

COUNCIL STUDIES PROPOSAL FOR \$110,000 ARENA REMODELLING PROJECT

A \$110,000 arena remodelling program was presented to council last Wednesday when Harold McClure, speaking for the Board of Parks Management reviewed plans prepared by a Brampton architect and quoted tender prices for extensive changes which the board feels necessary to put the building in proper shape.

Members of the board, including chairman Bob Lane, Dick Licata, Clarence King, Ivan Crabtree, Art Scott and Mr. McClure, discussed the matter at a specially called meeting of the council.

After blueprints of proposed alterations and a brief explanation

of these had been given, the group adjourned to the arena where the parks board conducted councillors on a tour showing what is needed and why.

A focal point of the proposed plan is structural defects which it is claimed make it unsafe to operate another hockey season. Rotted timbers and bulging seats on the two sides indicate danger of collapse when the stands are full. Narrow entranceways under the stands, lack of proper exits and a Rose Room firetrap upstairs were all pointed out by the parks board.

Mr. McClure said that tenders totalling \$110,772 from J. B. Mac-

kenzie & Son, Ltd. for general contracting, George Muckart for wiring and Canadian Ice Machine Co. for changes in the ice cooling system would be accepted if council approves the plan.

The parks board plan would envisage complete new seating on both sides of the arena, elimination of the underseat entrances, and replacement of the present end seating section where seats are too close together, with new construction and "theatre type" seats. Wooden flooring in this vicinity would be replaced with concrete a sa fire precaution.

The old curling rink would be torn down, and a new structure erected which would contain offices, dressing rooms, storage room and a new main entrance to the arena proper and the upstairs Rose Room. The present main lobby would be further increased in size to take in dressing rooms and washrooms, and the snack bar would run across the whole front of the building.

The players' boxes would be moved across the rink, with underground entrances from the new dressing rooms. Space would be allowed at the far end of the rink for future installation of another 500 seats should these be needed.

Complete rewiring of the building, additional exits, a new floor in the Rose Room and extra lighting over the ice surface, are all included in the sketches prepared by architect R. W. Hall.

A main point in the remodelling would be to have the arena available for year-round use, and for this purpose there would be flooring over the ice surface. The board envisions roller skating as a major summer attraction along with lacrosse, with such added activities as bingo and dancing possible downstairs.

After council reconvened in the municipal building, there was further discussion which ended when Mayor Armstrong asked members to give careful consideration to the parks board request before an answer is given.

"We should be spending \$100,000 on sidewalks if we are going to spend the money," said Cr. Leroy

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS



THIS PICTURE, taken by Frank Emery, whose daughter Johnnie was a member of the group, shows 29 boys and girls of Holy Cross R.C. Church who were admitted to first communion in June. The girls in their white dresses and veils, and boys in dark suits and "Sunday best" were given holy communion in the morning by Fr. Anselm and in the afternoon attended a solemn benediction at which they renewed baptismal vows.

Dale, "but I would move to considerable lengths to see that the arena is carried on."

Mr. Dale said it had been built by public spirited men who didn't look for profit. The thing to decide, he said, is whether the remodelling can be done this year or whether it will have to wait.

Cr. Walter Gray said he was shocked to find out just how bad conditions are in the building, and he can't see carrying on another winter without changes being made.

Asked by Cr. Irwin Noble if any alternative (and cheaper) plan has been considered by the parks board, Mr. McClure said all revisions have been downward and \$32,000 has been lopped from the original plan.

"The east wall is particularly bad," said Reeve Stan Allen, "and if we couldn't get liability insurance and there was a major accident, it might cost the town more in damages than it would for remodelling."

Cr. Harry Hale asked if a recreation commission, with a paid recreation director, would be consid-

ered.

"We are working towards that," said Mr. McClure, "and we envisaged a centralized recreation site, with arena and swimming pool and possibly a playground area as well."

Board member Dick Licata said that unless the whole plan is adopted, he doesn't think it worth spending any large sum of money for wiring or any one part of the plan.

The board, he said, is financially happy at present, with the last instalment of the artificial ice debentures paid off.

"We don't want to spend \$100,000 any more than you do," said chairman Lane, "but we can't see anything else if the arena is to keep operating."

"Do you think if we spend the money we will get the crowds back," said Cr. Garfield McGilvray.

Mr. Lane replied that there had been a nice attendance increase last hockey season, and the booth particularly was a profitable phase of operation with over \$2,000 profit. With roller skating added, he feels the board of parks can carry debenture payments as they have on artificial ice.

"I'd like to see a proper recreation director and a 12 month program if we go ahead with the plan," commented Cr. Alfred Sykes.

Mayor Armstrong concluded the discussion with a summary of the situation as he sees it.

"If the town is allowed by the Municipal Board to issue 20 year debentures, yearly cost would be \$9,000. The statutory one mill grant which the town must pay yearly to the board is approximately the same, so debenture payments would be covered by this and the parks board would have to raise their operating revenue themselves.

"It doesn't appear to be a question of whether to make the arena better or leave it in its present state," the mayor said. "Rather, it seems to be whether we are going to spend \$110,000 to keep it going, or close it down."

Mayor Armstrong said that after viewing the building, he doesn't want to sit as a council member and accept responsibility of having people injured if seating collapses.

"If you look at it one way, we certainly can't afford \$110,000 for an arena," the mayor continued, "but on the other hand we have spent no public money for years on recreation."

The arena is a place for boys and girls, he said, and has helped contribute to Georgetown's low delinquency rate, and it is hard to measure its effects in dollars and cents.

He summarized the town's debenture position, saying that present debt, when debentures are issued for all civic improvements adopted, will be \$2,381,760. Of this figure, \$481,431 is recoverable and will not come from the tax rate.

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SOILS AND LAND USE GROUP TO VISIT HERE

J. E. W.

The programme for the fourth annual Junior Farmers Soil and Land Use Tour has just been released by the Extension Branch of the Ont. Dept. of Agriculture. The event is scheduled for September 12, 13 and 14, with headquarters at the Ontario Agricultural College, T. R. Hilliard, associate director of extension; and Dr. Bert Matthews, of the Soils Dept. at the OAC were in Halton last week to inspect possible points which would be of interest to this group of young farm operators. Among those selected, are 200 acre farm of Maurice C. Beatty, in Trafalgar Township; the 150 acre farm of Fred Nurse in Esquesing Township; the improved pasture on the flats of Malden Farm owned by Dr. Wm. James, also in Esquesing Township; and the improved wood lot of Duncan Moffat, in Nasagaweya Township.

Needless to add, many other points of equal interest could have been selected, however, the three-day programme also includes tours to farms in Peel and York counties as well as an opportunity to see a few of the highlights around the Ontario Agricultural College.

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