

Full Text of GRC Position on Arena Ice Rates

The following is the full text of Cr. Donna Denison's explanation of the Parks and Recreation position on ice costs of the arena.

The matter of rates charged for arena use has received much publicity in recent weeks; the public deserves an opportunity to know the facts, and consequently I have prepared an analysis which will prove that the Georgetown Parks, Recreation and Community Centres Committee, acting in the public interest, has approached the matter of arena rates sensibly; that it has already made substantial compromises in negotiations with Branch 120 of the Canadian Legion; that it has made efforts to permit the Legion to continue its association with house league hockey; and to declare that the Committee has no intention of allowing any group to interfere with any youngster's opportunity to play house league minor hockey this winter.

The Committee has refrained from treating the issue in an emotional way, since it did not wish to prejudice its negotiations. At this time, it appears that there will be no amicable solution possible, therefore, as a member of the Committee, I wish to present some background information about the current problem.

Since the Committee was formed in 1970, it has become aware of the increasing demands of Georgetown residents for better facilities, more parks, more equipment, more playing fields, new programmes, better programmes and new facilities. One area needs a park, a sports group needs more playing fields, youngsters require different programmes at different seasons of the year, and so on. Naturally, the Committee had to look at the money which was available to it. With all the different needs, and only so much money to do anything about them, the Committee had to begin a system of selecting its projects as priorities. It also had to look at the financial system under which it operated. Since it is responsible for all municipal recreational facilities in Georgetown, it began to look very carefully at the costs of each one; how much money it cost to maintain each one, how much staff was paid, what repairs needed to be done, how much repairs would cost, which ones could be left to another year, and so on.

COST REPORT

The costs of operating the Georgetown Arena were part of the process; in January, 1971, the Recreation Director was asked by the Committee to prepare a report of the costs of ice in the arena. This report would consider staff costs, maintenance, every cost which went towards keeping ice in the arena each year. A report also was requested about the town groups which used the arena: specifically, the Legion, Tykes, Support Group (Rep.), Figure skating, all tournaments and carnivals.

On February 1, The Arena Ice Cost Report was put into the hands of Committee members, and the results were indeed interesting. While the average cost of ice proved to be \$21.50 per hour, the maximum hourly rate paid by any town group mentioned above was \$12.50 per hour; most groups paid \$7.50 per hour. No wonder the budget request for the arena in 1971 was \$51,000.00!

The Committee was aware that the capital costs of maintaining and renovating the arena are substantial, since it is a large facility, and are increasing, since it is obsolete. The arena was built almost half a century ago, in 1922. It also realized that the operating and maintenance costs had increased each year, and were unlikely to level off.

During May, a sub-committee of the Recreation Committee was delegated to meet with the groups mentioned above, and talk with them about their programmes, their costs, the Committee's costs, and so on.

The Committee then considered the sub-committee's report, looked again at the arena ice cost report, looked at all its other needs, determined that the arena was taking more than its share of the overall Recreation and Parks budget (almost half), and agreed that arena rates must be raised across the board.

RATE INCREASE

On July 6, a two stage rate increase was approved by Committee. The Committee hoped to avoid creating too much hardship for any group, and determined that the rates would rise to \$15.00, with a dollar back for each child enrolled. The Committee recommended further increases the following year, with an increased grant back. Each group which would be affected was notified by mail of the increases.

By September, in response to cries of pain from some of the affected groups, Committee had modified its original increases by agreeing to retain the \$7.50 per hour rate for all hours up to 9 a.m. The remainder of the charges were to be as previously indicated. This was a concession which, in the case of the Legion, for example, meant that the demands of the Committee in terms of total payment had been reduced by \$1200.00 from their original increases.

By mid-September, Tyke hockey, Support Group hockey and the figure skaters had accepted the increases. They were not overjoyed, but appeared to accept that the Committee was acting out of necessity. As well, they seemed to realize that the rates applied to all groups, and were not discriminating against any one group.

Only the Legion still objected strenuously to the increases. At this point, I would like to present some figures to show the financial standpoint of the Committee.

Here Cr. Denison illustrated on the blackboard some of the figures already mentioned in the news account of the council meeting, dealing with the hockey issue.

Last year, then, the Town absorbed roughly 63 percent of the ice costs, the boys appear to have paid 31 percent, and the Legion itself appears to have paid about 6 percent of the ice costs.

The Legion has made it quite clear that it will not accept a rate increase; it has also stated that it will not raise the rates to the boys; the Recreation Committee can either allow the Legion to continue at last year's rates, and let the taxpayer absorb the increased costs, or continue to negotiate with the Legion, which has already failed twice; failing either, the Committee itself can assume responsibility for the programme.

The Parks and Recreation Committee believes that some tax support should be given to provide relief from the costs of municipal programmes in Georgetown for youngsters. It also is very well aware that there is only so much money available to do all the jobs demanded of it. The taxpayer is entitled to know that already he underwrites most of the ice costs of the house league hockey programme; the boys who are anticipating a hockey season this year deserve to know that no group will deprive them of their fun. It is unfortunate that the kids have been inconvenienced by being caught in the middle of this dispute.

The Recreation Committee is entrusted by Council with the administration of all recreation facilities in Georgetown; it has a responsibility to see that no one programme or facility takes more than its share of the available dollars.

GUARANTEE

The Recreation Committee cannot dictate policy to any voluntary group in Georgetown; it would appear that a moderate increase in costs to the participants would meet the financial requirements; however, the Committee has no authority to suggest this to any group. No one likes to pay increased costs; no one likes to say that rates have to go up; no one likes to charge more. It is understandable that a benevolent association which is acting from the best of motives and which takes pride in a programme which it has administered in the past would react to increased rates; it is equally understandable that it is financial realities which dictate the price increases by the Recreation Committee.

The Recreation Committee is certainly prepared to assume the registration and continuation of the house league hockey programme this winter, if it must; this is its guarantee that there will be house league hockey. Certainly the Committee had hoped that the increase would eventually have been met, even if with reluctance, but at this time, it appears that this will not happen.

The Committee had asked by letter and in the person of the Chairman at least three times whether or not the Legion will be running hockey this year. If the Committee is to carry out the programme, it deserves the courtesy of a prompt reply. Therefore, on behalf of the Committee, I would like to ask that the Committee be provided with its answer by Friday, September 24, in writing; if no answer is received by then, the Committee will assume the answer is "no" and will begin its plans to guarantee house league hockey in Georgetown this season.

In conclusion, I would like to express my regrets that matters have come to this pass; an amicable solution would have been preferable to a confrontation of this nature.

Council Briefs

Council, Monday night authorized the purchase of office furniture from General Fireproofing amounting to \$1,314.

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Throwing Things Overboard

by Rev. F. N. Young, Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown.

We at the Presbyterian manse are paying up for our sins of omission. We are moving to another charge in a few days and are discovering all the tasks and decisions we had put off until a more suitable time - the tidying up of the basement, the cleaning of windows, and the throwing out of papers and trinkets that are no longer essential. Since we are moving to a smaller house there must be a shaking down, a contracting of our household effects. What do we keep and what do we throw out?

Well this situation is a parable of life. There may be certain things that become securities in life and we get so that we cling to them. They become the real things and we simply won't let go of them and all the time we are missing the things that will minister to our salvation, the things that will bring lasting peace and joy.

LIGHTEN THE SHIP

There is a very suggestive incident in the life of Paul when he was on his way to Rome in a frail ship. The cargo consisted of wheat that would fetch a great price in Rome, but in order to lighten the ship, in order to save their lives in a time of storm, they had to "cast out the wheat into the sea". Salvation was brought about by lightening the ship.

And I wonder if our modern church is willing to throw things overboard, to lighten the ship? It seems to me that the very root of our problem today is that life is too easy. There is not enough discipline. We are trying to straddle the fence. Or we might put it this way. There is a sense in which the gospel is a package deal. There is comfort and there is challenge. You can't have one without the other to be effective Christians out in the world. If we really want to serve Christ with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength we must be willing to throw things overboard. There is no other way.

FAREWELL

May I take this opportunity to say farewell to the host of friends we have made here, and to say how much we have enjoyed this growing community with its lovely residential areas. May I also say to the men whose fellowship I have enjoyed in the Ministerial Association that it has been a privilege to know you. May God bless you richly in your work.

Come to Church

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Windsor Road at Carole St.
Rev. Harold R. Patzer
11.00 a.m. Worship Service
Sunday School 9.45 a.m.

Mountainview Baptist Church
Minister: Rev. W. R. Cairns
Organist: Mrs. W. Townsend
Anniversary Service
11 a.m. Morning Worship
7 p.m. Evening Fellowship
Guest Speaker Rev. G.A. Walker
Sat. 4 p.m. family supper
VISITORS WELCOME

St. George's Church
ANGLICAN
60 Guelph Street
Rector: The Rev'd H. Gallagher, B.A., S.T.B.
HARVEST THANKSGIVING
8.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9.30 a.m. Family Eucharist
11.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Nursery, Kindergarten, Jr. & Sr. Church school at 9.30 & 11.00 a.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church
Main and Church 877-2848
MINISTER... REV. F.N. YOUNG
ORGANIST—Mrs. E. Gowland
11.00 a.m. - Communion - Farewell Service
Church School cancelled this Sunday only
11.00 a.m. - Junior Congregation & Nursery Care

Georgetown Pentecostal Church
Main St. N. — Rev. Jack McCallum — 877-4876
10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Morning Worship
7 p.m. — Evangelistic Service
Tuesday, 8 p.m. — Prayer and Ministry
Children's Church During Both Services

GEORGETOWN'S EVANGELISTIC CENTRE
MAPLE AVE. BAPTIST CHURCH
REV. ROBERT C. LOHNES, Pastor
BIBLE PREACHING — 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Family Sunday School — 9.45 a.m.
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LEAN MILD CURED SWEET PICKLED COTTAGE ROLLS 49¢
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NDP Candidate Denied Leave with Pay

Halton West NDP provincial candidate Walter Mulkawich last week sought and was denied leave with pay from his teaching post to campaign for the Oct. 21 election.

Mulkawich asked the Halton County Board of Education to allow him to take about two weeks off with pay while he campaigns for the provincial post. He said the two weeks would be spread out so that the days were not consecutive.

He said he made the request because campaigning would be too hard a financial burden if he had to lose his teaching wages to do so.

Board member F. Armitage moved that Mulkawich be granted the leave, but without pay.

"I can't support granting of salary for this leave," he said, adding that persons in other occupations aren't compensated for absences from work to carry out campaigns.

Armitage's motion passed. Mulkawich, who teaches history and politics at Oakville Trafalgar High School, is running against Halton West MPP George Kerr, Ontario's Minister of the Environment.

Kerr is also being challenged by Robert McNutt, the Liberal candidate. McNutt is an assistant geology professor at McMaster University in Hamilton.

Georgetown Goes For Humane Society Plan

Georgetown council have opted for the Ontario Humane Society as their dog control agent. Monday night, council, over the objections of Cr. Ernie Hyde and deputy-reeve Art Speight passed a motion to inform Esqueping and Acton that they are in favour of hiring the Humane Society at 50¢ per capita.

The lack of a local phone number was again discussed with Cr. Joan Smith suggesting a local number be used as a clearing house, since the Humane Society felt they could not pay for a Zenith number.

Cr. Ernie Sykes warned that Georgetown could find itself alone since the offer was based on the three municipalities sharing in the cost. "Before we do anything we should find out what Esqueping and Acton are doing," he added.

Deputy-reeve Art Speight felt a Zenith number should be mandatory, while Cr. Joan Smith suggested the municipal office or the police office might handle the calls.

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A letter from Martin Murphy told council he was resigning as a crossing guard September 17. Later that evening council hired Mrs. Vivian McDonald as a crossing guard.

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Community Corner

The Royal Bank is pleased to provide this space for use of Service Clubs, Church Groups, Civic Organizations, etc. to announce their events.

Volunteer drivers, mileage paid, are desperately needed by the RED CROSS, phone 877-4527.

Anyone in possession of a walker, wheelchair, crutches, etc. please phone your Red Cross, 877-4527 as they are taking inventory of their stockroom supplies.

Apply for the FREE Red Cross TEEN Home Nursing course now as there will be a limited number of students taken. Course will start October 6th, so phone 877-9183 now for further information. Patients and other shut-ins who wish to do arts and crafts in their homes, can get in touch with Mrs. Audrey Sluik, who is the chairman of this program of the Red Cross. Phone 877-5498.

If you have some spare-time and you do like people contact Mrs. Ruth Poulos, 877-5305, who is in charge of "Friendly Visiting" in the hospital and in the homes.

To list your event, call Doug Hauser, 877-6961

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