



The Scouting movement isn't often associated with driving skills, but North Halton District Scouters Club closed its 1981-82 season the week before last with a car rally that took them from the Limehouse Memorial Hall to the home of Bob and Sheila Foster at Regional Road 3 and Sideroad 27. District Commissioner John Sharples, Mike and Pat Hildeley and Mark and Kelly Rowe all tied for first place after completing the route by following a series of pre-arranged clues. Others participating were Gord Smith, Al Johnson, Dawn Lockhart and Evelyn Owen.

(Photo by Jean Layman)

SCOUTS' END-OF-SEASON ACTIVITIES

Parents find themselves agreeing to all manner of strange activities when they attend their children's Scouting meets. George Henderson, for example, ended up temporarily handicapped for the Blindfolded Rope Walk at Ebor Park in the Blue Springs Scout Reserve near Acton recently. Son Mark and Ed Weston led Mr. Henderson through the walk, one of dozens of fun activities at the weekend North Halton District camp that attracted 175 area Beavers, along with parents and leaders. Acton's Sue Walton, as camp chief, had arranged a full roster of games and events, from nature trail hiking to the tug of war.

Procedural wrangle angers councillors

Acton hall issue has town in 'quicksand'

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

The town's general committee apparently had no choice last week when it requested an independent review board's recommendations on the future of the former Acton town hall.

Clerk-administrator Ken Richardson confirmed that under the rules of the provincial Heritage Act, the town is obliged to plead its case for removing the building's historical designation before a conservation review board and submit all objections to the plan.

Therefore, councillors agreed, a resolution endorsing last week's committee decision would be "redundant" and unnecessary.

However, council decided the town should attend the hearings, which are as yet uncheduled, because, Mr. Richardson said, the board operates quasi-judicially. The town does not have to follow the recommendations of the board, which is set up under provisions of the Act.

Councillors want the historical designation on the 100-year old hall removed, a first step toward demolishing it to make way for a proposed eight-car parking lot.

One councillor blamed Mr. Richardson for the confusion.

"I came here tonight thinking we still had a decision to make," Coun. Miller said. "It upsets me that we are now so far down the road that money has to be wasted. We seem to be in quicksand; every time we take a step further, we get deeper and deeper into the mire, we keep bumbling along spending money, spending money."

Following advice from the province, the town advertised its intention to remove the historical designation from the building, Mr. Richardson explained, allowing people time to respond within 30 days.

Had the town simply

announced its intention to demolish the building (under the Act) and not received any objections, it would not have to proceed with a hearing.

Committee members were morally obligated to hold a hearing.

Last week, Acton lawyer Gord Chapman, hired by the community's Actario and town hall restoration committee, argued that the advertisements led people to believe there would be some type of "appeal" process, citing regulations under Section 29 of the Act which call for a hearing under certain circumstances.

Committee members were morally obligated to hold a hearing.

In a report to council, Mr. Richardson said it is difficult to determine how much the hearing process will cost the town. He told Coun. Mike Armstrong that the town would likely have to rent space to hold the hearing in Acton and

costs will be incurred if it calls in legal help and expert witnesses from consulting firms familiar with Acton's downtown core and the town hall itself.

While he has objected to the hearing and maintained that the hall should be torn down, Coun. Armstrong voted in favor of sending witnesses and getting legal help to support the town's case.

Acton Coun. Russ Knechtel pointed out that a lot of his constituents have raised money for the hall's restoration and are interested in keeping up the fight to preserve it.

"You cannot ignore the feelings of the people in Acton," he said. "It would be quite wrong not to have this hearing."

Mayor Pete Pomeroy, a proponent of the town hall's restoration, added later, "The hearing is proper and yes, it is going to cost a few dollars."

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Roads in better shape under county, driver says

Ronald Sykes, an RR2 Georgetown resident, says that local and regional roads aren't as well maintained these days as they were when Halton was administered under county government.

During council's meeting last week, he charged that the town has done little to correct a pot-hole problem on Sideroad 5 and complained that the Ninth

Line—a regional road—is in rough shape, as well.

Mr. Sykes claimed that at one Sideroad 5 location, traffic has widened a pot-hole to a few feet in diameter and several inches deep. He wanted to know why the town appeared to be taking so long to repair the damage.

Deputy engineer Ted Ballinger told council that no one had drawn the Side-

road 5 problem to the attention of the town's public works department and assured Mr. Sykes that the roads are regularly inspected. He said that the wide pot-hole Mr. Sykes described must have formed "very quickly", and said he travels over the road frequently and the "pot-holes were not that apparent".

and if some of the patches can't bear up to heavy traffic, Mr. Ballinger said, the works department may have to do more extensive asphaltting in some areas.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy said he was surprised that no one has called prior to Mr. Sykes' complaint, noting that the town relies considerably on public referrals to road problems.

Miller budget grant creates local jobs

Plans are underway in the town's treasury department to create jobs by taking advantage of a grant recently made available through the provincial housing and municipal affairs ministry.

While full details on how Halton Hills will use the money—it can apply for as much as \$26,375—town treasurer Ray King told The Herald last Wednesday that the funds may cover labor costs if the town has to make structural repairs to the Acton and Georgetown arenas.

A report on the grants is expected to be presented to council shortly, he said, adding that until the town receives tender bids from contractors, it won't know how much labor costs will be.

Halton Hills can share in 4-H club

By SCOTT PARSONS
Herald Staff Writer

The second Halton 4-H Poultry Club meeting was held May 25 at the Agricultural office.

The meeting was opened by John McPhail with the 4-H pledge. Marilyn Bird took the attendance and read the minutes of the previous meeting. John McPhail turned the meeting over to the leaders.

Leader Jim McPhail asked what the mortality rate of our birds was. The average was one chicken. He also discussed how the aggressive breeds should be separated—cockerels from the pullets. We discussed where we should hold our meetings. Suggestions were U.C.O. Feed Mill and the University of Guelph.

The club leaders told us that we would have to have records on how much they eat and the chickens should be put outside in a yard for exercise. At the next meeting we will be judging chickens.

\$262,550 which has been allocated to Halton. As part of the May 13 provincial budget, some funds were set aside for municipalities to repair town-owned buildings. Treasurer Frank Miller's overall advanced capital works program contained \$171 million, \$35 million of which has been allocated to the housing ministry to use in its "Ontario Municipal Employment Program".

In order to conform to the program, the work for which the town can use the provincial money must not have already been planned in the town's capital works budget. There will be no commitment to the program until council has

endorsed the arena proposal.

Council is concerned that the province's labor ministry might close the two arenas unless they pass more stringent guidelines under the revised Building Code.

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