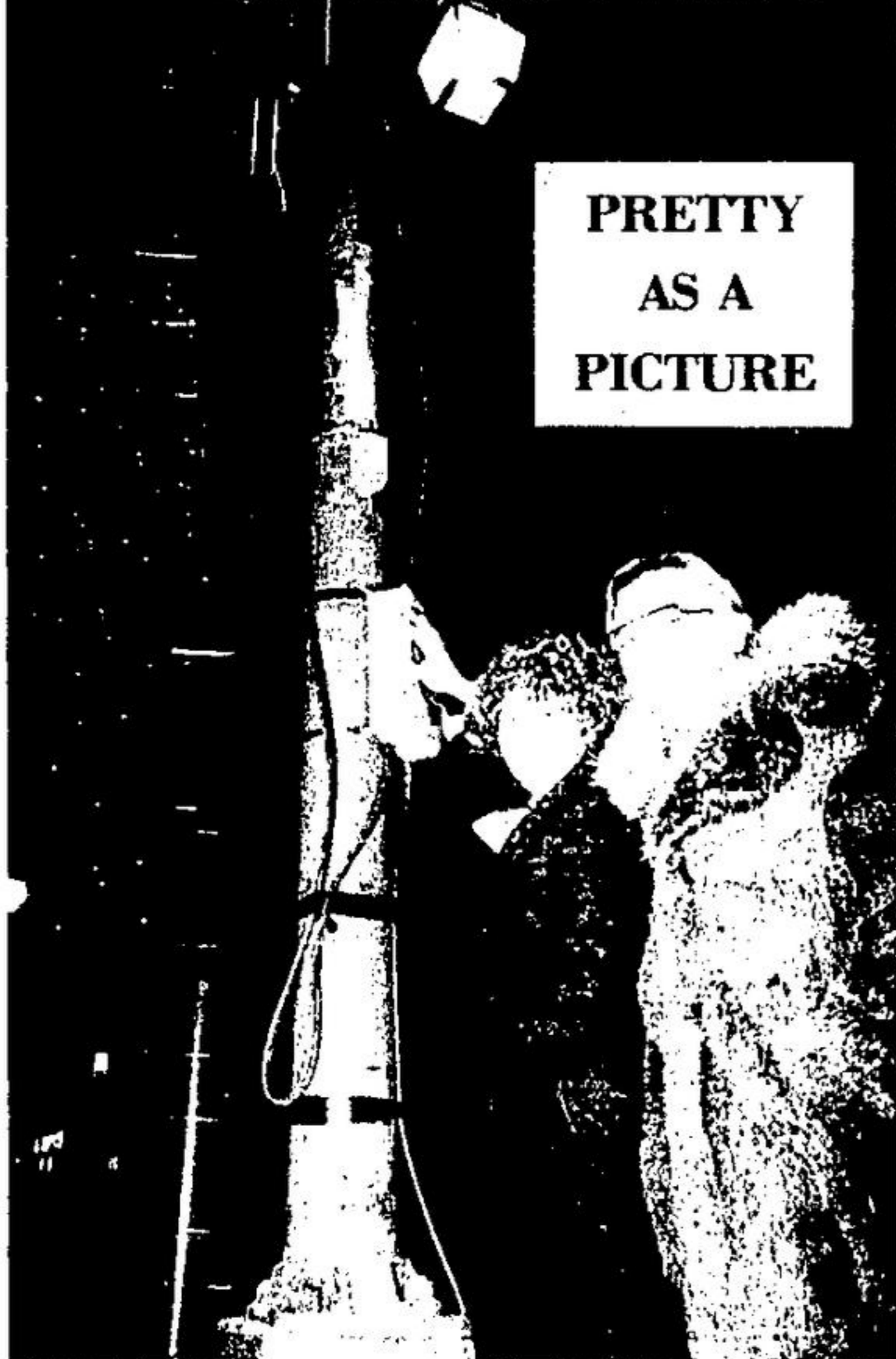


Can Ottawa save town hall?



PRETTY AS A PICTURE

Continued from page A1
anticipate making \$5,000 from the Actario Lottery, \$4,000 from a proposed Leathertown market ciderfest in August and \$1,000 from a New Year's Eve party in 1983.

Ms. Campisi said she had, in consultation with a representative of the municipality, concerns about the grant application but refused to disclose the identity of her confidant.

If the Ontario Heritage Foundation provided grants to the project, some federal money might be lost. Ms. Campisi said it would all depend on whether the project's proposed costs were accurate. If they were, then the grant would be cut back so that the proposed total was equalled but there is no surplus.

If the project cost more than anticipated then the Heritage grant could be used to offset that extra cost and the federal grant would not be reduced.

Although the grant seems to solve the question of how to fund the restoration of Acton's century-old former town hall without using municipal taxes, it really wasn't the sort of information Ontario Heritage Conservancy Review Board officers sought at last Wednesday's hearing.

Board officer K.J. Levison interrupted witnesses late in the hearing to say that while financial matters might be at the heart of the issue for politicians, for board purposes all that matters is the building's historical significance and information related to that history.

The hearing officers will complete their written report as fast as possible to give council and the restoration group time to get the matter solved before the federal grant expires.

Mr. Levison and hearing officer William Bennett said they would try to act rapidly so that any action necessary as a result of their decision could be carried out before the Feb. 25 deadline.

The board heard 17 witnesses present a variety of historical and financial information about the brick hall at the corner of Willow and Bower Streets.

The question of a project's cost and how it is completed is not of importance to the hearing, Mr. Bennett warned restoration committee lawyer Gordon Chapman.

Town lawyer Tom Anderson took issue with a statement in Mr. Chapman's summation pointing out that in enacting the Ontario Heritage Act the government didn't limit the issue to a building's historical significance.

Mr. Anderson felt the board must look at whether council made a real effort to consult with interested parties before deciding to repeal a historical designation and pave the way for the building's demolition.

The dialogue between the restoration committee and council was definitely public input, Mr. Anderson said. The second study on the hall's feasibility showed there

was no great demand for another facility in Acton.

Even the restoration committee acknowledged that a restored hall can't be operated economically without some public money, he said. The fact the committee has had no great success raising money even after it had a long fundraising period indicates the community is split on the question.

Council has never disputed the hall's historical

significance but that is only the first issue. The board should examine the way council's decision to raze the hall was reached. In the council's view factors influencing that decision had merit, Mr. Anderson said.

Town witnesses clerk-administrator Ken Richardson, deputy-clerk Delmar French and recreation director Tom Sheppard outlined the political history of why the

town agreed to let the restoration committee try to save the building five years ago and all the ensuing problems in the project.

Restoration committee chairman George Elliott and committee members Alice Duby and Tracey Tyler, presented information on the hall's history over the last century.

Actario, the restoration committee's fundraising partner, was represented by chairman Ted Tyler, who outlined numerous Acton community efforts. Mayor Peter Pomeroy expressed his personal support of the hall's restoration.

Contractor Doug Fread explained how the project could be phased over several years as funds became available to do the work.

—Courtesy Guelph Mercury

Letter to newspaper caused flurry of activity

Herald Special
The NEED grant, with which the town hall restoration committee intends to finance their work, resulted from the committee chairman's letter to a Toronto newspaper.

Ted Tyler, who heads the Actario Lottery committee, said Ann Campisi, project officer with the Toronto office of Employment and Immigration Canada contacted the group after she read George Elliott's letter to the editor in the Globe and Mail.

As a project officer for Halton, Ms. Campisi is expected to find ways to implement the federal government's new program of job creation in her area. She learned of the hall group's plight through the letter and suggested to Mr. Elliott that together they might be able to work something out.

Mr. Tyler met her at her office and the race was on to get a workable project put together for Ottawa's approval. The race took an amazing nine

days and Mr. Tyler is still breathless at the speed with which their goal was achieved.

"She was interested in Acton because there is a definite need here to assist people whose unemployment insurance benefits have expired," Mr. Tyler said. "She told me funds were available if jobs could be created, so we sat down and worked out the project."

"I believe we submitted the application on the Monday (Nov. 29). She knew about the hearing and she said we'd have our grant by then. I didn't believe her. Governments just don't move that fast. But they did. I got the word Tuesday night (Dec. 7)."

Mr. Tyler insists no political strings were pulled to get approval. Ms. Campisi is the only person who helped the committee and although she did have a "municipal contact" that contact was with unofficial members of the community.

If you haven't yet put your finger on the added sparkle in downtown Georgetown, maybe you should take a closer look. New lights in the area were officially lit by outgoing Business Improvement Area chairman Lynn Barnard and Mayor Pete Pomeroy last Wednesday to officially launch the Christmas shopping season downtown and to commemorate the completion of initial downtown improvement projects. Lights were strung on new trees planted along the reconstructed Main Street median and old-fashioned style street lighting replaces the conventional highway lamps as part of a \$150,000 revitalization program sponsored by a loan from the provincial government. With the BIA's own special tax money and municipal funds, the loan has paid for several improvement projects on Main Street and left over funds will be used for improvement projects on Mill Street next year.

(Herald photo by Chris Anggaard)

Hunt for landfill continues

Town warned about quarry dumping

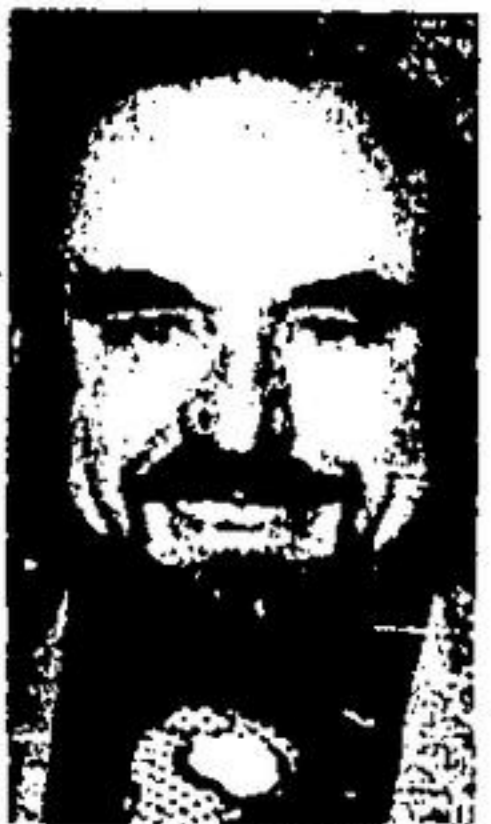
The town must be wary of any proposal to dump garbage in abandoned quarries, Milton Coun. Bill Johnson told Halton Hills general committee members Monday night.

Referring to statements made in the terms of reference for an Environmental Assessment Review of the region's landfill requirements, Coun. Johnson said councillors should oppose plans to use quarries for landfill sites

ted, is Site A, adjacent to the current Burlington dump. The privately-owned property is a former shale quarry and would have a leachate collection system to prevent pollution of nearby underground water supplies.

The current studies, carried out by Walker, Wright, Young and Associates, have not named preferred sites and are also looking at ways of reducing garbage going into landfill sites by encouraging recycling programs.

The question of a



BILL JOHNSON

in the north, because they don't have facilities to catch and transport liquid waste harmlessly to the sewage treatment centres.

The terms of reference which must examine all possible solutions to the landfill site dilemma in Halton, was prepared by a Toronto consulting firm and is the first step in a landfill site review conducted according to the terms of the province's Environmental Assessment Act (EAA).

Coun. Johnson, chairman of the region's planning and public works committee also called on councillors to oppose any proposal to turn 246 acres of agricultural land in Milton (Site F) into a landfill site, the region's prime choice before the province last year insisted that the garbage dump problem be resolved under the EAA.

Studies which led to the region's Site F choice and now subsequent research of other options under the EAA has pushed the bill for the region's landfill site search to about \$2.5 million, Coun. Johnson noted. The Oakville landfill site will be closed at the end of the month and the only remaining garbage dump used by the region, a Burlington site, will be filled and closed in March, 1984.

A strong contender for the new landfill site, if Site F is eventually rejected,

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