

Augusta agrees on library need but size, cost major contention

■ by Rich Thorpe
Journal staff

ALGONQUIN — "The project will see fruition in 1995 in some form."

That is the opinion of Augusta Township Reeve Adrian VanSchie after a two and a half hour open forum meeting held here on Monday night to discuss the future of the library expansion project.

The general consensus reached at the meeting is that no one is opposed to the construction of a new library in Augusta Township, Mr. VanSchie said. The only disagreement is about the size of the building required and the final price tag.

Council recently received five tenders for the project, with the low bid coming in at \$398,610 from Richard Steele Construction Ltd. of Brockville.

Since 1988, the Augusta Township Library Board has been planning for a new library. It began actively raising money for the project in 1990.

When the Canada-Ontario Infrastructure Program was announced, Augusta Township applied to have the library expansion included on a list of eligible projects for capital expenditures.

It applied for and received approval for \$200,000 of funding from the senior levels of government.

The library board donated \$100,000 to the municipality to cover Augusta Township's obligations to the project.

As of Monday night, the library board has a further \$65,000 in its bank account earmarked for the project.

Augusta Township council, at present, is facing a funding shortfall for construction of \$33,000.

Library Board Chairman Don Filewod, explained how the project has developed over the past six years.

The design by Kingston architect N. K. MacLennan incorporates all the

requirements set out by the board, maintaining the heritage of the Algonquin School House while at the same time incorporating all the necessary facilities to serve the public well into the next century.

The present facility, a 600-sq-ft. portable classroom located next to Algonquin Public School has outlived its usefulness, Mr. Filewod said. It costs over \$4,000 a year to heat and does not offer washroom facilities. The Augusta Township Library currently serves well over 1,000 persons.

The library operates on a budget of \$36,000, which is funded by grants from the federal government and the township. The board has always operated within budget, Mr. Filewod said.

The present library circulated over \$250,000 worth of reading material to its users in 1993.

"All that came from an insufferable little building," Mr. Filewod said. "Where you haven't got a pot to pee or a place to study."

He added that if council isn't prepared to go ahead with the project in its present form, perhaps Augusta Township should begin negotiations with the neighboring

municipalities of Brockville and Prescott for use of library facilities for Augusta residents.

The crowd of close to 75 residents was evenly split between proponents of the library project as it stands today, and those concerned about what is perceived to be spiralling costs with no bottom line in sight.

Mr. MacLennan noted that he expected the bids to come in between \$420,000 and \$470,000, with a middle ground of \$446,000 likely being the final estimated cost.

"At \$398,000, it ain't bad," Mr. MacLennan said, adding that the cost per square foot would be \$75. With the money that is in place for construction presently, Augusta Township will be getting in his opinion, "a really good library at a pretty darn good price."

That assurance from Mr. MacLennan wasn't enough to silence some critics of the project, who accused the library board of "poor planning," in allowing the costs to rise from an estimated \$237,000 to the present figure of \$398,000.

Other township residents questioned whether the library board was catering to

■ Continued on Page 3

Library board gives \$200,000

The Editor:

Your article headed "Library Meeting Slated" in last Wednesday's edition made no mention of the fact that the library board is contributing \$200,000 to the new library in addition to the \$200,000 from the two senior levels of government. The funds contributed by the library board come from fund-raising endeavours over the past four years and bring the total funds contributed to the township for a new library to \$400,000.

There could even be a story out there.

Don Filewod
Chairman, Augusta Township
Public Library Board



Augusta Township Library Board Chairman Don Filewod speaks at Monday night's public meeting in Algonquin.

Augusta library

■ Continued from Page 1

an elite corps of users at the expense of the majority of township taxpayers.

Councillor John McCrea, who has expressed some reservations about the project, feels that the process has alienated some in the community who wished to be part of the process.

"I think it would be a mistake to let positions on both sides harden to the point where we lose something that the people want," he said.

Mr. McCrea believes that a facility of approximately 3,150-sq-ft. would serve the needs of the public as well as the proposed design.

Township resident Jacquie Kelly took offense to Mr. McCrea's comments. Mrs. Kelly told the meeting that she and her four children use the Algonquin Library and that it is too small to serve their needs.

"The library is woefully inadequate," she said. "A library provides entertainment, enlightenment, education and enrichment."

Mr. McCrea told the meeting that with the computer information highway on the horizon that perhaps a 5,000-sq-ft. building won't be necessary.

"It's not in the best interests to

allow a small group, however well intentioned, to dictate to the whole township what it needs (for a library)," he said. "More input, that is what is necessary."

"(The present library) is a total embarrassment to Augusta Township," said Councillor Don Biccum. "We need a library. I don't know where the end (of the final costs) is going to be. If I knew where the end was, I would say yes."

The next step in the process, Mr. VanSchie said will be for the council to sit down with Mr. MacLennan and the low bid contractor to examine areas where, perhaps, some savings can be realized.

Prescott Journal Oct 26/94

Library top election issue

■ Continued from Page 1

"I'm certain (the proposed library) will be front row and centre at the all-candidates meeting," he said. An all-candidates meeting has been scheduled for Thurs., Nov. 3 at the Roebuck Community Hall.

As for the previous term of council, Mr. Biccum said, "It's been a pretty good three years. Everything went pretty well."

With previous committee experience on council with both minor softball and recycling, Mr. Biccum would like another term to gain experience in other municipal areas such as planning.

"There are a number of projects underway that I would like to see come to completion, with the library being one of them," he said.

Eleanor Filewod, of Maitland, is running for council for the first time. She was trustee for Augusta Township on the Leeds and Grenville County Board of Education from 1988-1991.

"I think some of our councillors have closed minds on issues," she said. "You have to have open minds when making decisions."

If elected, Mrs. Filewod said she would make sure the day-to-day

operations of Augusta Township continue on in an efficient manner.

Mrs. Filewod is a member of the Augusta Township Library Board and has a good understanding of the township, she said.

Charleville-area resident Dwain Swerdfiger, is also seeking election to council.

Mr. Swerdfiger, employed as an auctioneer, believes that it is important to have an election for council.

"I like to see an election every time," he said. "I don't think anyone should be acclaimed."

The biggest issue facing Augusta Township in Mr. Swerdfiger's view is the proposed library in Algonquin.

"I'm 100 per cent in favor of it," he said.

Other priorities on Mr. Swerdfiger's list include: proper road signs for Hillbrook Road, better street lighting for all villages and the paving of all township roads.

Eugene Countryman believes his 40 years of management experience with two area industries gives him a solid background for township council.

Mr. Countryman has three main goals for council, if elected.

He is committed to better under-

standing and communication between township residents and council, he said.

"I will bring an honest and approachable attitude to bring about change," he said. "We need to restore credibility to the system."

With the economic climate changing, Mr. Countryman said it is important that council ensures the township is working effectively and efficiently.

"The township has to be run as a business," he said. "You have to be careful how taxpayers' money is spent."

Algonquin resident Duaine McKinley has also put his name on the ballot for council.

A life-long resident of Augusta Township, Mr. McKinley said that fiscal restraint and accountability to taxpayers are two main platforms for his campaign.

The Algonquin-area farmer also is involved in small business. With senior levels of government cutting back on their financial contributions to municipal governments, it will be important for future councils to be prudent with its money, he said.

"I want to get as much benefit for the tax dollar as we can," he said.

One issue that is of importance to Mr. McKinley is the ever-increasing encroachment of the provincial government on property rights. Mr. McKinley said the province is down-loading regulations and responsibilities to municipalities and expecting them to enforce laws that are restrictive to landowners.

He believes that the township must stand up to the province in battles over property rights.

George Vail is also seeking election to council on Nov. 14. Mr. Vail was unavailable for comment.

Augusta's library board is appointed

The Editor:

Further to your article of last week about the Augusta library project, I note that Mr. McCrea is quoted as saying it is not in the best interests to allow a small group, however well intentioned, to dictate to the whole township what it needs.

The library board, a small group of nine people, is appointed by the township to administer the library on behalf of the township and thus determine what is needed. Mr. McCrea, a member of a small group of five people, is elected by the public to administer the township and not dictate needs in areas outside of his competence. More input is not needed at this time and will be fatal

to the project.

The computer information highway that Mr. McCrea refers to, and I assume he means the accelerating use of electronic means of access to information, exacerbates the need for an adequate library that can provide the necessary service. Furthermore, Mr. McCrea should be aware that there are ever more books published each year that will not be put in the computer data bank. Libraries are becoming more important for an informed public, not less.

I note that \$200,000 of infrastructure funding spent on roads and other projects in Augusta is matched with \$100,000 from the township but that \$200,000 of infrastructure funding to

be spent on a library has been matched with only \$25,000 from the township. A further \$50,000 is needed for the project to go ahead before the lowest tender expires on Nov. 6. The township could grant this from its reserve of three-quarters of a million or it could loan the money to the library whose board is still fundraising and bringing in \$20,000 a year.

Mr. McCrea needs more input and I trust he will get it on Nov. 14 if he continues to accord potholes a greater priority than the resource an adequate library can offer the citizens of Augusta township.

Don Filewod
Chairman, Augusta Township
Public Library Board

prescott journal Oct 26/1994



Notice to Residents of the Township of Augusta

The Township of Augusta Library requires members to sit on their board. This is a volunteer board which ensures that library service is provided for residents.

Anyone interested in serving on the Library Board should apply in writing to the Township of Augusta, RR #2, Prescott, Ontario, K0E 1T0,

Applications will be received until December 6, 1994

R.N. Gilmour Administrator
Clerk/Treasurer

*prescott Journal -
nov. 23-1994*

Augusta council approves library

Reverend Times - Dec 7-1999

By SCOTT FERRIER
Staff Writer

MAITLAND — Christmas came a few weeks early for Don Filewod.

After months of debate and revisions, everything appears to be in place for the construction of the new Augusta Township library to get under way.

Ground breaking is expected to take place next week and the new public facility could be open for business as early as April.

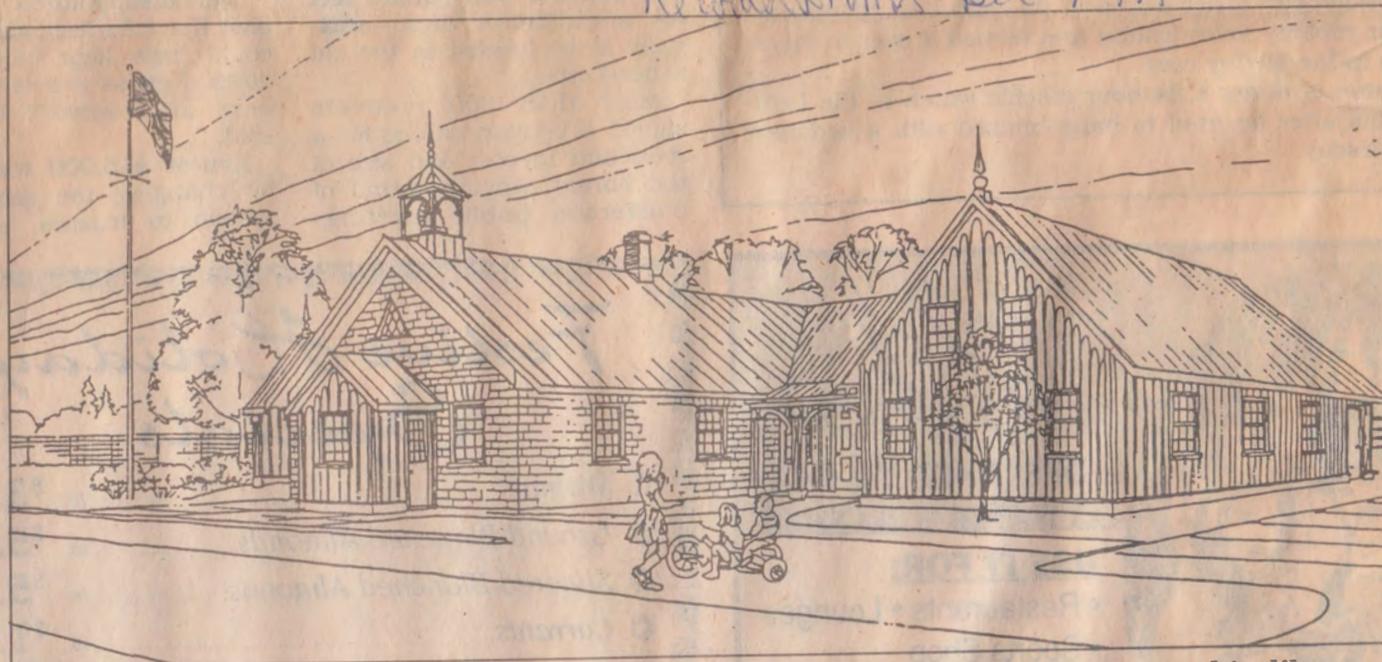
At its regular meeting Tuesday, council approved a revised tender submitted by contractor Richard Steele Construction to build the new library for \$329,245.

Filewod, chairman of the Augusta Township Public Library Board, attended the public meeting and applauded councillors after they unanimously approved the tender.

"All I can say is I'm just delighted. This can be held up as an example for other rural communities. This public facility will be second to none," Filewod said following the meeting.

Steele's tender includes engineering fees, the completed building, steel roof, gravel parking lot and other features. The price of the library is expected to climb to between \$380,000 to \$400,000 after book shelves, furniture and other items are purchased.

Critics of the project said it was too large and expensive for the township. Council, the library board, the architect and Steele met to discuss how a compromise could be reached to pare the cost down.



After months of debate and controversy, the design of the new Augusta township library, shown above, will leap off the drawing board and become a reality. Council approved a revised tender for the construction of the building at Tuesday's regular meeting. Ground breaking is expected to get under way next week and the public facility, to be added on the old schoolhouse in Algonquin on County Road 15, could be open for business as soon as April.

"We as a council are unified in our decision to proceed with this project at the earliest convenient date fulfilling the needs of the township not only for today but also for years to come," VanSchie said.

EVERYONE RELIEVED

Critics and proponents of the original version of the library were relieved when the resolution was passed without discussion or opposition.

"It feels good. This has been in the planning stages for a very long time. The cost of the project

was pared down about \$85,000," said VanSchie, who also represented council on the library board as chairman of the building committee.

The first tender submitted by Steele was good for 90 days but was extended another 30 days to give new council members Duaine McKinley and George Vail a chance to make an informed decision. After the meeting, both said the project will meet the needs of the residents.

"I'm glad we made some headway and got this resolved. This is adequate for us," Vail said.

"I've been following this as it's developed. I think that this is a good compromise. All we want is a library... I wish it would go up right away," McKinley said.

The design calls for the construction of a 3,210-square-foot addition to the old Algonquin schoolhouse on County Road 15. The library will house a children's section, main reading room, space for more than 20,000 books, washrooms, a kitchen and other features. The old schoolhouse will also be restored and used as a meeting place.

(Continued on Page A2)

Augusta council approves library contract

(Continued from Page A1)

Opposition to the project had been building since plans for the new library were unveiled more than a year ago. That design was to have been 3,210 square feet and cost \$285,000. However, both size and the cost nearly doubled because a second floor of storage space was added as was another 600 square feet for a children's area, originally to be located in the old schoolhouse.

More than 300 residents signed a petition calling for a reduction in cost and size of the library. After a round of boisterous public meetings

and all-candidates meetings, council agreed.

Richard Denison, who spearheaded the petition, was pleased with the outcome.

"I'm looking at this as \$85,000 saved is \$85,000 earned. I guess I can accept it now. We did our part. I think it probably would have gone through as was.

"I'm disappointed it went past the volunteer stage, that could have kept labor costs down. I guess this is the next best alternative," Denison said.

Almost \$45,000 was saved by changing the roof rafter system to trusses, although

storage and meeting rooms and building control panels to be located on the second floor will be displaced. Substituting standard-sized doors and windows and other minor changes reduced the cost further.

The board has raised almost \$200,000, and \$200,000 in grants have been received from the federal and provincial governments under the Canada-Ontario infrastructure program.

Staffing, heating and maintaining the new library will

cost \$40,000-45,000. The township contributes \$20,000 to the library board each year and the provincial government makes a matching contribution. The remaining funds will be raised by the library board, VanSchie said.

The new library will have expanded hours but the library board has not yet determined what they will be.

The current library is located in a portable classroom and lacks basic facilities. The library has approximately 1,000 users and that figure is expected to double.

Augusta approves new library plans

■ By Rich Thorpe
Journal Staff

ALGONQUIN — The spirit of compromise has prevailed in Augusta Township.

After a couple of months of controversial wrangling over the size and the cost of the new township library to be built in Algonquin, Augusta Township council approved a revised tender by Richard Steele Construction to build the new library for \$329,245 at its inaugural meeting on Tues., Dec. 6.

Augusta Township Library Board Chairman Don Filewod was pleased that the original design was, for the most part, kept intact.

"Augusta Township is now certainly well ahead of surrounding townships in terms of such a facility," Mr. Filewod said.

Mr. Filewod added that he was pleased that a compromise agreement could be worked out to allow money to be saved on construction, without altering the exterior design, which he said takes into account "the historic nature of the site."

The 3,210-square-foot addition to the old Algonquin school house will incorporate a children's section, a main reading room, washrooms and a kitchen.

The old school house will be restored and will be used as a community meeting hall.

The final cost of the project after construction, and including new shelves, furniture and moving costs, is expected to be in the neighborhood of \$380,000-\$400,000.

The Augusta Township Library Board raised close to \$200,000 for construction, with the remaining \$200,000 coming from a Canada-Ontario Infrastructure Works grant.

The library is expected to be completed in early spring.

Prescott Journal - Dec. 17-1994

News & Views from Augusta Township

by Dorothy Winmill

The Augusta Township Public Library - work on the new library complex at Algonquin will begin almost immediately. Needless to say this is going to be a very busy and exciting time and it is hoped the community and volunteers will continue to support the library building fund as they have to this date.

The next library fundraising bingo is to be held at 10pm on Dec. 23 at 806 Chelsea St., Brockville. For further info. or to volunteer to help at the bingos or in the library, please call 926-2449.

Prescott Journal -
Dec. 14-1994

Augusta News Notes

Request trashed

MAYNARD — Augusta council trashed a request made by a businessman who wanted to be billed by the township rather than pay the cost of dumping garbage at the landfill site during each trip.

Ken Miller, president and owner of Ken Miller Excavating, asked the township to set up an account for his Maitland business and bill him.

In a letter to council, Miller wrote that he wanted the account so his workers could bring hazardous waste to the dump without having to pay each trip. Workers are called out to accidents on Highway 401 and other areas in Augusta and don't carry signed company cheques.

At the regular meeting Tuesday, council scrapped the request.

Reeve Adrian VanSchie said tags for various trucks can be purchased in advance at the township office or at the gate to the landfill site. Tracking the amount of waste dumped by Miller's firm each month and billing him would create extra paperwork and wouldn't be fair to other firms or residents who might ask for their own account.

"I'm not in favor of Ken Miller's request. We have a system where users pay up front. If we gave him an exemption we would have to give others exemptions," VanSchie said.

Board members announced

MAYNARD — The latest chapter of the Augusta Township Public Library Board unfolded at the council meeting Tuesday night when the 1995-97 board members were announced.

The members are Councillors Duaine McKinley and Ivan Dixon, Don Filewod, Mark Darroch, Joanne Edwards and John McCrea.

New board members

AUGUSTA — The 1995 Augusta Library Board held its first meeting on Wed., Jan. 11. The new members are: Mark Darroch (chairman), Duaine McKinley (vice-chairman and township councillor), Joanne Edwards (secretary), Ivan Dixon (township councillor), Don Filewod (past chairman), John McCrea (past chairman) and Denise Maloney (treasurer and chief executive officer/librarian). The following are the various committees and their members: finance committee includes Ivan Dixon and John McCrea; building and property consists of Duaine McKinley and John McCrea; personnel committee is made up of Joanne Edwards and Ivan Dixon; planning and policy includes John McCrea and Duaine McKinley; public relations is Joanne Edwards; and fundraising includes Don Filewod and all board members.

*Prescott Journal
Jan. 18, 1995*

strict Recorder & Times - Feb. 2 - 1995



SCOTT FERRIER/THE RECORDER AND TIMES

A little off the top

The new Augusta township public library, an addition being built on the old Algonquin schoolhouse on County Road 15, is beginning to take shape. Ben Norgaard of Norgaard Construction trimmed some wood off the roof trusses Tuesday. The new library is expected to open in May.

Spending balloons, taxes up slightly in Augusta budget

By **ANDREW PHILIPS**
Staff Writer

MAYNARD — Augusta Township ratepayers will see their tax bills rise 2.1 per cent, or \$4 for a ratepayer with a \$3,000 assessment.

For the average taxpayer, the budget increases taxes to \$190.28 from last year's bill of \$186. Council passed the budget Tuesday night.

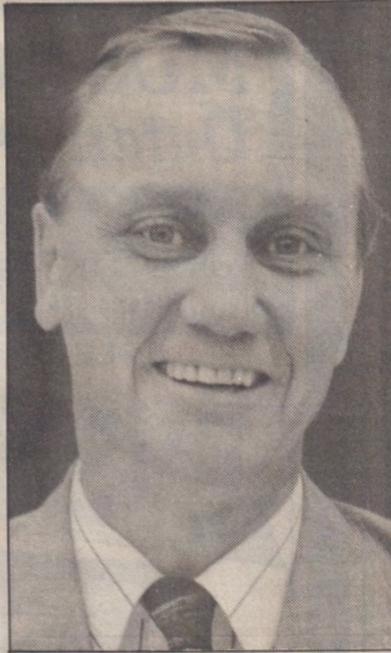
The main reason for the higher taxes is a 45.3 per cent jump in expenditures from \$2,201,508 in 1994 to \$3,199,170 this year. But grants and other revenues almost doubled this year, increasing from \$1,176,064 last year to \$2,141,290 in 1995.

The increase represents a slight change in the mill rate, which is set at 63.426 mills for residential properties in 1995. Last year, the mill rate was 62.08 mills.

"Prudent spending became the bottom line for this, another year of restraint in Augusta Township," VanSchie said, adding he would have liked to have seen no increase in taxes for this year.

The public works department will once again receive the biggest share of the municipal tax bill, going from \$1,184,950 last year to \$1,291,000 for 1995.

But library expenditures accounted for the biggest increase in this year's budget, rising from \$22,000 in 1994 to \$369,700 this year. A ground-breaking ceremony for the township's new \$329,245 library, located in Algonquin, was held in December. The project is funded through government grants and community fund-raising.



ADRIAN VANSCHIE:
Touts another year of restraint.

But garbage disposal costs also increased dramatically in 1995, rising from \$294,050 and in 1994 to \$577,950 this year.

The implementation of 911 service in the township at a cost of \$100,000 has also put greater demands on the municipal budget, according to VanSchie.

Fire department expenditures have more than doubled from \$142,000 in 1994 to \$320,000 this year. The increase is due to the purchase of a new \$190,000 fire truck, which VanSchie said will increase security for township residents.

Parks and recreation expenses remained steady, rising from \$81,300 in 1994 to \$82,600 this year.

But administration expenditures declined to \$227,950 this year, down from \$240,640 in 1994.

Recorder & Times - April 5, 1995

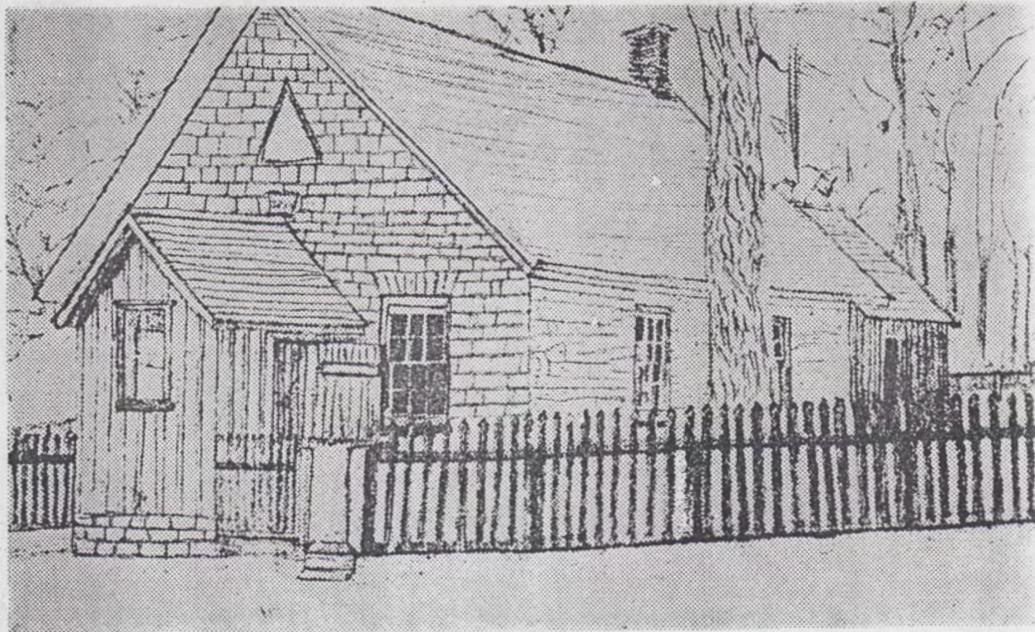
JOURNAL, WED., MAY 17, 1995

Prescott Journal - May 17, 1995



Book presentation

The South Grenville Guild of Fine Art recently presented the Augusta Township Public Library with the book *History of Art, Third Edition*, by Horace Janson. Pictured are (back row left to right) Audrey Wieler, Bill Fowler, Mary Scott, Joan Hastie, John Gandier, Marc Cardinal, (front row left to right) Marilyn White, Vern Wieler, Denise Maloney and Joan Gandier.



TO BE SAVED — From Trenton comes this pencil drawing of the 130-year-old Algonquin school which will be closed on Monday. Clerk-comptroller O. W. Larry of Trenton found a drawing of the school in the effects of his late father, Herbert W. Larry. Artist was Hilliard Walker, believed to be a cousin of O. W. Larry's parents and related to a family which operated a hardware store in Brockville at one

time. Date that the drawing was made is unknown. The one-room school, built in 1833, has been used continuously, except for seven months, since its construction. Pupils at the school will move to a new room at Maynard school on Monday. Algonquin residents say the school will be preserved as a museum or a library.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Result Of Centralization

School Soon Silent For All Time

Algonquin school, educating village youngsters almost continuously since it was built in 1833, will close on Monday when pupils move to the new addition of Maynard school.

The one-room, stone school on the main street of the village, which spans the Merrickville road eight miles northeast of Brockville, was closed for seven months a few years ago. Other than that brief period, the school has been used constantly since 1833.

The school is not expected to be used ever again for education. However, village residents say it will be put to worthy use and hope to see a museum or a library housed there. "It won't be sold and turned into a residence," a nearby resident commented this morning.

Grade four pupils have been attending the school this fall, temporarily while the addition to the public school at

Maynard north of Prescott was completed. On Monday, these pupils and their teacher, Miss Gayle Nixon, will move into a new room at Maynard.

Construction at the Maynard school is doubling the school's size—from six rooms to twelve rooms and an auditorium. Pupils now at Brundige's, Domville and some at the new Algonquin Public school will also move to Maynard this Monday.

Official opening of the six-room and auditorium addition at Maynard school is scheduled for Nov. 20, a school board official announced this morning. Speaker will be Lyle Stewart, vice-principal of Ottawa Teachers College and appropriately, a former teacher at Algonquin.

Augusta Township school area, in a consolidation trend over the last 10 years, has built new, larger schools at Churchill subdivision outside Prescott and at Maitland in addition to the Algonquin and Maynard schools.

The centralization has resulted in the closing of a number of old schools. Some have been sold and turned into re-

sidences. The old stone schools at Maitland, one a predecessor to the other, are close to being approved for a restoration and museum project of the Grenville County Historical Society.

Now, Algonquin residents have plans for their 130-year-old school, where chatter, recitation and recess games end for all time this Friday.

*Donated by
Ray McKinley*

Recorder & Times

Aug. 22, 1995

Augusta Library opening Saturday

ALGONQUIN (Staff)— The Augusta Township library has come a long way from the days when it first opened in a tiny, one-room school in North Augusta in 1866.

Over the next century it bounced around to various locations and now almost 130 years later it has finally found a permanent home. Oddly enough it is rooting itself in a spot similar to the one in which it started — a one-room school house, this time in Algonquin

After months of work on the addition to the stone building, the Augusta Township Public Library will officially open Saturday, August 26. A special ceremony will be held from 10 a.m. to noon to allow the public their first glimpse of the \$400,000 project.

A number of dignitaries will be on hand including Ontario Solicitor General and Leeds-Grenville MPP Bob Runciman, MP Jim Jordan, Augusta Reeve Adrian VanSchie and library board chairman Mark Darroch Sr.

Included in the celebrations will be a commemorative tolling of the old school bell and ribbon-cutting ceremony. There will be a tour of the building following the ceremony.

Library hours are from 1-8 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and 9:30 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The library will be closed Fridays and Sundays. For more information on its services call the library at 926-2449.