

Pool issue options considered

If the Halton Board of Education decides to close down all pools located in schools, the town of Halton Hills would have the option of suing the board to keep the pools in Halton Hills open, Mayor Russ Miller says.

"I would do everything in my power to ensure that the pools were kept open," Mayor Miller said.

"I would think that (suing the board) would probably be an option."

The town of Halton Hills paid \$364,000 to build the pool at Georgetown District High School in 1976. That money is being paid over a 20-year period ending in 1996.

The town also paid almost

\$200,000 of the total \$268,000 it cost to build the Acton pool in the early 1970s, said Mayor Miller.

The Acton Lions Club paid \$50,000, the former township of Esqueping paid \$15,000 and the former town of Acton paid \$5,000.

The agreement with the board, signed to cover the projected life of the pools (about 20 years), was that the board would not have to pay for installation of the pools, but that it would pay for maintenance for the life of the pools.

The Board of Education is now involved in a legal dispute with the town over the pool closing issue. The board is looking for a cost sharing agreement with area

municipalities to help offset what it says is a \$1 million a year cost for maintaining the pools.

"As far as I'm concerned we have a binding agreement between the board and the town for 20 years," Mayor Miller said.

"They got the pools for no cost to them at all. You can't just walk away from it."

The board also approached the town about a possible cost sharing agreement several years ago, said the Mayor.

"We're still paying debentures on the Georgetown pool. They knew there was a cost associated with it when they signed the agreement," he said.

New trail proposed

A multi-Regional effort is underway to establish a trail along the valley lands of the Credit River.

Coun. Joe Hewitt.

The town of Halton Hills jumped into the proposal Monday when councillors endorsed the idea of a trail and agreed to join a committee, comprised of representatives from municipalities through which the Credit River passes.

The idea of creating a Credit Valley trail was proposed by Peel Region last May.

Halton Hills has acquired several valley properties with options to lease and purchase others for public recreational uses, said Mr. Shynal.

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority will "chair" the committee, said Halton Hills parks superintendent Bryan Shynal.

"The valley lands of the Credit River and its tributaries (such as Silver Creek) are significant geographic features within the municipality and offer a very important resource of recreational opportunities to its residents," he said.

"I think this is probably the most exciting thing that's ever happened to the whole watershed," said

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Long touts new process

By BRIAN MacLEOD
Herald Staff

If the Progressive Conservative party adopts a new leadership voting process allowing all members to vote for their leader, all the other political parties will soon have to follow suit, PC party president Tom Long says.

"If we move to this system it is going to force the hand of a lot of political parties... to move to a similar process," Mr. Long told a handful of North Halton PC riding association members at the Acton Legion Wednesday.

Mr. Long, who admits he's likely to run for the leadership of the party, is canvassing the province in an attempt to convince local riding associations to support the new leadership process.

Under the new process, Mr. Long explained, all party members would get a chance to vote for their leader. Each of the province's 130 ridings would be given 100 electoral votes. In each riding, the total number of votes for a candidate would be calculated as a percentage of 100. The winner would be the candidate who garners 50 per cent plus one of the electoral votes.

Currently, each riding association elects 10 delegates who then vote for a party leader at a convention.

The concept of even representation from each riding is being maintained so that ridings from the north won't feel that their votes will be "overwhelmed" by the more populated southern ridings, said Mr. Long.

The PCs need the new leadership process to increase interest in the third place party, he said. "If there was ever a party that is in a position to take some risks, you're looking at it."

The new system "is not perfect but I think that it is a lot closer to what we need than what we have," he added.

The proposed new system was



Progressive Conservative party president Tom Long (left) and his wife Gwen were in Acton last Wednesday to preach the virtues of a proposed "one member one

vote" system of electing a new leader. He is joined here by PC North Halton riding association president Tom Kilmer. (Herald photo)

devised after months of input from members who were unhappy with the current process, said Mr. Long.

Delegates will gather in Toronto Feb. 11 to vote on the proposed amendments. The Tory party needs the support of 66 per cent of its membership to change the constitution and adopt the new leadership voting process. "I don't know that 66 per cent of the people in this party have ever agreed on the time of day."

The new process may require two or three ballots in one day, or holding a runoff election a week later, said Mr. Long. But the "nuts and bolts" of the proposal have yet to be worked out.

The new leadership voting process would open the party up to thousands of people across the province, remove the "lingering image of staleness," and it will pro-

vide a "bridge back to Tories in exile" - those who, for years, supported the party but have dropped out of the political scene because of disenchantment, he said.

The process would likely take five months to complete.

"We will eliminate the feelings of exclusion and bitterness (created) with the animosity of a leadership convention," said Mr. Long.

And the Tories will set themselves up for a victory over Premier David Peterson's Liberal party in the next provincial election, he said. "Feb. 11 is the last opportunity we have to convince the people that we've made a new beginning."

"This party is in the fortunate position of knowing that we can win in 1991. I know that in my bones."

In the hills

Flags missing

Five flags, including a gift flag from North York Mayor Mel Lastman, were removed from Acton IGA sometime at the end of December, say police. The flags, valued at \$250, also included two flags of Ontario and two IGA flags. Police say the incident was reported Jan. 19.

Wallet recovered

A Georgetown woman who reported the theft of her wallet Jan. 17 recovered the wallet Jan. 18 with the credit cards intact but with the cash gone. Police say the wallet, taken from a table in the woman's office, was found the next day near a Mountainview

Road store. The woman's wallet containing a VISA card, cheques, a driver's licence and business cards was missing \$70 cash.

Parents meet

The Bishop Reding Parents Association will meet Monday, Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the school resource centre.

Joan Callan will be guest speaker for the evening and will discuss teenage suicide prevention.

Equipment missing

Police say \$1,200 worth of ski equipment was taken from a Young Street, Acton garage Jan. 11.

Missing are skis, poles, boots, gloves, goggles, a sports bag and some touques.

Police are investigating the theft.

Icy conditions cause major power blackout

A faulty hydro tower at Guelph Street near Mountainview Road left part of the town in darkness as hydro officials worked on repairs for nearly five hours early Thursday morning.

A wooden hydro pole burst into flames with the icy conditions, said Halton Hills Hydro Operations Manager Kurt Durski. "Because of the high voltage, water conducted and the current tracked across the insulators," he said.

The tower, which feeds 44 kilovolts of power into the plaza on Guelph Street, forced hydro officials to close off power to an area east of Mountainview Road. Crews worked on the hydro pole from 4 a.m. when the problem was first discovered until 8:45 a.m. when power was restored. Power is shut off when there is an electrical pro-

blem, said Mr. Durski.

Reports Thursday morning said the intersection at Guelph Street and Mountainview Road were left in darkness much of the morning.

The Halton Hills Fire Department received a call at 4:15 a.m., but were not required to help put out the hydro pole blaze.

This is Halton Hills' second power outage in the last two months. A fallen hydro tower in Mississauga Dec. 15 caused a blackout in Brampton, Georgetown, parts of rural Halton Hills and Mississauga. That blackout lasted nearly eight hours as officials rerouted hydroelectric power.

Businesses were forced to close and schools closed at least half a day.

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