

Joint committee formed

With the May 31st deadline looming, the Village Council and the Stirling Historical Society have formed a joint committee to expedite the campaign to save the historic CN station.

A joint committee, of three members from both the Council and Historical Society, will hold its first meeting on May 8th in the Council Chambers. The purpose of the six-member committee will be to clear up some of the misunderstandings between the two parties that have been plaguing the conservancy project and work out an agreement that would be satisfactory to both groups.

At a special meeting, held last Wednesday in the Village Council Chambers, the Council got together with four representatives of the Historical Society, at their request, in an effort to break the apparent impasse in negotiations between the two organizations.

Village Reeve

Wieger DeJong reiterated to the Society that the Council was not opposed to the group's conservancy efforts but rather hoped the project would be successful. The main concern of council, however, is that the ratepayer is protected from possible unnecessary expenses in the future if the society is unable to maintain the structure, DeJong explained.

Stirling Historical Society President Cathie Findlay

expressed to Council that the society wished to ask nothing more from the village than its cooperation in saving the station. Part of the Canadian National Railway's conditions state that the station would have to be purchased by the municipality, a situation which prevents the Society from acting independently in its efforts.

Following more than half an hour of discussion, and with the talks apparently achieving little, the

suggestion was raised that the two bodies form a joint committee to thrash out an agreement that would be satisfactory to both the village and the society.

The committee members will be: Reeve Wieger DeJong, and Councilors Ruth Potts and Ken Tompkins (representing Council); and President Cathie Findlay, Secretary-Treasurer Shirley Crane and Brian Stacey (representing the Historical Society).

Village council & Historical

Stirling - The Stirling Village Council met last Wednesday evening, April 23, with the Stirling Historical Society in a special session called to discuss the fate of the old Canadian National Railway station on Emily Street.

CN had written to council to state that if council intended to purchase the station, it had until May 31, at which time CN intends to demolish the building.

A little over a year ago a group of citizens formed the society to provide a base for whatever action was necessary to save the station as a community landmark.

As CN requires that its abandoned stations must be sold to the local community, the

historical society requested council to make the purchase for it, and gave council a cheque.

Council has indicated willingness to purchase the station, lease the land the building stands on, and sublet to the society.

At the meeting council asked why the society had not signed the agreement drawn up for the lease. The society replied that since council had not yet gone to CN and therefore no one was aware of CN's conditions of agreement with the village, it was not possible for the society to sign any legal paper.

Council was also concerned that the purchase of the building not become a liability to the village. The society replied that this was not its intention: the society wishes to remain independent and has a number of plans which cannot be

Society getting together to save the station

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plemented until the sale is the building turned over to its completed and responsibility for members.

Council commented on the lack of definite plans for the station, to which the society replied that it was in a "Catch 22" situation where it could not go ahead with work at the station until council acted, and council was unwilling to act until it could see that the society was making progress.

It was felt by some council members that there had been a lack of communication contributing to the impasse, but it was pointed out that the society had kept in touch with the clerk concerning the activities of the society with regard to the station.

The society asked that a small committee be set up to discuss all problems pertaining to both parties and the reeve arrange that such a committee meet in two weeks. It was also agreed that

council would contact CN information would be brought to regarding its requirements and this the meeting.