applications must be approved by council before the end of this provincial fiscal year in March.



## WORTH A CHUCKLE

Five-year old Greg Taylor and his sister, Devina, eleven months, seem to be enjoying themselves in the Georgetown District High School's art gallery. The pair started by Friday to view the

special exhibit of political cartoons by local editorial cartoonists Greg Landry of The Herald. The display will remain at the library until Jan. 9.

## Jury advice correct, boy's mother agrees

While bearing no malice toward any party, the mother of the two-year old Acton boy whose drowning Oct. 20 was the subject of a coroner's inquest last week is happy with the inquest's recommendations.

Following the inquest in the town's Trafalgar Road headquarters last Tuesday night, a jury of four recommended that the shallow pond off Main Street South where young Derek Jones drowned should immediately be fenced in or drained.

"It's so easy to get to," Louise Jones, 26, told The Herald. "It's in everybody's backyard."

Mrs. Jones, who said she had earlier caught Derek playing near the pond, not far from their Kingham Road home, and punished him accordingly, said she would prefer to see the pond drained, although erecting a fence between the pond property, part of a horse stable and track operation run by Don Campbell, and the nearby housing subdivision would be her own second choice.

"I know kids play there all the time in the summer," she commented. "Even now they're still playing there. If nothing's done, it'll happen again."

The jury's recommendations are being considered by town council, blamed in the inquest for failing to have the fence erected, and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, which will determine whether the Campbell farm pond should be drained.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy told The Herald he agrees that the municipality was to blame for not requiring a fence. The municipality had insisted only that a fence be built between the housing development and Fairview Cemetery.

The mayor said the town will make a decision in a couple of weeks about the coroner's inquest recommendations. "I think it's a very valid concern," Mayor Pomeroy said. "I need to read the coroner's report and talk about it with council."

recommended that the Conservation Authority should ensure the pond and neighboring swamp area are properly drained by maintaining proper ditches and culverts, and also making a gradual slope to the pond.

Mike Brewes, an engineering technologist with the Authority who testified at the inquest that the area was a wetland area, said last week he didn't know what kind of drainage system there is on the property belonging to Don Campbell.

Mr. Brewes said if the culverts are on the road allowance, they are the responsibility of the property owner. Mr. Campbell said he had put them in to keep the pond down.

As for filling in the pond, a move about which Mr. Campbell had no objections during his testimony, Mr. Brewes said an application to fill it would have to be made by Mr. Campbell to the Authority, which would then assess the environmental effects of such a move.



## BURIED TREASURE

A massive clean-up last week of the Georgetown District High School vault unearthed valuable records from 1887, when the school was first opened. With an initial enrolment of 78 students, the high school has come a long way; it now has 1,725 students. Principal Don Baker (left) is thrilled with the finds, being a history buff. Among them are commencement programs from 1916 and 1937, minutes of the first meeting of the board of high school trustees, a book recording principal's expenses, and books from 1917 to 1956 recording students' marks in neat handwritten columns. Business teacher Bob McMenemy blushed when he found records of his own student efforts from years gone by. The Herald will be looking into the history of GDHS in a later issue.

(Herald photo)