

Glen Williams heritage question still unresolved

Halton Hills Council remained uncommitted Monday on the issue of funding a project to have Glen Williams converted into a Heritage Conservation District.

Representing the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, (LACAC), Eric Connelly told councillors the group needs \$3,000 on top of its usual grant of \$5,500 to start the Heritage Conservation District project.

The project involves taking an inventory of the heritage homes and other buildings located in Glen Williams, with the intention of creating a heritage district designation within the hamlet.

He pointed out many Glen Williams residents have expressed interest in the idea for the past three years.

However, Mr. Connelly warned interest may wane if the project isn't started relatively soon.

Councillors agreed they would give the request utmost consideration, but added, they couldn't make any decision until the matter was dealt with by the town budget committee.

As part of the LACAC presentation, group member Steven Foster informed council members an inventory of all homes and other buildings in the rural area pre-dating 1900 has been taken.

This historical information will go a long way in reinforcing the Town's identity, he said.

Driveway approved

Acton residents Michael and Mary Lou Dillon learned Monday they will be able to keep their 'U'

shaped driveway.

Unaware of the town's bylaws, the Dillons illegally built the driveway outside their house on the Fourth Line.

The driveway contravenes the town's bylaws because it has two entrances instead of one.

Acknowledging the couple was unaware of the town's bylaws at the time of construction, council decided the second entrance could remain as long as it was only used to exit the property.

The fact the Fourth Line is scheduled to be reconstructed in the future also influenced council's decision.

Two driveway entrances are not allowed in the area for traffic safety reasons.

However, staff told council, once the reconstruction project is completed, these safety hazards will be eliminated.

Possible road closures

After hearing from several local residents Monday speaking for and against the possible closure of several unused town roads, council directed staff to write a report on the validity of closing the roads.

The roads in question include: Dublin Line, from Lot 9 to Lot 15; Third Line, from Sideroad 15 to two kilometres south of Sideroad 22; Sideroad 17 west of Fourth Line; and Third Line south of Sideroad 15.

Safety hazard

Warning it's only a matter of time before a pedestrian or motorist travelling through Hungry Hollow on Mountainview is killed,



Georgetown resident George Farrow asked council Monday to improve the road's condition immediately.

Mr. Farrow requested council build a temporary walkway through Hungry Hollow for pedestrians to use.

Town Engineer Bob Austin told council, a walkway is being contemplated, however, the estimated cost is twice the amount the town has available for the project.

GO stop jeopardized

Acton could be losing its GO Transit stop, councillors learned Monday.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette told council he has heard GO Transit is considering eliminating the Acton GO station as a cost-cutting measure.

However, he emphasized no decision has been made as yet.

To fight the possible cut in service, council directed Mayor Russ

Miller to write the province to protest the idea.

Acton has only had GO service for the past 15 months.

Councillors expressed disbelief that GO Transit could spend a large sum of money to establish the ser-

vice, only to eliminate it 15 months later.

Coun. Bonnette also noted cutting back transit service flies in the face of the province's push for people to use public transit over cars to protect the environment.



Calling the rounds

Jackie McCarthy of Georgetown was the round dance leader for the 'Hawaii at Home' square dancing event hosted by the Pine Valley Squares Saturday night at Cedarvale Community Centre. (Herald Photo)

Hydro Briefs

Battle looms with feds

Halton Hills Hydro refuses to give up its fight against the federal government to have electrical power exempted from the Goods and Services Tax.

With local hydro commissioner Bill Smith leading the way, the commission hopes to meet with the federal ministers of Finance and Energy in an attempt to persuade the government to exempt electrical power from the GST.

Before approaching the federal government on the GST issue, the commission decided Friday to seek support from the 311 other provincial utilities and the Municipal Electrical Association, (MEA).

The MEA is a lobby group, comprised of the province's utilities, which normally represents the utilities' interests before the federal and provincial governments.

In defense of the lobbying action plan, Commissioner Smith said, "Ontario residents and particularly those on fixed incomes, cannot meet the spiralling inflationary hydro costs plus the added gouging of the GST."

As proof the GST is hurting local residents Commissioner Smith pointed out someone who uses 2,000 kilowatt hours of power this year will pay \$72.24 in GST alone.

He continued by saying, "in view of the predicted surplus from the GST in 1991, the federal government must take a humane, understanding, leadership position in realizing the Canadian tax burden, and exempt the GST from electrical power acknowledging that is it an essential service."

While Halton Hills Hydro Commissioners maintain electrical power is an essential service, similar to water and basic food items, the federal government has always said it is not an essential service or item.

The commission also decided Friday to go up against the province in attempt to have the spiralling cost of hydro electrical power brought under control.

Commissioner Smith attributed the 11.9 per cent 1992 Ontario Hydro jump in the price of power and the expected double digit increases ex-



Bill Smith

pected for 1993 and 1994 as a major reason for the unbearable financial burden weighing on many Ontarians.

Hydro Writeoffs

Halton Hills Hydro Commission has all but written off \$38,586 in unpaid customer utility bills for 1991, said utility General Manager, Gerry Trudell, during Friday's commission meeting.

Mr. Trudell attributes the unpaid bills mainly to the recession.

Another reason, however, is the fact that utility staff wasn't "on top" of chasing after unpaid water bills, said Mr. Trudell.

The local utility bills customers for electrical power and water use.

While \$38,586 may seem like a lot of money to lose, Mr. Trudell said he originally projected approximately \$54,000 would have had to be written off in unpaid bills for 1991.

This worst case scenario didn't arise, explained Mr. Trudell, because the utility used a collection agency to track down those who didn't pay their bills.

Although the \$38,586 has been written off, the commission will continue to employ a collection agency in an attempt to collect the unpaid bills, said Mr. Trudell.

Hydro rate increase

It's official!

Electricity rates for Halton Hills residents will jump 11.6 per cent this year over 1991.

The increase was made public at Friday's Halton Hills Hydro Commission meeting.

However, the increase doesn't come as a surprise since this is the figure the local commission submitted late last year to Ontario Hydro for final approval.

Ontario Hydro approval is required for any increase to local rates.

The jump in rates reflects the increased cost in purchasing electrical power from Ontario Hydro.

The crown corporation increased the price of power by 11.9 per cent for this year.

IT'S TIME...FOR KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION!

The Halton Board of Education is committed to preparing today's students for tomorrow's challenges. If you have a child who will be **5 years old by December 31, 1992**, then **now** is the time to take action on **Kindergarten Registration!**

There's a public elementary school nearby with caring people waiting to help you, and your child, with this important step. To make registration easy, please make sure that you **bring a verification of your child's date of birth and proof of school**

North Centre 873-0394	East Centre 847-1550	West Centre 639-8832
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Dave Coons
Chair of the Board

Bob Williams
Director of Education

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