

Acton's old town hall rises again

Ottawa provides stay of execution with \$134,000 job creation offer

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald Special
A surprise witness at a hearing on whether the old Acton town hall should be preserved may have provided the solution council and hall restoration supporters have sought for five years.

Anne Campisi, a project officer with Employment and Immigration Canada, testified last Wednesday that an application by the town hall restoration committee and the Actario fundraising committee for a \$133,720 grant under the federal government's recently announced NEED job creation program has been approved subject to two conditions.

The sponsors must get legal ownership of the building and they must meet federal criteria on an ongoing basis. Ms. Campisi said.

The hearing results which reached Actario committee chairman Ted Tyler Tuesday morning recommended that the town not withdraw the historical status given to the old town hall under a municipal bylaw passed in 1977.

Mr. Tyler, who said his group feels "very good" about the decision, added that the restoration committee will try to convince council shortly to legally make them the sponsors of the building's future.

The hearing board's decision is not binding on the municipality which may yet decide to tear down the building.

The money is available under the government's special response feature program, she said, and will create jobs for 10 people for up to a year. In addition to \$300 per week manager's salary, workers will receive \$180 per week and an additional \$50 per week per employee is provided which can be used for employee benefits and overhead costs. That \$50 per week can be used to supply materials the employees will use on the project, she said, although the program's main aim is to offset wages of employees.



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ABOUT THE HILLS

Three sentenced

Three area youths have been placed on two years' probation for shooting a pellet gun at cars in Milton. Judge Douglas Latimer also ordered the youths, the youngest of whom lives in RR4 Acton and the others near Rockwood and Moffat, to pay \$790 in restitution, avoid alcohol, guns and each other and to perform 100 hours of community work. The young men had shot out a number of car headlights and a house window and damaged car door locks. The licence number of the car they were driving was noted and reported to police.

Indecent act

A Huttonville man was charged with committing an indecent act last Wednesday and is scheduled to appear in Milton provincial court Jan. 10. The man was observed following young female shoppers in the Georgetown Market Place Zellers store. Store security officers spotted the man and called police as a result of his actions while following the girls.

Pre-Christmas CBC

Norman Elson, custodian of the Georgetown public library's "CBC" (Coffee, Books and Conversation), invites one and all to a special pre-Christmas get-together this Friday at the library. The every-Friday casual club won't be meeting Dec. 24 or 31, so try and drop by for some seasonal greetings this week.

Joins library board

Deborah Scott was appointed Thursday night to a three-year term on the Halton Hills public library board. The RR4 Georgetown resident holds a degree in English and library science. Most recently, she completed a four-year stint as head librarian at Oakville's Woodside public library. Prior to that, she held several librarian positions in business and education with the consulting engineering firm of Randell, Palmer and Tritton in London, England, then as librarian at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and also with the East York public library. The position is effective Jan. 1. Each year the Halton school board appoints a member for a three-year term to each public library board in the region.

A Christmas treat for you

Inside today's issue The Herald has a special Christmas treat in store for its readers. Soon to become a regular feature, The Herald's Family Section makes its debut, featuring Legion Lines, Community News, service club news, special features and much, much more. Call it a little Christmas gift from us to you.



SIGNING ON

Halton Hills' John McDonald (right) officially assumed his regional council duties for Georgetown's Ward 3 last Wednesday. He was sworn into office by provincial court Judge John Robinson and is the newest member of the Halton Hills regional team which includes Mayor Pete Pomeroy, Mike Armstrong, Russ Miller and Dave Whiting. Coun. McDonald, formerly local council rep for Ward 3, replaces retired Roy Booth. (Herald photo)

Over 300 descend on school board to prompt renewed contract talks

Halton teachers grow impatient



SEASONAL SURPRISE

Six-year old Julie Robertson (left) and Emily Hanson, 7, of the 13th Georgetown Brownie pack found a nice surprise in the children's library Saturday after they'd enjoyed the Georgetown Little Theatre's and Peel Panto Players' "Hickory Dickory Dock" upstairs. Who should be waiting to hear their Christmas wishes but Santa Claus himself, enthroned downstairs at the public library thanks to the Rotary Club and Gary Kirkpatrick of the Georgetown Squash Club. Santa will be there again this Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m. In case you want to get some last minute gift ideas to him, Alas, "Hickory Dickory Dock" will not; the traditional Christmas pantomime finished a successful run after a series of performances at the Lester Pearson and John Elliott Theatres. (Herald photo by Paul Dorsey)

By ANI FEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

The parking lot was packed, giving the first clue that something special was up at the Thursday night Halton board of education meeting.

Inside, the hallway and the Burlington board chambers were crowded with over 300 men and women sporting black and white "Negotiate Now" buttons.

"Teachers aren't willing to keep quiet. We're getting tired of doing that on and on while the board continues to stall and not come forward to the table," Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) president Joe Harwood complained Thursday night. "Teachers are becoming bitter and angry."

Negotiations between the board and its 2,448 teachers began last spring.

A fact finder was appointed and his report released Dec. 1.

According to fact finder Doug Belch's report, the board wants a two-year contract and has offered salary increases of eight and a half per cent. Teachers want a 13.12 per cent increase and a one-year contract.

Mr. Belch has recommended a one-year contract with a nine per cent increase for teachers, principals, vice-principals and co-ordinators.

Mr. Harwood accused the board of "deliberately stalling" and said that if the no meetings between the two groups are convened, "teachers will protest in their own way."

He declined to comment on how teachers would protest, but did say he expected they would be "far less polite after Christmas."

"I deliberately asked

my people to remain quiet, and if there's another demonstration, there won't be any rules for their conduct," Mr. Harwood warned.

Teachers want to have an agreement before the end of the year, he said.

Usually teachers' contract negotiations are concluded by September. The board has blamed this year's delays on the

November election which brought seven new trustees on the board, and to the provincial government's Bill 179. The new bill proposes wage increases of "nine and five", and is not yet law.

It's expected the board will be meeting with teachers' representatives this week, following the striking up of board committees Thursday night.

Only slight alterations in recount

There will be no change in Ward 3's (Georgetown) representation on local council as a result of Thursday's vote recount.

County court Judge James Carnwath, who ruled three weeks ago that a recount was justified on the basis of candidate Jim Akers' arguments that there was confusion when votes were tabulated, presided at the recount held at the town's Trafalgar Road offices.

The count, which started in the morning, stretched into the afternoon and when it was over, Judge Carnwath had found 15 votes not tabulated before.

Phil Carney, the candidate who edged Mr. Akers for one of the two council seats in the ward, lost three votes in the recount, down to 1,210 from 1,213. Coun. Finn Poulstrup picked up eight votes, bringing his total from 1,228 originally to 1,236. Mr. Akers dropped one vote from 1,175.

Jim Young, a former Georgetown local politician, picked up the most votes in the recount, moving up to 1,004 from 993. Dave Barrager's 662 votes were unchanged.

Earlier, Mr. Akers stressed that he was calling for a recount not so much to gain votes as to assure constituents that the count was conducted properly. Problems in the counting, he said in his petition to county court, arose from questions about what constitutes a spoiled ballot.

Sidestreets will have to wait

Economic crunch forces snow clearance cutbacks

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Halton Hills residents will have to put up with a decrease in snow clearing by the town as the public works department struggles to keep costs down.

In a report adopted by general committee members Monday night, town engineer Bob Austin said "levels of service respecting snowplowing and snow removal cannot be etched in stone" and advised

committee members to use the report as a measure of what residents can expect this winter.

"What must come of this is an understanding of service to be provided," Mr. Austin said in his report. "Due to the economic climate, I suggest it is necessary to decrease service... in portions of the town."

Winter maintenance budgets have risen from \$154,000 in 1976 to \$207,700

in 1982 (although because of last year's heavy snowfalls, actual cost to the town was \$211,622 by the end of last month).

Traditionally, snowplows start rolling on major arteries when the accumulation reaches two inches, and side streets are cleared at three inches.

In order to cut down on overtime costs, the department will end shifts at regular times depending on snowfall accumulation, once all the main thoroughfares have been cleared.

Mr. Austin acknowledged that some of the residential side-streets may have to wait for snowplow service, but added that this policy is flexible, allowing management to call for overtime work if conditions prove especially hazardous.

A "reversible" snowplow will see service for the first time this year on residential cul-de-sacs, pushing the snow to the centre of the road.

Last year, Mr. Austin changed a long-standing snowplowing policy which had snowplows on cul-de-sacs driving against traffic in order to move snow to the median. When plows started clearing roads, pushing snow into driveways, cul-de-sac residents complained to council.

Other snowplowing and clearing policies state that: snow removal after

the plows have been through will take place in the Acton and Georgetown areas. (Continued on page A8)



A woolly red hat caught the eye of Herald Ballinacord correspondent Winifred Smith (left) Tuesday afternoon while she was browsing among the goods at a joint bazaar being held by the Georgetown Cancer Society and the YMCA's Blue Triangle Club. Showing off Mr. and Mrs. Snowman for interested shoppers, Florrie Alcott of Georgetown's Durham Street seniors' residence

YULETIDE BARGAINS



she made the two figures from tall juice cans and quilt batting. Held at the Y's hall on Mountainview Road South, the bazaars brought out a good turnout of Christmas shoppers who also stayed for tea and munchies. (Herald photos by Ani Pedertan)

Turn on your Yule lights for seniors' tour