

No help for Sabres in rates

(Continued from Page One) accepted the proposed increases of an additional \$2 an hour for minor sports and \$3 an hour for all other local groups, meaning \$20 and \$28 respectively, will take effect in the 77-78 season.

In his report Treasurer Ray King admitted the proposed increases ranged from 44 per cent to 204 per cent, as the brief presented by Norm Elliott three weeks ago contended. He said the 204 per cent hike for the Sabres Junior B Hockey team, resulted from the extremely low amount received by the town. He said the town received an average of between \$10 and \$11 last year, on the 60-40 split of the gate.

Recreation Director Glen Gray, in his report, said comments by Norm Elliott in the brief submitted on behalf of all users of Acton arena were probably true when he said Acton Sabres had access to only one-third the sponsors and spectators of the Georgetown area, but claimed their facility and ice requirements should also be less.

Norm Elliott repeatedly told administration committee Acton did not have the population to attract the same crowds as Georgetown could, and said in this instance equal rates were unfair.

Mr. Elliott pointed out Acton residents not only paid for the Acton arena but helped pay for the Gordon Alcott arena as well. Using the recreation director's figures he pointed out Acton arena only had \$9,880 summer revenue, but received \$68,853 in winter revenue. He said it is obvious that a six months operation for winter use is supposed to carry a year round operation. He charged the town seemed to expect the deficit could be made up from six months winter operation. He suggested the recreation department should try to find revenue for the summer months instead of raising the rates. He pointed out Gordon Alcott arena is used year round.

Mr. Elliott claimed they had no information on how many teams or groups helped support Gordon Alcott Arena. "In Acton the number is smaller so the load is more burdensome."

He said Glen Gray's philosophy that the groups using the arena should pay could result in damage to all groups using the arena.

Councillor Ric Morrow said the committee had spent the whole summer trying to work out a fair rate for everyone. He said the Georgetown people could say the same about paying for their own arena and then helping to pay for another. He said Georgetown came into regional government with a large surplus with most of it going to pay for the Georgetown indoor pool and Alcott arena.

He pointed out citizens of Wards Three and Four had helped to pay for the Acton pool. He said, "We never once said Acton and Georgetown when trying to set the rates." He admitted parochialism was natural and to be found everywhere.

He said the rates were based on competitive ice rates in the surrounding area. He said Georgetown has teams playing in Oakville, where there is a greater population base to support the facilities. "It costs a certain amount to maintain an arena no matter what the population."

Morrow said the rates paid at Acton arena were extremely low in the past, and asked if it was fair to the

people who do not use the arena to pay the extra tax cost.

He claimed the committee had acceded to three out of four of the requests in the brief submitted to council.

Lou Bonnette said, "As a past member of the Acton Parks and Recreation Committee, who was sitting there when regional government was established, I'd like to know why the salaries of Acton arena staff have gone from a total of \$24,000 to \$61,000 in three years."

Councillor Roy Booth said the town was trying to level everything off equally so the salaries at Acton arena were brought up to the level of the salaries at Georgetown arenas.

Councillor Les Duby said the whole thing was a frustrating experience. He said he had been opposed to the referring back to committee because he saw no point in it, and claimed the discussion rebuffed again, was of no value to anyone.

"When you talk like that you're not helping anyone," retorted Morrow. He said the night the "excellent" presentation was made at council there was not time for council to consider the report, nor would there have been reports from the treasurer and recreation director.

Councillor George Maltby said he could not justify dropping the rates. He claimed the amount paid last year would not pay for the light and heat, and suggested it was unfair to throw an extra burden on the rest of the residents.

Mr. Elliott said the two communities are different and he sympathized with council who felt they had to be equal. "But is it fair to the Sabres, regardless of dollars and cents? What a hue and cry would be raised if the hydro decided to up their rates 204 per cent in one year."

Duby said the brief tried to point out the areas where the users of the Acton arena had no control. He said arbitrary figures set to make the arena self-supporting could force the end of hockey and figure skating in Acton. He said a way must be found not to damage existing programs. "There's no way you can generate as much revenue with 100 spectators as 600". He said he had to oppose the committee recommendation.

Elliott said "Guelph Memorial Arena charges less for out of town games for the Sabres than our own arena. We're telling you \$30 an hour is not satisfactory."

Duby said if the trend continues this way Acton could lose the Sabres as they did the Swords. "It's just getting too rich for our blood."

Lou Bonnette said the Sabres never paid \$10 or \$11 an hour but paid on a 60-40 gate split. He pointed out if the town received little it was because the team took in little. He said the former Acton council tried to keep hockey going.

Elliott repeated his plea for summer activities in Acton arena to help defray costs.

Mrs. Laurie Cook of the Acton Figure Skating Club pointed four of the five fees listed in the recreation report were wrong. She said they had to raise their fees \$20 over two years to pay for ice time. "We have used all our bank balance to squeak through," she commented.



4 A.M. SILENCE was shattered by the fire siren, announcing a car fire at the home of G. Buna, Mill W., Sunday night.

No change for St Alban's Dr.

Halton Hills works committee decided Monday not to make any changes in parking regulations on St. Alban's Drive.

The committee received a letter from George Harrap who last year was able to persuade the committee to ban parking on one side of the street. Harrap had wanted no parking but the committee compromised keeping parking on one side.

In his letter to the town he said he still wasn't entirely happy with the situation but was learning to live with it. However, Mr. Harrap said he would like to see the no parking on one side enforced.

Maltby seeks Ward 2 seat

George Maltby has announced he will seek to retain his Area Council seat in Ward 2, Halton Hills.

He was an elected Councillor for the former Township of Esquesing and, since the death of the late Len Cox, has served as Area Councillor for the Esquesing Ward of Halton Hills.

George, with his wife, Gail, and their three sons, operate a small farm on the 3rd line of Esquesing. He is employed by Atlas Alloys as National Sales Manager of their Fastener Division, that residents of Ward 2 receive good value for their tax dollar.

Maltby states his voting record on Council demonstrates his concern over unwarranted spending as he was one of only three Councillors opposed to building the



George Maltby

Discrimination - Sabres exec

Officials of the Sabres hockey club were upset by the committee's recommendation and hope to go back to the full council meeting next Monday evening with another presentation.

"It's blatant discrimination," declared Sabre vice-president Lou Bonnette.

President Mill Ball agreed. He wondered if the people who rock the boat are the ones to get shut down. "The Sabres started this whole ball rolling," he said. "We took a brief to GAC asking about rates, and discovered the other groups were all concerned, too, about their higher rates."

He repeated that Georgetown facilities are better than Acton's. They have a new clock, larger dressing rooms and better washroom facilities.

Wallace intent?

As a result of information in the press regarding Wallace St., many people think it will be a highway trucking bypass, councillor Les Duby told council last week. "It's up to us to have the correct impression about Wallace St."

He said that the works committee should explain exactly the intent, as he had had several calls.

Works committee chairman Mike Armstrong nodded in agreement.

Engineering data is being prepared on a possible bypass project.

Fewer attend "I'd agree to \$30 an hour if we had the crowd," he said.

Mr. Ball and Mr. Bonnette went over the fact that Acton simply does not have the same crowds attending games as Georgetown does.

They hoped the Sabre ice rates would be set according to the plan in 1974, which would have paid the Sabres up from \$11 to \$25. This recommendation was followed for all groups but the Sabres, who are now to be asked \$30 per hour and \$40 an hour in play-offs.

They explained again that the 60-40 split, to help promote junior hockey, resulted in the \$11 an hour figure. The Sabres got 60 per cent and the arena 40 per cent, under that arrangement. The figure depended on the size of the crowd.

Both men had special praise for councillor Les Duby who, they felt, understands their situation and stood up for them. "He deserves a star," commented Mr. Bonnette.

They said Mr. Duby shares their concern that Acton could lose another local team.

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Two fires keep firefighters busy

A short circuit in a radio was the cause of a fire at 10:30 Saturday morning.

Firefighters were summoned to the home of Harold Andros, 260 Mill St. E. Fire chief Mick Holmes reported damage to a rug and smoke damage in the house.

Another fire at 4:15 a.m. Monday sent volunteer firefighters rushing to the home of G. Buna, 29 Mill St. W. Mr. Holmes reports extensive damage to a 1969 Oldsmobile. The cause was unknown, he says.

Red Cross Campaign Correction

MILTON RED CROSS

CAMPAIGN WEEKS - NOV. 8th - NOV. 22nd

(IN MILTON-NOT IN GEORGETOWN OR ACTON)

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