

Council Briefs

Bonnette concerned

At the committee meeting Tuesday night Councillor Rick Bonnette said an abandoned building on Willow St. in Acton has been left in deplorable condition and is worried it could become a safety hazard. He said it hasn't been boarded up or secured and requested the town's bylaw enforcement officer check the building to ensure it is properly boarded up. Bonnette added the building owner should be charged for leaving it in that condition.

Fee waived

Committee waived the licensing fee for the operation of a midway during the Optimist Club Annual Bang-O-Rama to be held in May at the meeting Tuesday night. The recommendation has to receive council approval, expected next week, before it is final however.

Chipper tender awarded

At the Halton Hills town committee meeting Tuesday night, committee awarded a \$27,012 tender to Vermeer Sales and Service of Rexdale for a self-feeding brush chipper. The chipper, which will be used most often in the rural areas of town to chip brush, and throughout town to chip Christmas trees, replaces a 1984 wood chipper. Council has to give final approval to the tender before it is official.

Murray gets tender

At Tuesday's meeting, general committee awarded a \$56,000 tender to Andrew Murray Motors Ltd. of Georgetown for two 1994 four-door crew cab pick up trucks. The trucks are additions to the town's fleet to be used in the new subdivisions in

Halton saves \$3.2-million from '93 operating budget

Once again Halton Region has come in under budget.

Savings of \$3.2 million on operating and capital costs in 1993 will be used to protect the region from another round of provincial cut-backs or might be earmarked for a capital project, councillors suggested at a recent administration and finance committee meeting.

Savings of \$1.8 million on capital projects in 1993 amount to nine per cent of the total \$20 million budget for such work. In 1992, Halton's projects and operations cost \$4.1 million less than anticipated.

That money was used to offset a \$4.6 million cut in provincial grants to the region.

Operating budgets were \$1.35 million under projections, which represents a 16 per cent saving from the budgeted amount of \$8.4 million.

The most recent windfall was generated by lower than anticipated prices for various purchases and a more effective tendering process, according to a report by Joe Rinaldo, regional commissioner of finance.

Rinaldo said if the savings on capital projects were applied entirely to reduce Halton's debt requirements, the region would save approximately \$275,000 annually in its operating budget in each of the next 10 years.

Public works commissioner feels governments think fish more important than people

According to Halton regional public works commissioner, Art Leitch, the provincial and federal governments think fish are more important than people.

Some regional councillors expressed that same view in December, when regional funding was approved for a \$270,000 provincial fish habitat study in Acton and now the region has been notified by the federal Department of Fisheries and the provincial Ministry of the Environment that Halton assume a further \$200,000 cost associated with constructing a holding tank at Oakville's new Walker Street pumping station.

The holding tank is a last line of protection if something goes wrong with the station.

Leitch said that if the proposed holding tank overflows, raw sewage will back up into people's homes because there is no other place for

it to go.

"This is a public health risk accomplished because the government's priorities are so skewed that fish are now more important than people," Leitch added.

"It's time to take the federal fisheries on," said Oakville councillor Fred Oliver, who was particularly vocal in December regarding the Acton fish study.

Leitch said that non-compliance could lead to charges against the individuals involved, that they could be held personally responsible.

"We need to involve MPs and MPPs because it's a legislative problem," said regional chief administrative officer John Burke.

Committee members agreed to take the cautious approach and comply with the regulations while working through various organizations like Federation of Canadian Municipalities to confront the issue.

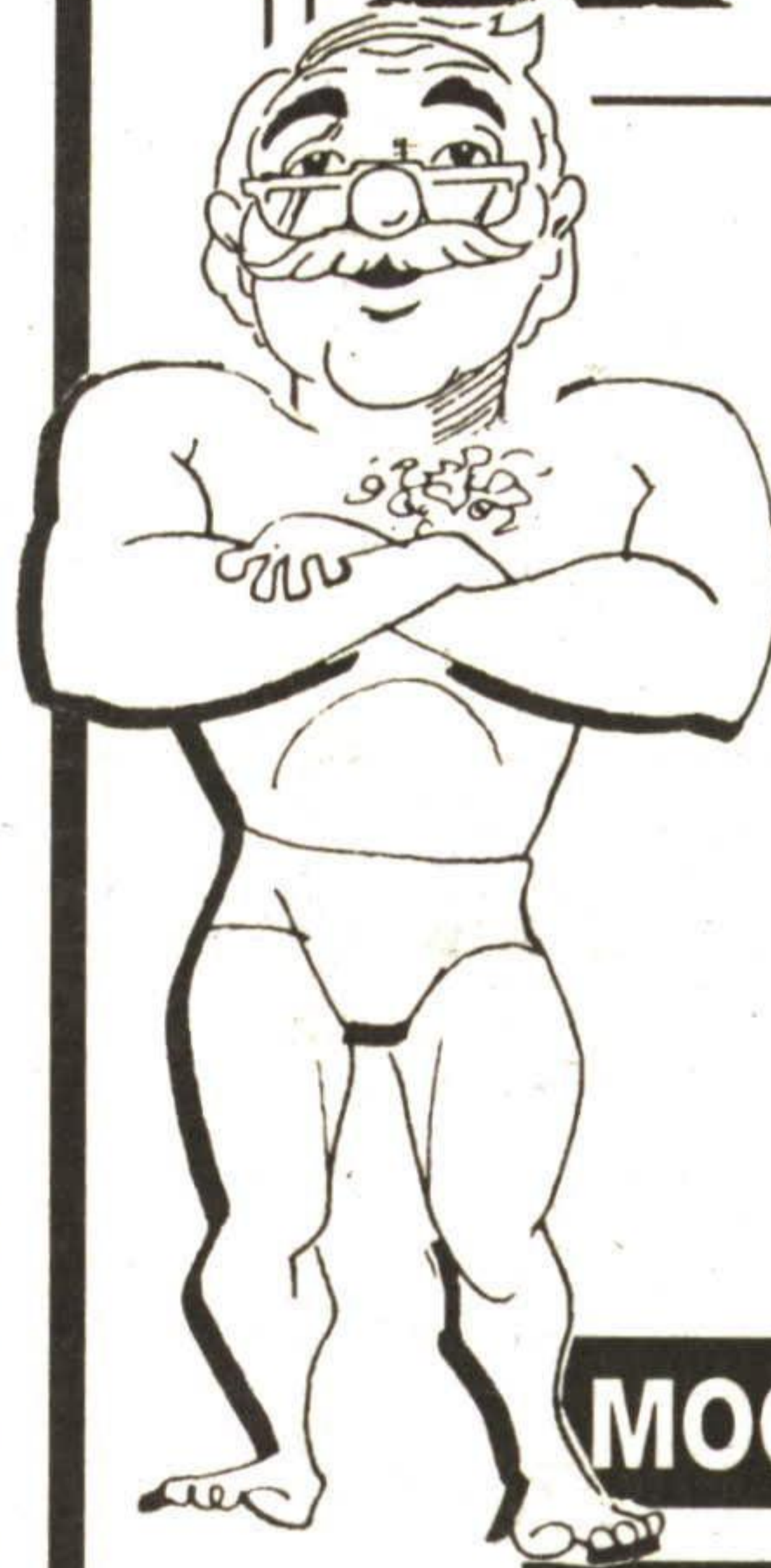
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