



Christmas around the world

Harrison Public School took the audience on a Christmas around the world trip during their annual yuletide play on Tuesday. Schools around the town were busy putting on plays and musicals for Christmas, much to the delight of parents. (Herald photo)

Report says

Acton needs fire station

By DONNA KELL
the Herald

Acton needs a new fire building that could include training facilities for firefighters, a report from the Ontario Fire Marshall's office says.

The Town of Halton Hills requested a report from the fire Marshall's office last spring that was completed Nov. 29 and presented to councillors at a Monday night meeting.

The report says the number of Halton Hills Fire Department calls increased by an average 41 per cent in this town from 1984 to 1988. The provincial ministry of the solicitor general recommends the town pursue an "aggressive fire prevention program" to meet with growth that is expected to climb dramatically over the next few years.

The fire Marshall recommends three locations for an Acton fire department to replace the site at the Bower and Willow Streets, but the preferred location is a Churchill Road-Highway 7 site.

The Georgetown location on Maple Avenue could be moved to

be more central, the fire Marshall says. The report suggests relocating the site to Mountainview Road at Highway 7 on property behind McDonald's restaurant.

The town should consider supplying a full-time firefighting staff for Acton by 1995, the ministry report says.

Acton is expected to grow from the present 6,800 to a population of 10,000 in the next several years.

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller said the report from the ministry will be used as a guide in determining Halton Hills future fire fighting needs and priorities, but the report's contents will be reviewed by a fire study committee formed from the mayor, committee chairperson Halton Hills Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson, three other councillors and a representative from the fire Marshall's office.

"It's just a report on what we have in the town. It just says we should prepare for the future needs of the town," the mayor said.

"We just needed somebody with the expertise to tell us," what to do, he said.

The fire station recommended for Acton would have a three-bay garage and property for storing fire equipment and could have living and training areas.

The fire training areas suggested by the fire Marshall's office could be located at the present fire station, the proposed fire station at Churchill Road and Highway 7 or it could be located at the former town administrative offices on Trafalgar Road south of Highway 7.

Time is a factor in determining where the stations should be located, the fire report says. The average response time for a fire vehicle in Acton is nine minutes for firefighters to arrive and 8½ minutes for firefighters in Georgetown to arrive.

The fire Marshall's office said there are concerns about the lack of house numbers on rural roads, but recognizes that a town program to number rural houses is now under way.

The importance of finding locations quickly "cannot be over-emphasized," the report says.

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