

Prescott Journal - April 6-1994

News & Views from Augusta Township

by Dorothy Winmill

Construction to start soon on Augusta's new library

The Augusta Township Public Library Board - have finalized arrangements with the Sid Edwards family to purchase a strip of land 70' by 133' on the south side of the Heritage Schoolhouse Library (lots 29 and 30) on the Maitland-North Augusta Road at Algonquin. Acquiring this property means the Board is able to meet the Health Department requirements, build the new Library as planned, and also retain the skating rink area.

This was a most generous act on the part of the Edwards family, and the Board on behalf of the residents of Augusta Township is most grateful for their assistance in this matter.

Now that this business is complete construction should be able to get under way this year, though the Board cannot set a definite date for opening the new facility.

The Property Planning Committee met on March 8 and after consulting with Neil McLennan, the architect, decided to go ahead with the original drawings. A number of suggested changes were presented to McLennan which the Committee thought might lower the cost, but the architect costed out all the ideas and informed the Board that rather than lowering the cost it would add another \$94,000 to the project. Needless to say the Committee decided to stick to the original drawings.

The glass in the library storm door shattered recently due to the shifting frame of the old temporary school-room in which the library operates at present. Linda Parrott, the Assistant Librarian contacted Mr. Petrie who repaired it temporarily with plastic and will put glass in the door when the frost comes out of the ground and the building stops shifting. The new library is sorely needed.

Mark Darroch, Volunteer Worker for the Library Board, has been devoting his efforts to getting out letters to various firms in the area requesting their support for and possible donation to the library building fund. The Board is fortunate to have his assistance.

A cheque was received from Beaumont and Laushway Barristers for \$25,000 for the Heritage Schoolhouse Library Building Fund from the Ruth Peters Estate. What a terrific gift this is.

Another cheque came from the Maitland Womens Institute for the \$1000 donation they promised last winter. This gift is most appreciated knowing how hard the Womens Institute members work to raise their funds.

The library has received its Charitable Organization Registration Number. All donors will receive receipts from the Library promptly for tax purposes. All donors to date should have received receipts as well.

Augusta library campaign is about half-way to goal

By **SCOTT FERRIER**
Staff Writer

ALGONQUIN — Approximately half of the money required to build a new library here is in place.

Don Filewod, chairman of the Augusta Township Public Library Board, says donations and fund-raising activities have raised about \$167,000.

"This will be a great lift to people here. We haven't had an adequate library in years. We have to send people to urban libraries because they can't access some things or use services that other libraries offer.

"The library is going to be built on to the old schoolhouse which will also be fixed up and will serve as a meeting place. I hope the facility becomes a focal point for the community," Filewod said.

The new 3,524-square-foot library will be added to the old Algonquin schoolhouse on County Road 15. The two-storey library will feature a children's section, a main reading room, space for more than 20,000 books and a meeting room. The adjoining schoolhouse will be renovated and used for

community meetings and events.

Dorothy Winmill, public relations officer for the fund-raising project, said the "main aim of the building fund committee is to raise as much money as possible without going to the taxpayers."

Augusta Reeve Adrian VanSchie hopes the project will be eligible for grant money under the Canada-Ontario infrastructure program. Under the make-work project, the federal, provincial and municipal levels of government make equal contributions. Augusta could receive up to \$397,000 in federal and provincial grants if it comes up with \$198,000. The \$167,000 already raised could be put toward the municipal contribution.

VanSchie, council's representative on the library board, figures construction will begin this fall and could be completed as early as the end of the year.

"Right now we have 1,000 (library) members. We need to increase the size of the library to accommodate all of those people and this is the perfect spot," VanSchie said.

The current library is located in a portable classroom and is lacking

basic facilities such as a washroom. Bingo and Nevada ticket sales have helped raise some money for the project along with large donations from area businesses and residents.

Winmill says Beaumont and Laushway Barristers made a \$25,000 donation to the building fund from the Ruth Peters Estate. The longtime Maynard resident once taught at the old schoolhouse.

Other sizable donations have come from DuPont (\$30,000), Augusta township (\$25,000) and the Maitland Education and Recreation Committee (\$25,000).

The library board recently purchased a 9,300-square-foot strip of land on the south side of the library on the Maitland-North Augusta Road from the Sid Edwards family. The board will now be able to meet health unit requirements, build the library as planned and retain the skating rink, Winmill said.

"I'd love to see this built by winter. We've been talking about it for so long it's hard to hold everyone's interest in the project but everyone has been working really hard for it," she said.



SCOTT FERRIER/THE RECORDER AND TIMES

Library receives \$2,500 boost

The Augusta Township Public Library Board received a \$2,500 donation from the Prescott branch of the Royal Bank for the construction of the new township library in Algonquin. (Pictured left to right) Ron Ruimage, Royal Bank area manager for the Brockville and Rideau Lakes area, and Elaine Turner, manager of personal banking at the Prescott branch, present library board treasurer John McDonald, board member Dorothy McDonald and board chairman Don Filewod with the donation. Approximately \$170,000 has been raised for the project which is expected to cost about \$350,000. Construction is expected to begin sometime this year.

Recorder & Times - May 2, 1994

May 4th 1994

THE PRESCOTT JOURNAL,



The Augusta Township Library fund got a boost from the Royal Bank last Wednesday when area manager Ron Dulmage (far left) and Prescott personal banking manager Elaine Turner presented committee members with a cheque for \$2,500. Receiving the over-sized cheque were library board treasurer John C. McDonald, public relations officer Dorothy Winmill and board chairman Don Filewod. The Royal Bank is committed to a policy of donating one per cent of pre-tax profits to charitable organizations and encourages personal giving and volunteerism among employees. In 1993 the Royal donated \$14-million to such causes. Cost of the Augusta library is estimated at \$300,000 of which the township and committee are trying to raise \$200,000.

Augusta library to cost more than predicted

By **SCOTT FERRIER**
Staff Writer

Recorder Times - Sept 7/94

MAYNARD — The sod has yet to be turned and already the new Augusta township library is expected to run more than \$100,000 over budget.

Initially, the 3,600-square foot library was expected to cost approximately \$300,000. However, the library's size grew to 5,600 square feet to accommodate a children's room and future expansion.

Tenders for the library project were opened Tuesday night during council's regular meeting. A total of six bids were submitted ranging from \$398,000 to \$443,000.

Even with the higher price tag, all the money appears to be in place, provided the township's application for funding under the Canada-Ontario infrastructure program is approved.

Augusta Reeve Adrian VanSchie said he's confident the project will be approved under the make-work project. It's expected an announcement on the successful contractor and whether the grant was approved will be made at council's next meeting on Thursday, October 6.

Members of the Augusta Township Library Board, the architect and several engineers will consider the bids and make a recommendation to council.

ADDED TO SCHOOLHOUSE

The library will be added to the old Algonquin schoolhouse on County Road 15. The two-storey structure will feature a children's section, a main reading room, space for more than 20,000 books and a meeting room. The adjoining schoolhouse will be renovated and used for community meetings and events.

The current library is located in a portable classroom and is lacking basic facilities such as a washroom.

The library board has raised more than \$180,000 through donations from the township, businesses and citizens. Additional funds have been raised through the sale of Nevada tickets, bingo and other activities.

Councillor John McCrea questioned why the project would run \$100,000 to \$150,000 over budget.

Library board chairman Don Filewod said the extra costs are due to moving the children's room from the old schoolhouse to the main library so the librarian can keep an eye on the children and an increase in overall size because of a population boom anticipated in the township.

"We have to consider the needs of the future with a growing population," Filewod said.

Architect Neil MacLennan told McCrea the tenders are

Cost to taxpayers will be minimal

The article in your edition of Wednesday, September 7 headed "Augusta library to cost more than predicted," has given rise to the wrong impression by stating that the construction project is expected to run more than \$100,000 over budget.

While hoping to keep costs as low as possible, neither the library board nor the council have had an actual budget for the project. In the council's application for infrastructure funding the cost was estimated as \$368,000 and in that sense the lowest tender is \$30,000 more than the predicted cost.

It should be noted that the library will only be built as presently envisaged if the application for \$200,000 in infrastructure funding is approved and also that it will incorporate another \$200,000 contributed from the fund-raising efforts of the library board.

And it is more than a library. The old school is to be restored as a heritage structure matching the adjacent church and the library has been designed to enhance the concept. While more than envisaged at the outset, the cost to Augusta taxpayers will be minimal.

Don Filewod, Chairman
Augusta Township Public Library Board

Recorder @ Times - Sept. 15, 1994

Infrastructure funding is taxpayers' money

Re: Cost to taxpayers September 15.

I must take exception to Mr. Filewod's comment that this project (Augusta Township Public Library) will be of minimal cost to the taxpayers. I am a taxpayer and infrastructure funding is my tax money.

In fact any money that comes from a government, any government, is my tax money. Governments do not have any money of their own, they collect and distribute our money.

I also take exception to the fact that this project is only a mere \$30,000 over projected costs. In November of 1993, the library board informed the architect that this project could not exceed \$280,000, for that was all the money available. The architect assured us that this amount would be adequate, but didn't include his fees which as I understood would be based on a percentage of the cost of the project with no upside limit. The board was also informed, by a couple of local contractors that the project as proposed would cost approximately \$425,000. This was dismissed.

Now with the lowest tender at \$398,000 we are told that it will only be \$30,000 over the "actual budget." I must point out that a number

of items have been forgotten, least of which is the GST. There is no contingency fee, it is unclear if landscaping and parking lot are included and there is no mention of the architect's fee in this total. There is no accounting for money already spent; land purchase, surveys paid by the township and so on. Also there has been no discussion regarding the furnishing of this building nor the cost of maintenance or services. It is naive to expect a considerably larger building (approximately 4,500-5,000 square feet) to cost the same as a classroom portable for heat, light and maintenance even for a 25-hour week. Taking these factors into account, this project will cost in the neighborhood of \$500,000. We need a proper and more professional accounting and budget process to discuss all costs both obvious as well as hidden.

Yes we do need a library. Yes we do want to incorporate the old school house. But at what cost? We in the community do want to participate. We have volunteered our individual expertise at no cost but to no avail. We need a library, not a monument.

Lance Besharah
RR 2, Brockville

Recorded in Times - Sept 21, 1994

Public meeting set to discuss library

ALGONQUIN (Staff) — Augusta council and the public library board will be holding a public meeting next month to discuss the proposed new library.

The meeting will be held in the Algonquin Public School auditorium Monday, October 17 beginning 7:30 p.m.

Dorothy Winmill, public relations officer for the library board, hopes the meeting will clear up the questions and concerns recently expressed by some residents.

"Just go to the meeting and look at the proposal. We had to deal with so many problems; we did the best we could," she said.

"The costs have escalated beyond control. Don (Filewod, library board chairman) has kept things going. He's been a real strength through this whole thing. I feel sorry for him, we're so close to getting the shovel into the ground."

The size and the cost of building have grown since plans for the library, which is to be added on to the old schoolhouse in Algonquin on County Road 15, were first unveiled one year ago. The 3,210-square-foot library was to have cost \$285,000. However, because the size of the library has grown to 5,010 square feet and the price of materials has increased, the project is expected to be cost roughly \$450,000.

Most of the funding will come from the Canada-Ontario Infrastructure program.

Council and library board members will field questions following their presentations.

Recorder Times - Sept. 27, 1994



Notice To Township Of Augusta Residents

The Township of Augusta will be holding a
Public Information Meeting
for the construction of the new library. The meeting will be held
on

Monday, October 17 at 7:30pm
in the Algonquin Public School Auditorium. Everyone welcome.
R.N. Gilmour, Administrator,
Clerk/Treasurer

The Brockville Recorder and Times

23 KING STREET WEST, P.O. BOX 10, BROCKVILLE K6V 5T8

Business Office 342-4441 - Circulation 342-2225 - Classified 342-6617

Editorial 342-4443

Co-Publishers: PERRY SEAFIELD BEVERLEY and HUNTER S. GRANT
 Corporate Secretary: JANET M. HIGGS
 Pres., Gen. Manager: HUNTER S. GRANT
 Asst. General Manager: ROBERT ERICKSON
 V.P., Treas., Asst. to Publishers: W. S. WATSON
 Advertising Manager: CHRISTOPHER MURPH
 Editor-in-Chief: PERRY SEAFIELD BEVERLEY
 Circulation Manager: STANLEY R. BUTLER

Many ideas for discussion

Augusta Township council and the community's public library board have opted for the right course of calling a public meeting to discuss the plans to build a new library as an annex to the old Algonquin schoolhouse.

Not only has the proposal raised questions and objections from some residents, but it may not have gotten past council if the board's recommendation on construction tenders went to a vote at council's October 6 meeting.

"Just go to the meeting and look at the proposal. We had to deal with so many problems; we did the best we could," said Dorothy Winmill, public relations officer for the library board.

The October 17 public meeting at Algonquin Public School will explain the project plans and allow residents to offer their comments on the size and expense of the design favored by library board members.

Originally suggested as 3,210-square-foot building that would cost \$285,000, the board is now pursuing a 5,010-square-foot library with a \$450,000 price tag.

No doubt, its wishes centre on the fact most of the money has been raised or committed through fund-raising or infrastructure subsidy, with little direct effect on taxpayers through municipal taxes.

Yes, it's the same taxpayers who contribute to the federal and provincial shares of infrastructure funding, but like it or not, the money is Augusta's to use or lose. Should Augusta turn down its share it would go to a project in another community.

What must be determined now is the community's commitment to the project. It could be that residents figure the infrastructure funds could be better spent elsewhere in the township, a valid point. Council could have solicited those opinions long ago.

However, it should not detract from the important service a library can provide, a key point

5010
3210

difference 180 000

3210 = 285,000

5010 = 450,000

difference = 950,000
285,000
165,000

at 285,000 (3210)

cost 285,000 = 88.78
3210

at 450,000 (5010)

cost 450,000 = 89.82
5000

165,000 (1800 sq ft)

cost 165,000 = 89.66
1800 sq ft

Recorder & Times - Oct-1, 1994



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More than one way to reach objective

Re: Library board.

I must respond to Mr. Filewod's letter of September 28. First and foremost "we" are not against the need for, nor the building of, a new library for Augusta Township. I want to make this perfectly clear. I support the project as it was conceived. What I object to and take umbrage with is the attitude that there is only one way to accomplish this goal and that there are only a select number of people who might be capable of doing it.

There are a number of issues and facts that must be clarified. First, I have no business association with D. Symons other than I purchase goods from his store when convenient. Secondly, I have never suggested that we do not need an architect or an engineer. I understand the code as well as Mr. Filewod. Mr. Dewit and I were asked to make suggestions and did so. They were approved by both the library board and the building committee. They were then presented at council but when the architect was asked to comment he launched into what I can only describe as a tirade and both Mr. Dewit and I decided that any further participation was futile. It was obvious who was in control. Certainly not the "bitchers and moaners" and that "bunch of fools" in Augusta Township. Furthermore, both Mr. Dewit and I made it very clear from the outset that neither of us considered bidding this project nor

hoped to receive any financial return from our voluntary participation with this project. I do not oppose this project!

If, as Mr. Filewod is asking council to "do no more than was expected," why did he recently ask council for an additional \$50,000 over the next two years to cover an anticipated shortfall?

I must ask Mr. Filewod if he has read the petition he has referred to. It does not seek to kill the library. It only begs the question — do we need to spend this much money to have a library? How is it that we have a set of plans to build a library of over 5,000 square feet utilizing two levels and yet on our application for infrastructure money we are only asking for a building of "4,353 square feet, to provide all functions on one floor"? I seem to remember two local contractors making this suggestion several months ago.

We have been told numerous times that the library board has tried to keep the public informed yet, as involved as I have been, it is only now that I find out that the architect has a set fee. He publicly stated at the time we were discussing our \$300,000 maximum expenditure and discussing the increases that we may expect if we delay too long that he had "no upside limit" to his fees.

I think if Mr. Filewod examines his minutes and time frame he will find that we "bitchers and moaners" have not con-

tributed any significant amount to the delay of this project. If time was such a factor, why were there not summer meetings? Why did it take so long to receive a set of working drawings when approvals to proceed were given months before?

If Mr. Filewod is on the wrong board it is for him to decide. He has contributed a great deal of time and effort to this project and it would be a shame to see him throw it away. We want to work with him, not against him. We too want a library, but not at any cost. It is time to place the responsibility for the problems where they belong: The architect. He was hired to do a job and he has not done that. He may have fallen in love with the old schoolhouse, but that should not deflect him or us from the fact that he was asked to design a building that would fit our budget. Maybe it is time to find someone that will work with us and not deride us for not sharing his vision. If he is as good as he says he is, then he should be able to deliver what we had asked for. On the other hand maybe he should take his ball and go home.

There are still many more questions that need to be answered and hopefully council will reserve the awarding of this contract until the public meeting on October 17 at the Algonquin Public School at 7:30 p.m.

Lance Besharah



Recorder & Times - Oct. 3-1994.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

People want library township can afford

Re: Library board is ready to do the job alone...

Mr. Filewod is completely wrong when he states that a 'business relationship' between Lance Besharah, Marcel Dewit and myself exists. If purchasing goods as a retail outlet constitutes a business relationship, then I am fortunate to have many.

To the best of my knowledge Messrs. Besharah and Dewit have never, nor have I, been against the construction of a new library, as is indicated in the tone of Mr. Filewod's letter. We as some of the concerned citizens feel that the price as indicated in recent newspaper articles of \$398,610 plus GST, plus extras, for which we are unaware of what or how much they might be, is too high. We do wish to have a new library constructed, however one that we can afford and be able to maintain on an ongoing basis without

large tax increases year after year.

My wife and I were approached some five years ago with regards to the possible construction of a new library facility, at which time we polled customers, requesting their assistance in the construction of a new library. We explained that it would hopefully be built in the same fashion as 'Habitat for New Homes', with the community support. To our amazement the support offered was tremendous. We had offers from carpenters, electricians, roofers, dry-wallers, etc. and an offer from Besharah/Dewit to oversee the project (a value of approximately \$20,000-28,000).

In addition Besharah/Dewit offered to obtain the building materials at a greatly reduced price than one could buy them for himself. These offers were given

to the library board, however fell on deaf ears, and the board continues to show no interest in accepting volunteer input.

At a library board meeting held in February 1994 Messrs. Besharah, Dewit proposed a change to the architect's plans with an offer to save approximately \$100,000 from their estimated cost of \$400,000 to build the library from the plans offered at that time (same plans as final design). We consider this to have been a demonstrable savings. The proposed altered building would have a finished price tag of \$300,000. It would appear that the "bitchers, moaners, fools" (MacLennan Sept. 23/94) had a good idea as to the cost of his proposed building, in that the lowest tender was \$398,610 plus GST, plus???

The present structure has

outlived its usefulness and does not have the proper amenities a public building should have.

Except in big cities, a public library does not have to be large to serve its community. A small library can play an effective roll if it has a good basic collection of books and related materials. The essential element in any library is the librarian and we are lucky in August Township to have two librarians, who have the skill, experience and ability to deal effectively with people.

If I were so against the project why would my whole family have provided assistance at bingos on a regular basis for the past few years, along with many other volunteers.

Doug Symons
RR2 Brockville



Township of Augusta Amnesty Day for Landfill Site

The Council of the Township of Augusta declare October 15h
Amnesty Day for Maynard Landfill Site. For this one day Augusta
Township residents can deposit two white goods and four tires
Free of Charge (once only).



Notice To Township Of Augusta Residents

The Township of Augusta will be holding a
Public Information Meeting
for the construction of the new library. The meeting will be held
on

Monday, October 17 at 7:30pm

in the Algonquin Public School Auditorium. Everyone welcome.
R.N. Gilmour, Administrator,
Clerk/Treasurer

Prescott Journal - Oct. 5-1994

Reserving comment

Now that the Augusta li-
brary debate has taken a
somewhat inventive turn
(People want library town-
ship can afford — 3 Octo-
ber), I propose to reserve
further comment for a
public hearing.

Suffice it to say at this
time that the project has
been inspired, developed
and financed by a board
with no possible pecuniary
interest and no other aim
than to come up with the
best possible solution at
the least cost to our town-
ship. Mr. Symons was not
known to the board before
he joined it in March last
year after we had raised
\$30,000 and the council
had approved the project
based on the winning ar-
chitects' conceptual draw-
ings.

Don Filewod
Chairman
Augusta Township
Public Library Board

*Records & Times
Oct. 5, 1994*



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Augusta library plan is a good bargain

Re: Augusta Library — Mr. Besharah's October 1 letter.

The library appearance is virtually unchanged from our conceptual design submission in the 1992 limited competition. A comparison of the first and final elevation drawings shows this. From the start, the 1833 stone school has been a major element. We consciously tried to be mannerly and complementary to the historic building, roof lines included.

Since the initial concept, the normal planning process with the client and user groups developed the plan. This was done to accommodate actual current needs and 20-year growth. The building space provisions increased to do this by about 40 per cent, but costs in-

crease was less, as tenders proved.

The plan accommodates all library and meeting functions on one floor. Having used the same roof pitch as 1833, we located two additional rooms in the attic to house future archives and other records, to serve pro tem as youth or other meeting rooms (Brownies, Cub Scouts, etc.) This seemed better to us than wasting the attic space. We also located our heating, ventilating, electrical and other building services there.

The design at 5010 sq.ft. to serve a population of 7,000 souls is still 5/8ths of the area the Ontario government recently (before the recession) recommended for

initial community libraries.

The costs are very much in line. Ernestown township just opened a library for 12,000 population at a cost of \$1,200,000. By this yardstick the tendered \$398,000 price tag for Augusta library is modest.

Site infrastructure costs are low, and have always been intended to be performed by the township. Public volunteer participation in readying the old schoolhouse for a new life is in the specifications, and welcome.

Professional fees have not changed since May, 1993, and provide the design, drawings, specifications, construction review and administration of the architect-

tural and the three engineering disciplines.

We are puzzled by Mr. Besharah's discomfiture. We were happy to use his offered design for the new library shelving units to be made in an area correctional institution. We could not accept his alternate plan, it being too large, costly, and having unattractive flattened roof planes.

The library is compact, attractive, the right size, energy efficient, bears a fair price, and will be economic to operate. We think it is a good bargain.

Neil K. MacLennan,
OAA, MRAIC
MacLennan Associates
Architect

Re: Corder Times - Oct. 6, 1994

Augusta reeve tells parents user-fees not in Rec. budget

MAYNARD — An Augusta Township woman wants to know what council plans to do concerning user-fees charged to township residents for recreational services in neighboring municipalities.

At its October meeting, council listened to the concerns of Wanda Vokey, whose son is registered with the South Grenville Minor Hockey Association.

Mrs. Vokey has paid the Town of Prescott facility membership fee for the past two seasons.

Last year, her son was enrolled in the squirt program run by Ron Baker in Spencerville. Although, her son never played any games at the Leo Boivin Community Centre in Prescott, last season, she was still subject to the \$50 fee.

This year, Mrs. Vokey said she again had to pay a fee to the Town

of Prescott, which was calculated at \$37.50.

She told council that some parents in the township are refusing to allow their children to play sports because of the extra costs associated with user-fees.

"I feel Augusta Township is hurting the children," she told council. "It is easy for an adult to say no to a child, but it is hard for the child to understand why they can't play."

Reeve Adrian Vanschie told Mrs. Vokey that council will be examining its recreation budget, currently set at \$70,000.

He also said that the South Grenville area is fortunate to have three arenas to serve its population base of roughly 18,000 persons.

The provincial guideline states that, generally, one arena should serve approximately 18,000 persons.

"Probably, one of the three arenas isn't self-sufficient," he said.

He stated that the Village of Cardinal's arena is run efficiently and has an annual operating surplus which the board of management puts into a reserve fund for future maintenance.

The Township of Edwardsburgh arena, Mr. Vanschie stated, breaks even while the Town of Prescott's arena runs an annual deficit.

When the Town of Prescott introduced the facility membership policy last summer, the council steadfastly refused to "subsidize a deficit in a neighboring municipality," Mr. Vanschie stated.

Mr. Vanschie told Mrs. Vokey that the Township of Augusta supports the South Grenville Minor Hockey Association, the Brockville Minor Hockey Association and the Prescott and Edwardsburgh figure skating clubs with annual grants to each organization.

Mr. Vanschie told Mrs. Vokey that in future many recreational facilities may be operated by the private sector. He used the example of the Brockville YM-YWCA which is building a new aquatic facility.

He said that the fundraisers have approached municipalities for a one-time contribution to the project and that afterwards it will be up to each individual to pay for a membership if they desire to use the new Y facilities.

"We are really between a rock and a hard place on this," said Councillor John McCrea.

Prescott Journal - Oct. 12, 1994

Library meeting slated

MAYNARD — Township residents will have a chance to have their say regarding the library project in Algonquin.

At its October meeting, Reeve Adrian Vanschie announced that township council will have a special meeting on Mon., Oct. 17 at 7:30pm in the auditorium of Algonquin Public School to allow residents the opportunity to voice their concerns about the project.

Controversy has been brewing in the township for the past few weeks as opponents to the library board's expansion plans have been gathering names on a petition.

Richard Dennison presented the petition to council at last Thursday night's meeting. Mr. Dennison told council that there had been no door-to-door campaign to collect the signatures.

Plans call for a two-storey 5010-square-foot addition to be added to the old Algonquin school house.

The ground floor would house the children's section, a main reading room, space for more than 20,000 books, washroom facilities, a kitchen and other features. The remainder of space on the second floor would be used for storage and meeting rooms.

The school house would be renovated and used for community events. The current library is

housed in a portable class room and lacks such basics as a washroom, proper heating and running water.

At last Thursday night's meeting, council gave approval to a by-law authorizing it to enter into agreements with the federal and provincial governments under the Canada-Ontario Infrastructure program.

One of the projects approved for funding is the library, with the two senior levels of government contributing \$200,000 to the new library.

Those opposed to the size of plans believe that the cost is getting out of hand. The township estimated that the project would cost around \$368,000.

Council received five tenders for the construction, ranging from a high of \$443,398 to a low of \$398,610.

Reeve Adrian Vanschie said that reports that the project is more than \$100,000 over budget are inaccurate.

The problem arises from the fact that since the implementation of the Canada-Ontario Infrastructure program, many contracting firms are submitting bids that are substantially higher than what municipalities have anticipated, the reeve said.