



CHECKING OUT THE CLASSICS: Andrea Ramsay, 7, was busy looking over some of her favourite classics, Betty and Veronica, at the Upper Credit Humane Society book sale Saturday at the arena. — Angela Tyler photo

Ambitious capital budget

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

In a perfect world, Councillor Rick Bonnette would like to see more for Acton in the proposed capital budget, in addition to a number of big-ticket items for Acton in the \$7.8 million 1999 spending plan.

"Included in the capital budget is resurfacing of Queen/Young/Mill Streets, a new bridge and culvert over the creek by the library and a new ice resurfacing machine at the Acton arena," Bonnette said recently, adding he would like to see more than \$159,000 earmarked for improving rural roads in the budget.

The budget committee — all councillors and the mayor — has given approval in principle to a what staff all a "very ambitious" spending plan that requires more financing from the capital reserve fund than has been the case in the past few years. Before staff and department heads made cuts and suggested project deferrals the proposed capital budget was \$10.7 million. Last year the approved capital budget was \$4.6 million.

Financing for the capital budget comes from development charges, loans, from the equipment reserve fund, subsidies, from an annual contribution from the operating budget and any surplus from the previous operating budget.

The lion's share of the proposed capital budget, \$4.4 million, is earmarked for

Engineering and Public Works projects with the second largest amount, \$1.9 million, for Recreation and Parks projects.

Acton projects approved in principle include:

- \$150,000 to replace the crumbling bridge over the creek on River Street to Robert Little school.

- \$430,000 for asphalt replacement on Queen/Young/Mill Streets.

- \$120,000 for phase two of a three phase program to upgrade the Sixth Line, between lots 30 and 32, to rural standards which includes granular base, ditching, culverts and hydro pole relocation.

- \$17,000 to resurface Sixth Line from Highway 7 to Bridlewood Boulevard.

- \$3,200 to resurface Agnes Street from Main Street to Frederick.

- \$8,600 for a new sidewalk for the Main Street North area from Wallace to Hill Street.

- \$10,000 for a sidewalk on the south side of Churchill Road to connect with the sidewalk Home Hardware built.

- \$16,371 to fence, landscape and make a pedestrian access from Main Street to Rotary Park

- \$31,128 to replace the bridge to the Acton library

- \$16,866 for Acton library repairs and upgrades including new carpeting, shelving and hardware for workstations.

Much to the dismay of Acton councillors \$275,000 for reconstruction of Poplar

— Crescent Street was deleted from this year's budget. Councillors also deferred debate on \$200,000 proposed to do pre-engineering on a new leisure centre, almost \$500,00 for a new Georgetown fire station and \$146,00 for a new Town phone system.

The budget committee meets April 15 to deal with the operating budget. Bonnette said it's premature to say if he favours a zero per cent tax increase for this year. Council asked staff to prepare an operating budget with no more than a 1.5 per cent tax increase for this year. Council asked staff to prepare an operating budget with no more than a 1.5 per cent tax increase, a "reasonable" increase Bonnette said.

"We hear it loud and clear from residents every year that they want to see their tax increase kept at zero per cent and it's made life difficult," Bonnette said, noting that there was no Town tax increase, prior to last year, for six years in a row.

Two Tom Parkers trade mail

Acton's Tom W. Parker and Tom R. Parker are tired of getting one another's mail and don't understand why Canada Post can't get it straight.

"Since January I've been to the Acton post office 17 times with mail for other people that was left in my mail box by mistake," Tom R. Parker, who lives on the Fourth Line, complained recently.

"Since Canada Post re-rendered the rural mail delivery routes in this area in July, I've had nothing but trouble — and a lot of mail addressed to Tom W. Parker who lives on Town Line, despite the fact that his rural emergency number and Fourth Line appears on a lot of the envelopes," Tom R. Parker said on Friday.

Tom W. Parker tells the same tale, complaining that the price of a stamp increased but and service has decreased.

"At least every week I get something in my mailbox that belongs to the other Tom Parker," Tom W. Parker said, adding that he's repeatedly pointed out the problem to the rural mail carrier, yet the situation hasn't improved.

"I'm not willing to put up with this anymore. Why can't the mail sorter and delivery people look at the address when they deal with the mail? We had no trouble until a sub-contractor took over the route so I know it can be delivered correctly."

Tom W. Parker said a mix up over delivery of some Revenue Canada forms was the last straw.

"One of my RRSP incomes tax form, clearly marked Fourth Line, went to the other Tom Parker. He

didn't look at it and put it in with his income tax papers and the income tax people discovered that it wasn't his at all.

"The part that really bothers me is the form had my SIN (Social Insurance Number) on it and somebody else ended up with it," Tom R. Parker said.

After denying several weeks ago that there were any problems with rural mail delivery in the Acton, Canada Post information officer Tom Creech said on Tuesday that "it's obvious that something is going on (with rural delivery)."

"We're trying to address whether it's a series of weird circumstances — who knows? It could be, frankly, how the rural contractor is getting that mail presented to him or her — whether there's any type of a delay in the system — to be honest, I don't know," Creech said as he promised to look further into the growing list of complaints.

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Creech said Canada Post has attempted to make contact with individuals who have complained about their mail delivery and talked with the rural mail contractor

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Vote for Your Favourite
If you appreciate fine workmanship, make sure to stop by the **Doll Emporium** and view the 31 exquisite hand-made dolls they currently have on display in the shop. The publishers of American magazine *Doll Crafter* are holding their first annual doll contest and the Doll Emporium, one of only five participating studios in Canada (100 world wide), is showcasing the entries of their students and customers. The general public is invited to vote for the doll they like best in this viewer's choice contest which ends March 31. The Doll Emporium will award prizes to the first, second and third place winners and the first prize entry will be entered into the *Doll Crafter* contest, from which 10 winners will be chosen. These 10 winners will each receive a prize from the magazine and the studio they represent will also receive exposure. Good luck to all the participants in this contest and congratulations to the Doll Emporium, for producing such a talented group of students!

Flower Fairies
Collectors of this popular series of whimsical poems on nature and the seasons by English author and illustrator Cicely Mary Barker, will be pleased to know that the books are available at **Wetherby's**. The timeless appeal of these books, which are first published in 1923, have remained so popular that the flower fairies have been reproduced as delicate figurines, representing the illustrations by Cicely Mary Barker. These charming figurines are now available at the **Doll Emporium**.

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