

# Bid to take over arena passes first council step

Upset over the recently announced 30 per cent arena ice rental rates increase, a group of Acton businessmen have asked permission to take over the operation of the Acton arena.

Speaking to Halton Hills council Monday evening, Bruce Cargill said he represented a group of people who are willing to pay \$100 for the use of the arena, and take over full operation, including salaries, wages and part time help. In addition, they will take over the confectionery booth, charge and set up all ice schedules etc.

According to council records, the Acton arena had a deficit of \$70,000 last year. Mr. Cargill said his group is prepared to pay any deficit at the end of the year—if any. He explained they are confident they could run the building without going into the red.

The rate increase has angered many local sports groups wanting the rates decreased. Because of this hike, the groups claim, some sports may be in financial difficulty and have to greatly increase memberships. Interest will wane because of the high costs of participation and some groups may have to disband.

Delegations from various sports groups in both Acton and Georgetown suggested putting the increase over two years, as it was already decided there would be no increase next year. Advertising in the arena and payments for tennis courts, ball diamonds and soccer fields could help offset some of the financial problems faced by the town this year.

Councillor Roy Booth pointed out to Mr. Cargill that under Bill 151 (the instigation

of regional government), all public buildings were taken over by the town.

"I appreciate what you are doing, he told Mr. Cargill, "but I do not think it is possible."

Councillor Harry Levy agreed with Mr. Booth. "The very fact that they made the statement indicated the concern in Acton. It underlines the problem they are experiencing."

Mr. Levy admitted he had done a lot of "soul searching" in the last few weeks concerning the huge rate increase. He was on the budget committee which raised the rates. Now that he has heard some of the consequences, he proposed the increase be spread over two years. He was supported by Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson.

Councillor Pat Patterson interpreted

their move to mean the group does not agree with the management of the arena. He said he would be behind them 100 per cent but did not think the move was legal.

Mr. Cargill said he did not disagree with the management of the arena, but he knows there are ways to supply Acton with hockey without a deficit. "We may not come out with a profit, but we sure won't owe \$70,000."

Councillor George Maltby pointed out to Mr. Cargill that there is more to running an arena than "scraping off the ice and opening and closing the doors." He told him there are a lot of little incidentals which have to be done which costs a lot of money. Last year, \$20,000 was spent on a new ice making machine, he noted. "There is a continual amount of maintenance on

that building. Are you willing to go along with that?" he asked.

The people involved in his proposal he suggested are business people, and would run the building as a business. They would not pay \$20,000 cash for a machine, but spread it out over five years.

Town treasurer Ray King explained a municipality does not work that way.

Mr. Maltby suggested a report be made on the feasibility and legality of such a separation move. Councillor Ed Wood supported the motion.

Councillor Walter Biehn said there was no possible way Acton arena could be separated from the rest of the recreation buildings in the town without disturbing the whole set up.

Council voted to have staff look into the

possibility of private individuals running the building. However, they voted against splitting the increase over two years. A four part recommendation concerning the increase also passed. It suggested: that ten per cent of the net gate receipts charge, applicable to groups other than minor groups affiliated with the town where there is an admission charge, be eliminated; a user charge for other recreational facilities in the municipality be looked into; a policy be prepared that would require Committee of Council to consult with affected local groups prior to any rate increases for recreation facilities being implemented; consideration be given to the rental of advertising space within the municipal arenas as a source of added revenue.

# The Acton Free Press

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Twenty Pages—Twenty Cents

## Main St. South costs \$1,072,984

Acton's Main Street South from Church Street to the former town limits will be reconstructed at a total cost of \$1,072,984. The town's share is \$483,348, while the Region's share is \$589,635. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications will pay a large part of the town costs leaving \$60,606 for the town to pay.

subsidy approval from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

Town engineer said the increased cost over estimate is due to the inclusion of extensions to the existing box culvert, the replacement of an existing stone retaining wall and the need for substantial underdrains.

The engineer pointed out a portion of the cost will be recovered from the developer of land north from Ransom Street.

## Council discusses garbage complaint

Complaints on once a week garbage pick-up have started already according to Halton Hills councillor Marilyn Serjeantson.

Bob Austin if any money had been saved.

Mr. Austin told the councillor money had been saved in vehicles and manpower.

Councillor Harry Levy pointed out that while planning the budget on garbage, they had only accounted for once a week pick-up.

## Women scoop area shop tills

Area Canadian Tire Stores were victims of a gang of three or four foreign language speaking women last week.

years. In one store, instead of buying a small item, they asked for change for a \$100 bill.

One suspect is described as being 130 lbs. and five feet eight inches tall. Two of the others are about 140 lbs. and five feet, four inches tall. They have brown hair.

An Acton man reported to police the theft of five radiators between Wednesday and Saturday. The parts are valued at \$350.



Janice Thornhill and Vincent Lee have been hired by the Business Improvement Area to keep downtown Acton clean over the summer months.



Acton Streets will be busy this weekend as the annual Back to Acton Days festivities take over. Many different events will be offered over the weekend from parades to fireworks to dog shows. Deb Rappert (left) and Pat Wood dressed in the old fashioned costumes last week to promote the event. Fun begins Friday and winds up Sunday evening with fireworks in Prospect Park. Photo by ROBIN INSCOE

## Celebrations this weekend

There are plenty of loose ends, but ready or not, Back to Acton Days celebrations take place this weekend, beginning Friday.

Months of hard work have gone into preparations. Everyone in Acton is encouraged to converge on the downtown area and take part in the third annual celebrations.

There's plenty of room on the downtown mall, Back to Acton Days organizers pointed out Tuesday.

It's suggested that anybody with a craft, display, or anything to sell just come along, set up and participate. There are a couple of locations which have room for more stands or card tables. "Get involved and enjoy yourself," say the hardworking Woods, Ed and Pat.

They would also be glad to have any musicians come downtown Friday and Saturday and improvise some solos or group playing. There are plenty of corners available for them.

Anyone feeling inspired to join in could call the Woods at Family Cleaners, 853-2310 or home 853-0195, or Terry Grubbe at the community Services Centre mornings 853-3310.

The fireworks display which ends Back to Acton Days Sunday this year will be presented free of charge, for the first time. Through merchants and service club donations, there is no need for the firefighters to collect on nearby streets and charge at the gate.

The fireworks will culminate a day's happy activities in the park, as well as two full days downtown. The downtown blocks of Mill St. will be closed off as a mall on Friday and Saturday. The merchants will be holding special sales, with many of the featured items outside on the mall for casual outdoor browsing.

As well, clubs and individuals are taking the opportunity to offer

wares, draw tickets or food for sale, to raise money. Other booths will be there for information or display purposes only.

There will be games of chance, pony rides and special contests and entertainment on the mall for a full two days. Each ends with a barbecue and street dance outside at the Station Hotel.

Many times and special events are listed in the Back to Acton Days flyer inserted in today's Acton Free Press. The flyers also list merchants' specials and sales.

The event is loosely organized, and changes are likely to occur. The recreation department information booth should be on top of all possible changes.

The first: the callithumpan parade starts at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, not 10:30 as published in the flyer.

The recreation department is staffing an information booth for Back to Acton Days.

They will have a list of all the weekend's events, times and places, ready to help questioners.

They will also be able to tell people all about their department's current programs.

They also will be the focal point for lost and found articles—or kids.

Their booth will be in the mall, just outside the town office and police station.

Some of the new attractions this year are a fish pond and ceramics sale, by L'Arche Auxiliary; a Welcome Wagon booth (sign up if you're new here); a co-op nursery booth with flowers, baking, books and info; and a booth from Jeanette's rest home. And there should be more food booths running.

## Contest winners get prizes Friday

Back to Acton Day organizers have sponsored poster and essay contests in conjunction with the local schools.

Winners in the poster contests were kindergarten, grade 1, Catherine Reed (girl), and Tommy Quesnel, (boy). In the grades 2-3, Carolyn Bosselt took first girls' prize and Richard Ward, first boys'. Grades 4-5, Cathy Barrett won girls'

first and Jan Smith, boys' first.

In the essay contest, Lisa Doherty and Sally Briggs tied for first place in the girls' grade 7 class. Arnaud Ng took boys' first. In grade 8, Michelle Luxon won first girls' and Frank McGrath boys' first.

All winners will be presented with a prize at 2 p.m. Friday at the corner of Mill and Main.

New contests include a drinking contest for adults, the "close shave" or kids and watermelon seed spitting. Others are popular contests that people enjoyed last year.

The Y's Men and Y's Menettes are challenging

everybody to their Health Hustle, to be an innovative part of Back to Acton Days celebrations this weekend. The Health Hustle will begin sharp at 8 a.m. on Saturday, at the TD and Bank of Montreal corners on Mill St. Mall.

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## Driver guilty in mini-bike deaths

The driver of the car which killed two youngsters riding a mini-bike on the First Line last fall was found guilty of dangerous driving in provincial court at Milton, Thursday.

Nineteen-year-old Tim Wayne Young will be sentenced August 2 after Provincial Court Judge John Robinson receives a pre-sentence report concerning Mr. Young's background.

Judge Robinson found Mr. Young guilty of driving the car which struck the mini-bike ridden by Toronto boys: eight-year-old Andrew Taylor and James Fraser, age 12. They were pronounced dead at the scene Sunday, September 3. Mr. Young lives in Toronto.

Although Judge Robinson chose to wait for the pre-sentence report, Mr. Young's lawyer, Alan Glass presented comments regarding sentencing. "It's the hardest lesson anyone can learn, to be the cause of someone's death," Mr. Glass said.

Mr. Glass said his client is "extremely upset and remorseful." Mr. Young has had nightmares because of the accident, said the lawyer. The client attended one of the funerals.

Driving down the centre of the road is clearly a function of his immaturity, Mr. Glass said of his client.

Mr. Glass said the facts of the case do not equal a prison term for Mr. Young. General deterrence does not apply, the driving is not that bad, though it was dangerous, said the lawyer.

Much of the defence evidence rested on the condition of the gravel road, its width and the manner with which drivers use it. Lawyer Glass read from the transcript of an earlier witness's experiences, those of Robert Mairs, who lives beside the road.

When there is one car on the First Line: "They drive right up the middle of the road."

Both lawyers and the judge had something to say about the First Line. Judge Robinson found that where the accident occurred, the hill is dangerous.

"The best thing that can be done is the municipality should repair that road, widen it, perhaps pave it," defence lawyer Glass said.

Crown Prosecutor Fred Forsyth said one of the facts not disputed in the case is that "the hill is a dangerous hill." It prevents a northbound driver from seeing south-

bound traffic, until he crests the hill, he said.

Mr. Forsyth said his personal opinion is that the municipality ought to do something about that road. "We in society must live with imperfections in municipal service, to put it charitably."

Judge Robinson, in his finding of guilt, said the accused struck the mini-bike on the descent from the hill and that at the point of impact, at least a portion of the northbound vehicle, the car, was in the southbound lane. Also the slide marks indicate Mr. Young's vehicle was straddling the road.

The only defence witness was the 15-year-old half-brother of the accused, Terry Young. Mr. Young's testimony mainly consisted of the opinion that no matter which way one travels the First Line, one must have the left front tire over the centre, or else one goes into the ditch. In cross-examination Mr. Young agreed that the accused was knowledgeable of the road.

Thursday was the second day of the trial which started April 12.

Halton Regional Police testimony then detailed the discovery of car slide marks from the crest of

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Firefighters, ambulance men and police were at the scene of last Wednesday night's fatal three-car collision south of Acton. One northbound auto was in collision with two southbound cars. Samuel Fucile, 63, of Milton, died later as a result of the mishap. His wife is in Hamilton General Hospital. Acton Firefighters used a piece of new equipment, the Jaws of Life to free trapped passengers in one of the vehicles. See inside for story.

## Reed predicts fall or spring election

A provincial election is likely to be held this fall or possibly in spring, according to the political predictions of Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed.

Mr. Reed was guest speaker at the annual general meeting of the Halton-Burlington Provincial Liberal

Association Wednesday evening at Ligny Hall.

In a brief address to the crowd of Liberal association members, Mr. Reed said the Liberal Party has a "most cohesive and sound caucus" and is ready to go ahead with an election.

He criticized the current Conservative government not dealing with issues, and said a change of government is needed.

His sentiments were echoed by outgoing president of the association, Noel Bates.

Conservative trend to call an election this fall."

Mr. Bates said he was not in the least discouraged by the federal Conservative win and said he has every confidence that Stewart Smith can be the next Ontario premier.

The occasion included an outside picnic of fresh strawberries, cake and ice cream and live entertainment from Association members.

Making a hit on the program were brothers Julian and Laurie Reed. The duet played their banjos and sang a few numbers to the delight of

the crowd.

Also taking part in the entertainment were Earl Burt and Sarah Harrier. Their new executive for 1979-1980 was named during the meeting.

Dolly Moulden replaces Noel Bates as president. Al Wilson was named executive vice-president with three additional vice-presidents chosen: Stella Snow, Milton; Kay Lawson, Halton Hills; and Lois McKenzie, Burlington.

Laurie Reed was chosen treasurer and Jim Campbell will act as chief finance officer. Kay Blanchard was named secretary.