

Thurlow offers cash support for Dever Arena

Offer less than half what Belleville had requested

By Jack Evans
The Intelligencer

CORBYSVILLE — Thurlow Township has become the first neighboring municipality to offer support for the Wally Dever Arena project in Belleville.

Reeve Gerald Masterson said council has voted strongly in favor of offering \$20,000, spread over two equal payments for this year and next year.

There are also some conditions attached to the offer, he said, concerning a freeze on non-resident fees, and it will be up to Belleville officials to respond to those matters.

"We don't really want an arena in Thurlow, nor can we ever afford one," commented Masterson. "But it is important to share in these projects for the good of all."



Gerald Masterson

He said he has received complaints from a few township residents opposed to making any contribution, but the motion was strongly supported by a majority of council.

The commitment still falls well short of Belleville's request made at a recent council meeting when a delegation from the city attended.

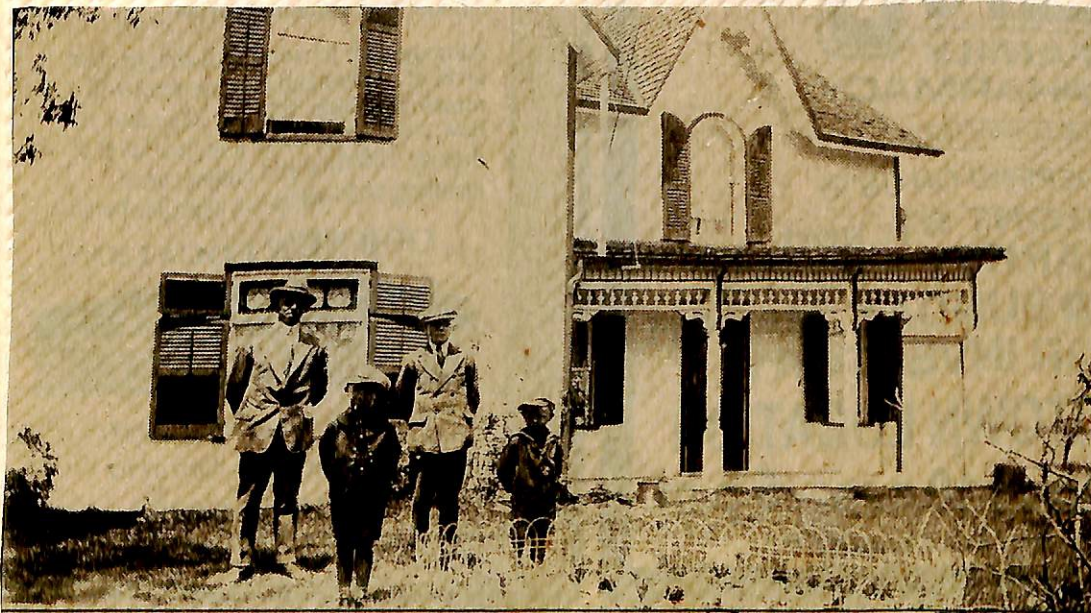
Belleville Mayor Ross McDougall and his support team had asked for \$44,500 spread over three years, based on a consultant's report of current use of the city arena by township residents.

The city has also approached Sidney Township with a similar request.

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Time Capsule

Clayton Ritz, of Thurlow Township, sends us this photograph of the former Ritz home at the corner of Ritz Road and Cty. Rd. 6. Pictured are John Ritz (left) and hired man Robert Fairweather, and John's children Russell (left) and Clayton. Fairweather was one of many orphans raised by Dr. Robert Barnardo after the First World War. The photo was taken about 1926. The house is now owned by Sandra Porter.

FIRST HOME FOR COZA and RUSSELL RITZ