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Town's Hockey Heritage celebrated



MUTT AND JEFF? Ron MacLean of *Hockey Night in Canada*, left, and Jim Ralph of *The Sports Network*, served up the laughs at last Monday's Georgetown Hockey Heritage dinner at Holy Cross Auditorium. Sheldon 'Shel' Lawr was honoured for his dedication to hockey in Georgetown over the years. (Jamie Harrison photo)

No Town facility study this year, budget pared

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Georgetown Gemini

A proposed study of new recreation facilities in Georgetown was one of the casualties of budget cuts during recent budget debates.

Councillors cut \$45,000 from the proposed budget for the study — although the net savings was only \$22,500 because half the cost was to have been funded by development charges.

In making his pitch for the study, acting Recreation

and Parks Director Paul Stover said the study would be very important to the provision of new facilities for Georgetown.

"There's growing unrest, primarily from the Georgetown community, who want to know what facilities are on stream now that (construction of) the new Acton arena is underway. Quite frankly, we are unable in any definitive way to indicate anything," Stover ex-

plained.

Noting that the Town's debt load is tied up for a 10-year period because of the Acton arena and that the existing facilities are aging, Stover argued they need to

"There's growing unrest, primarily from the Georgetown community, who want to know what facilities are on stream now that (construction of) the new Acton arena is underway. Quite frankly, we are unable in any definitive way to indicate anything"
— Paul Stover, Rec & Parks Director

tion facilities to be built there in the future. Throughout the community, people are willing to pay for them through their taxes.

Councillor Ron Chatten argued they could not afford the study this year.

"We all know that this study is necessary, but not this year," Chatten argued.

Councillor Anne Currie said it would be "foolish" to spend money for a study when the municipality might not even exist in three years with the Provincial municipal reforms.

The study would look at the Town's existing infrastructure to determine what type of life is left in its aging pools and arenas and then at potential locations for a new leisure centre.

It would also look at whether the amount of seating at the Halton Hills Cultural Centre could be increased and at the Town's financial capabilities to build new facilities.

Sixth Line residents raise safety at budget talks

Residents of the Sixth Line are somewhat appeased with news that the proposed resurfacing of their road from Hwy. 7 to the Erin Townline will probably be moved forward in the Town's capital budget.

Although the capital budget forecast includes \$5,000 this year for engineering work, the proposed \$100,000 resurfacing project is not scheduled until 1999, but last week the Town Engineer said he was trying to get it moved up to next year.

"Well, we made some progress but we're disappointed that the re-surfacing

work won't be done this year," explained Sixth Line resident spokesman Art Hawes on last Friday.

Earlier in the week Hawes had again appealed to budget committee members to do the necessary work on the road now, complaining that the road is "probably the most heavily-travelled and worst maintained rural road in Halton Hills," that was frequently unsafe to drive on because of its wash-board surface and potholes.

Hawes questioned why, after writing to the Town for information, it took seven months to get a response.

Hawes also asked why there wasn't money in the budget to fix an unsafe road when Town staff have start-of-the-art computers and the Town has a subsidized cafeteria for employees whose average salary is in excess of \$50,000.

Engineer Bob Austin said that before they surface treat the road they need to put down an adequate gravel base and do some work on the ditches, culverts and rock outcrops, and that there might have to be more money put in the budget for more work after the resurfacing is done.

Although staff recommended cutting \$19,859 from

this year's operating budget for gravel patching, at the request of Ward 2 Councillor Kevin Kuiack, budget committee members voted to put that money back in the budget.

Kuiack said he's been getting between five and 10 phone calls a day from rural residents on the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Lines, complaining about the poor shape their roads are in.

"I think that anything we can do to maintain or upgrade those roads we should do — we have to ensure that the safety of residents in the county is being dealt with."

Poulstrup pulls out

Finn Poulstrup, president of the Georgetown Raiders, of the Ontario Hockey Association, tendered his resignation to the team board of directors last Tuesday evening.

During an interview Wednesday afternoon, Poulstrup said he felt it was time to move on. He also said that resigning the presidency was not a rash decision, but one he'd been mulling over for quite some time.

For more on Finn Poulstrup's resignation, see **POULSTRUP**, Page 17.



FINN POULSTRUP

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