

Acton Town Hall Centre hosts Council Council thanked for helping save Acton's heritage town hall

Town joins Train Hall of Fame

Town Council travelled to the Acton Town Hall Centre for its meeting on Monday night, and was thanked for saving Acton's heritage by Lloyd McIntyre, chair of Heritage Acton.

McIntyre recalled a 1977 appearance to the council of the day by Acton's Dr. George Elliott who, on behalf of the people who became Heritage Acton, urged council not to tear down the building to make way for parking for the adjacent fire hall.

Elliott, McIntyre said, told the politicians he was there because "bricks and stones cannot speak, so we, who respect and appreciate that old building, must do its pleading for it," to save one of the last historic, public buildings in Acton.

"What we see around us today certainly confirms the value of the efforts of all those individuals, groups and various levels of government over the last 37 years it has taken us to get to this point,"

McIntyre said.

In the past year since Heritage Acton celebrated the re-opening of the refurbished building - including an elevator to make it fully accessible - McIntyre said they are "very pleased" with the wide variety of bookings, approximately 30 a month, which help pay the bills.

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette said he was "pleased" to see how busy the Acton Town Hall Centre is with the bookings, and how supporters fulfilled the vision from 1977 to restore the building as a cultural hub, and not just an "empty building."

The Town sold the 1883 building to Heritage Acton for \$1, and currently holds a 15-year, \$346,000 bank loan that was used to help fund the expansion, along with a five-year \$50,000 pledge from the Rotary Club of Acton, and other ongoing fundraisers.

A stone arch railway bridge east of Limehouse and the Crewson's Corners Bridge helped garner the Town induction into the North American Railway Hall of Fame recently in St. Thomas.

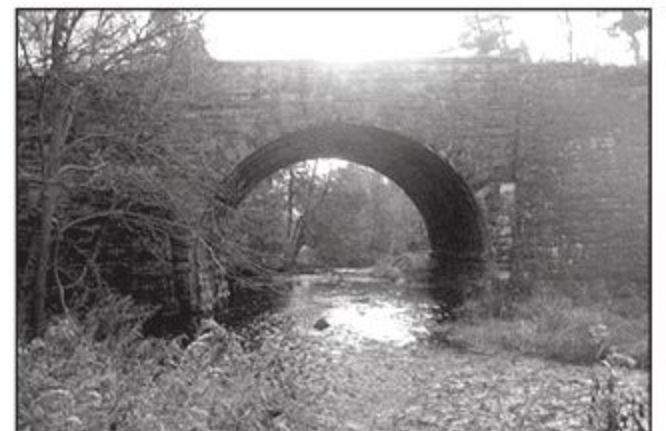
The award was formally presented to Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette on Monday by Pat Farley and Jim Waldbusser, members of Heritage Halton Hills.

Farley, also chair of the new Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Halton Hills branch, said they can be justifiably proud of the of Town's extensive inventory of railway related structures - eight structures circa 1855, most which remain largely unchanged and still serving their purpose.

The Town joined a very august group in the Hall of Fame which also inducted Toronto's Union station and New York's Grand Central Station at the recent ceremony that officially included Halton Hills. For the Town it was a case of the "little engine that could," Bonnette said.



ALL ABOARD: Heritage Halton Hills member Jim Waldbusser (left) dressed for the part as he presented Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette with the plaque earned by the Town when it was recently inducted into the North America Railway Hall of Fame. - Frances Learment photo



Stone Arch Railway Bridge

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