

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HANS

There was a birthday celebration downstairs at the children's library in the library-cultural centre Friday night. Youngsters gathered to honor one of their favorite writers, Hans Christian Andersen, who was born 17" years eartler in Denmark. Surrounded by a tall castle wall and decorated with symbols

from Andersen's fairy tales, the cake with candles proved to be

the highlight of the evening. The writer died in 1875 and left behind such timeless works as "The Ugly Duckling", "The Brave Tin Soldler" and "The Little Mermald".

"(Herald photo)

Dominion Hotel murder trial finally draws to a close

planned for Acton's Memorial at the Halton Hills Library-

Four weeks after it began, the trial of two Acton men charged with murder in connection with the 1979 Dominion Hotel Fire was expected to end yesterday (Tuesday) as The

Herald went to press. Following a lengthy charge by Mr. Justice Coulter Osbourne which began Friday. the 12-member jury retired to consider its verdict and ad-

Continued from page A1

owing easier access for disabl-

hall. A wheelchair ramp is ing a theatre manager's office

ed residents to the upstairs

journed for supper and an evening's break. They resumed deliberations yesterday

Charged are Domission Hotel owner Cosimo Mercuri, 43, and one of his employees, Michael McCrystal, 49. A resident of the Main Street, Acton, hotel, 58-year old Howard Gibbons, died in the Aug. 19, 1979, fire. Lack of evidence prompted

-\$5,000 will be spend build-

Justice Osborne to order the jury to find a third defendant, Leonard Cripps, 59, not guilty

Ending his summation Friday, crown allorney Paul Stunt said that while he recommends a verdict of second degree murder as charged against Mr. McCrystal, the jury might also choose a verdict of manslaughter in his

Cultural Centre. The town will

also purchase a plano and a

projector for the John Elliott

-with a \$2,500 subsidy from

the province and \$7,500 of the

There was only one note of

concern raised about the bud-

get. Acton regional Coun, Dave

sort of excilement," she says, "but not involve the

same amount of organization

Furthermore, she feels many people seem to prefer greyhound racing to horse

"We'll be looking for spon-

sors for our races." explains

Mrs. Gosling. "We're hopeful

that interested firms will

come forward to sponsor one

or more races. In this way, it

would help to offset some of the expense involved in stag-

At the meeting of the Fair

Board, it was announced that a new midway will be at the

fair this year. A contract was

signed in February with

Mississauga Amusements to bring their rides and midway

to the fair. The midway that

has been in attendance for

several years now could not

continue, as the new fair

dates in September coincided

with another commitment.

ing the greyhound races."

Greyhounds?

a \$12,000 facelift.

and expense,"

For Mr. Mercuri, however, no such option is possible, Mr. Stunt said. If the jury finds the hotel owner guilty of arson, as the crown has charged, Canadian law automatically finds him guilty of second degree

carry the same life sentence,

All murder convictions Continued on page A10

Town holds the budget line

quito spraying program in his community had been deleted Coun. Levy maintained that the program is a regional concern; however, he assured

have not been settled.

ions for which we don't have answers," Coun. Levy argued. "The offer we have is far too nebulous. The only answer we have now is to demolish the

Expressing disbelief at council's decision, Actario chairman Ted Tyler, one of the architects of the proposal, told

council that there are "certtown's money, work crews will renovate Norval's community ain avenues open to us" and the program will be looked at centre. Georgetown's outdoor public swimming pool will get

by the town if problems arise. Councillors will review the town's five-year budget forecase within the next couple of building."





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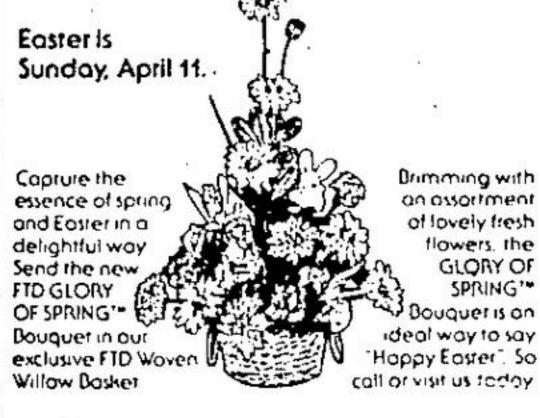
Scottish Rolls

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BOOK BUFFS!

There wasn't an inch of space to spare in the basement of Georgetown's Knox Presbyterian Church Saturday as the Georgetown University Women's Club held its annual book sale. It provided an excellent opportunity for seven and a half-year old Amy Gordon (left) and Christine Stites, 10, to fill their own book shelves, preparing for a rainy day armchair browse. Sales totalled \$1,800 for the club and the money will be used to finance community projects and scholarships for local students. (Herald photo)

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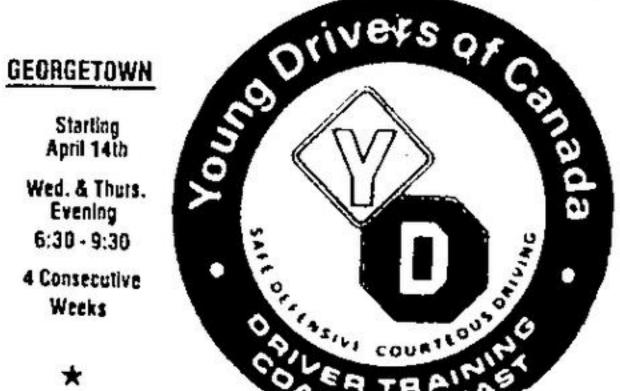


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Council okays demolition but opponents may not give up yet

are ready to give up the fight;

might take until the organiza-

tions involved have had a

chance to review the decision.

unoccupied since 1974, [und-

raising efforts to have the hall

restored have continued for

five years. Actario, a local

lottery corporation, was

founded to raise money for the

project. The town spent \$11,000

last fall to present various

restoration scenarios and their

Council rejected a restora-

tion scheme which have seen

municipal funds used to re-

furbish the building. The resto-

ration scenarios estimated

costs around \$400,000 of which

the town would pay about half.

There were several grant pro-

grams from which funds could

be drawn if the municipality

was involved with the resto-

on their own, the restoration

committee and Actario had

hoped to combine the amount

with the \$34,000 left over from

the original \$40,000 which the

town committed towards the

building's demolition five

Mr. Tyler told council he

believed the combined funds of almost \$80,000 "would carry us

a long way" towards refur-

bishing the building, meeting

safety standards outlined by

the province. Volunteers working on the building would

contribute to the costs saving.

six-month time limit as out-

lined in the proposed pur-

chase agreement to bring the

building up to proper stand-

ards was restrictive, he

Although he said he felt the

years ago.

Having raised about \$45,000

While the building has been

Thumbs down on town hall

By CHRIS AAGAARD Herald Staff Writer

There is little hope left that Acton's century-old town hall building will ever become a thriving landmark to the community's heritage following town council's decision Monday night to tear down the structure. Some Actonians, however, may still try to save

Backed by the Actario organization and the town half restoration committee. Acton councittors Terry Grubbe. Dave Whiting and Ross Knechtel failed to persuade council to sell the building for

Tenders for the purchase of the building closed Thursday and the \$1 scheme proposed by Actario and the restoration committee was the only offer made for the building.

Eventually drafted into a council recommendation, the proposal called on the town to sell the building to a "nonprofit, non-share corporation" providing that the legal requirements surrounding the sale were met and that the town would have the option of buying back the hall for the same price after it had been restored to provincial fire and building codes' standards.

The draft purchase agree-ment stressed that the building's outer facade must be restored to its historical character and stated that work necessary to bring the building up to safety standards must be completed in six months.

But with a majority of councillors expressing doubt that restoration proponents would find the money to pay even for the exterior work, council voted 7-5 against the sale and later endorsed a motion calling for the building to be torn down to make way for a municipal parking lot.

Coun. George Maliby was absent from the meeting which saw councillors Walter Biehn, Mike Armstrong, Pam Sheldon, Harry Levy, John McDonald, Marilyn Serjeantson and Russ Miller oppose the sale. Georgetown regional Coun. Roy Booth joined Mayor Pete Pomeroy and councillors Grubbe, Knechtel and Whiting to support the proposal.

Details of the demolition

"There are so many quest-

reporters later he didn't think

expressed hope that the restorproponents of the restoration ation groups would find a but he declined to give details long-term tenant for the half of what further action they by the end of the year. Mr. Tyler joined Acton coun-

cillors in arguing that the building would be an inexpensive solution to the town's shortage of office space for government services in Acton.

this isn't doing this with the hope of getting reward or great

"The group involved with

downtown area.

have to find more suitable quarters for town and regional

mind that we will eventually

personal benefit," Coun.

Knechtel said. "It's not a

scheme to shaft the town but

an honest attempt to put in

Acton a centre or focus for the

"There's no question in my

"People have a 'wait and see' attitude right now," Mr.

ahead (for the \$1 sale), money would start to flow again." In another motion, council instructed town stall to continue looking into the possibility of buying Acton's "old stone school", a bullding near the community's library which is structurally sounder than the hall and seen as an

alternative site for a commu-

nity hall in downtown Acton.

Tyler said. "If we got the Ro

"Will my guinea pig like Calgary?"

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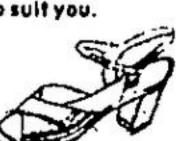
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