



Mountain Community Centre renovation

Improvements to the Mountain Township Community Centre are now completed after three years of work and a number of donations from local community groups. The building in Mountain, formerly a United Church, is now fully equipped including air conditioning, full kitchen facilities and shuffleboard game. The community centre will hold 120 people and already is being used by more than 10

community groups. Gerry Boyce, first vice-president of the Winchester Lions Club, presented Ewart Simms, chairman of the board of the Mountain Township Community Centre, with a cheque for \$1,000 to help cover the costs of the work. After receiving the donation from the Winchester Lions the board will owe only \$1,000 on their well equipped community centre. Press Photo—McRoberts

The Mountain and District Lions Club is renovating the Mountain Community Centre in Mountain, Ontario and is expecting to have a new addition on the building by spring. The club is putting an eight foot by 16 foot addition onto the east side of the existing building to act as a cloakroom and storage facility. Chairman of the Lion's Com-

mittee, heading the project, Earl Roach, said the plans have not been finalized, but the foundation for the addition has been laid. The construction of the addition and some renovations to the interior of the Community Centre are estimated to cost about \$8,000 and all work is expected to be completed by the early spring.

by Teresa Lopinski
Advance Staff Reporter

The Community Hall in the hamlet of Mountain will remain dry as Council unanimously turned down a bid by the Hall's Board of Directors to apply for a special occasions permit from the Ontario Liquor Control Board.

Amidst letters of objection to the special occasions permit application from Mountain community and service groups who make use of the Hall and in direct protest from a local United Church minister, Council felt it necessary to turn down this request at its July 5 meeting.

Mountain Township senior citizens made up one group who voted overwhelmingly against the special occasions permit. Members present at the June 30 meeting. The application and two at-

community groups have in the outcome of the special occasions permit because of their financial support of the Mountain Community Hall, indicated a divided opinion on the matter.

The Mountain Women's Institute voted 8-6 in favour of the liquor application at its June 28 meeting. A majority of United Church Women in Mountain voted likewise, on the conditions they wouldn't have to apply for the special occasions permit for their own activities in the Hall or serve liquor for other groups they might be jointly sponsoring an event with.

Councillors noted the Mountain Snowmobile Club was the only other constitutional group remaining silent on this issue.

When the present Community Hall, a former church building, was turned over to the township, nothing was stated in writing as to how the building would be used, began Rev. Hare. "I believe it's morally wrong to use it (the building) for the sale of alcoholic beverages," he added.

"Personally, I have nothing against drinking," continued the United Church minister. "It's drinking and driving I'm against. If the Community Hall gets a

permit for the sale of liquor within its walls, this may just contribute to an increase in alcohol-related traffic accidents in this township."

"The Methodist and Presbyterian churches are strongly in favour of the temperance movement," said Rev. Hare, "and I, too, believe abstinence is the best policy. But if people want to have a wet party, there's plenty of places for them to go in the township already without the Community Hall also being used for that purpose, too," he added.

Council opinion
Commenting on the special occasions permit, Don Herman Jensen said he would not support the application. Hare in Mountain Township said there are plenty of places for parties already.

Jensen said he would not approve of the special occasions permit for the Community Hall if it would only be used for the consumption of wine at wedding parties or other private parties. This being an unrealistic and unlikely situation, the Deputy Reeve said he was against the liquor licence application.

Councillor Earl G... is a member of the Community Hall Board... said he felt bad... paying for a special occasions permit when so many groups are

...reel I've been misled," said Mr. Garlough. "One month ago I was for the liquor licence application and was under the impression that Mountain people and groups were for it too. Now with all this protest I see the situation differently and have to change my mind too on this application," he added.

Councillors Don Levere and Jim Alexander likewise expressed a desire to reject the liquor licence application.

Mr. Levere said he lives next to the licenced Odd Fellows building in South Mountain and doesn't like it one bit, adding that he's part of the group campaigning to eliminate the liquor licence there.

"Mountain already has one licenced establishment in the form of the Stage West Restaurant," said Councillor Levere. "For a small community like Mountain that's enough."

Both Councillors Levere and Alexander said the Community Hall isn't experiencing any financial difficulty right now, so

there really isn't any need for it to be licenced as a means of raising revenue.

"Since the Community Hall debt has been reduced from around \$5,000 to \$1,000, there isn't any need to have liquor sold there for fundraising," said Mr. Alexander.

Deputy Reeve Keith Fawcett said his decision to not approve the special occasions permit was unanimous.

"If the church members who sold the \$35,000-valued property to the township for \$1 knew liquor would be sold there, we probably wouldn't have a Community Hall there today," the Reeve said.

"The Community Hall is a beautiful one for its size and it should stay that way," continued the Reeve. "I heard someone say that Council has no business doing anything in this special occasions permit matter. To that I say the Council has every right to do as the township pays for heating and insurance costs for the Community Hall which amount to \$1,800 per year. The township also looks after Community Hall loans which vary between \$6,000 to \$8,000. With this record of participation Council has to turn a request down," he added.

Earlier community protest
Council's decision not to approve the special occasions permit for the Community Hall also had its basis in comments made by concerned Township residents at Mountain's June 7 meeting.

At that time, a half dozen senior citizens voiced their protest and objection to the special occasions permit application. The senior citizens association in Mountain helped the Community Hall through funding assistance. There was a fear expressed that they might withdraw their financial support of the building if the special occasions permit received approval from Council before going to the Ontario Liquor Control Board.

The Mountain Lions Club first requested a special occasions permit to accompany events they hold in the hall.

"The sale of liquor at an event is seen as being the crowd drawing factor the Lions need to break even in their fund-raising socials," explained seniors representative Don Baldwin.

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