

Acton social centre may get home



Mariena Santos, 4, (left) and Jason Pacheco, 4, couldn't wait to get their hands on the fire equipment of the Georgetown fire hall last Wednesday. The members of the Recreation Department's lot program were treated to a tour of the equipment and talked about fire safety.

(Herald photo)

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald Special

Services and Information Centre the new home it wants in the renovated Acton town hall.

Members of the region's health and social services committee have recommended approval of the planned move after Coun. Dave Whiting dropped efforts to delay a decision.

... and security from region's decision

Herald Special

Acton's Social Service and Information Centre could be financially solvent by the end of the year if regional council supports a decision of its health and social services committee.

Committee members decided last week to grant the centre an additional \$7,300 for this year and to add that much to its base budget for next year.

Coun. Dave Whiting noted the centre has been forced to come back to regional council over the past several years seeking more money because its budget and grants have been too tight to meet its needs.

On each occasion, he said, the grant sought has been about the same amount.

He suggested giving the centre the amount in its base rather than trying to find a supplementary grant every year.

Lorne Doberthien, chairman of the centre's board of directors, said the region used to make its grant as a lump sum early in the year and ASSIC would invest the money and use the interest until the principle was required.

This extra income helped to avoid the shortfalls which have plagued the centre since the regional policy was changed to pay grants in quarterly installments.

Mr. Doberthien said ASSIC has approached all the service clubs and churches in Acton for donations and has become even more visible, leading to an increase in its workload.

Centre director Peggy Balkind said the centre staff has been busy this year because of its involvement in attempts to get increased services for the town.

She cited the opening of the day care service and the youth employment service as projects in which centre staff were involved. These services will help get unemployed people to work and cut welfare, but they also require staff hours and increase centre costs.

The centre used to be operated by one person. Now two staff members are required at all times.

The \$7,300 requested includes \$5,200 for the cost of actually moving the centre from its current office on Mill Street East to the Acton town hall.

Transferring telephone lines will cost \$1,200 in itself and the centre expects to spend \$2,000 on drapes, rugs and file cabinets, while an extra \$2,000 is set aside to put in walls to create small interview rooms.

Centre representatives were delighted with the committee's suggestion the \$7,300 be added to its base grant for 1986.

Centre as a neighbor.

Since the fire hall and the old town hall are attached structures the fire fighters were very involved with the hall's fate.

Coun. Whiting was also concerned regional and town staff had not met to try to decide on a location for the centre.

Coun. Whiting had tried to get the decision deferred to give town staff time to make a proposal for housing the centre at the Old Stone School.

Coun. Whiting said Halton Hills council was very concerned about parking problems at the town hall and also about how volunteer fire fighters would view the

opposed because they felt the location was wrong for the handicapped and elderly residents who use the facility.

Regional social services director Debbie Oakley said at a meeting with town staff and centre directors it is clear ASSIC is not prepared to move into the school so regional staff have recommended the town hall as a new location.

"Staff looked at both buildings," Ms. Oakley said. "I think the Stone School has excellent potential and would be quite happy to work with town staff and other users to put other programs into the building."

Coun. Whiting immediately suggested the town "see what else the school can be used for and get these (ASSIC) people a place to go."

ASSIC director Rev. Gerald Rennie said he saw no reason to delay a decision on the centre's new location.

The centre's board had investigated possible locations and decided the town hall would best meet its needs.

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller had indicated the town would support ASSIC's decision, Rev. Rennie said, so trying to renegotiate the question would be a wasted effort.

Courtesy Guelph Mercury

Two tenants for town hall?

ACTON - While nothing is official yet, the old town hall may already have two tenants seeking space when it re-opens this fall.

Ted Tyler, spokesman for Heritage Acton, said the Acton Social Service and Information Centre is very interested in renting space in the hall, and the heritage group is very interested in offering the centre a long-term, low-rent lease.

The hall was built by the people of Acton, Mr. Tyler said, and having as a tenant a centre which is a service to the community would be an excellent use of the building.

Mr. Tyler said the centre could have a long term lease at a very modest rate if it can get approval from the regional social services committee which provides much of its budget.

"We're not out to make money on the hall," Mr. Tyler said.

Courtesy Guelph Mercury

Family corn festival at farming museum

The golden days of summer play host to the Ontario Agricultural Museum's annual "Family Corn Festival". On Sunday, August 25, from 12 noon to 5 p.m., visitors are invited to enjoy the entertaining activities in celebration of a bountiful corn harvest.

The main attraction is freshly steamed corn-on-the-cob. A large steam engine cooks the corn with the husks on, sealing in all the fresh

grown flavour. Visitors can sink their teeth into this tempting treat as they enjoy the sights and sounds of square dancing, dixieland band music and demonstrations of corn husk doll and wreath making, corn husk pipes and much more.

In addition, the Museum's 32 hectare site features over 30 buildings and displays for the visitor to discover.

The Museum is located 5 km west of Milton, take

Highway 401 exit at 320 or 312 north. Admission is \$2.50 for adults, students \$1.50, children \$1, seniors \$1.25 and a family rate of \$6.

The Museum is open until October 14 daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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\$2,085 for NHAMR

From April 1 through June 30, 1985, the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded received \$2,085 in donations.

Some of the larger contributions came from Standard Products Ltd., 'Our People Fund' of the Bank of Montreal and P. Williams.

Some of the donations were earmarked for particular NHAMR projects. The balance were put into a capital fund which is used toward the costs of equipment and major expenditures.

Language training approved

Several North Halton families will be able to participate in a special language training program for their handicapped children this fall.

The program, called a Hanen Program - helps parents to help their handicapped children communicate.

It stresses the use of natural everyday conversation as an opportunity for the child to learn language.

The training is conducted in group sessions so that parents having similar problems can share information and experiences.

The parents applied for government funding for the program several months ago through the North Halton Association of the Mentally Retarded.

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