

Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena

IT'S ONE OF THE BEST AROUND!!

When the doors of the new Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena officially swing open this Saturday at 12:30 the residents of Halton Hills will finally get a look at perhaps one of the finest arenas in this region.

The number of new or improved facilities included in the arena's design are about as numerous as the 250 parking spaces in the paved, wide-open lot.

In fact the comparisons between the old Georgetown Memorial Arena (which has served this town well for many years and will continue

to do so for years to come) and the new Guelph Street arena can't help but begin as you drive into the parking lot at the Gordon Alcott arena.

The entrances to the parking lot will be 50 feet wide, with two lanes providing entrance and exit. That, in itself, is a big step forward from the old rink's facilities.

The lobby of the arena is much larger than its older relative's but a decision has not yet been made whether to provide seating places in the lobby. One of the problems that arose in the old arena was that of overcrowding in the lobby. A possible solution

may be to leave the new arena's lobby bare.

The snack bar in the lobby is expected to provide better and more efficient service to the patrons than the one in the old arena and, as a sort of adjunct to the snack bar operation, vending machines will be placed in the spectator area.

The arena area itself is equipped to handle at least 962 spectators and a plus for the spectators is that there are no obstructions whatsoever to hinder their view of the ice surface. The players' benches are across the ice from the spectators' area and, other than crossing the

ice surface, it is practically impossible for the fans to reach the players. The timekeeper's box has been enclosed with shatterproof glass and, as with the player's boxes, is virtually inaccessible to the fans.

A professional style timing system has been installed completely controlled from the timer's box. As in other major arenas, once the game has officially ended, a green light will go on in place of the red light which signifies a goal.

This will leave no doubt in anyone's mind whether a goal was scored before or after the game had officially

ended.

The ice surface in the Alcott Memorial Arena is 185 feet by 75 feet. This size is of at least Major Junior "A" standard, and is, in fact, larger than some Senior "A" surfaces. A new innovation has been the installation of boards made from polyethylene. This material will provide slightly better resiliency for the players than the old boards and is virtually damage proof.

Shatterproof transparent glass has been installed, to afford top spectator protection and, in the end seating area, the glass has been extended higher than

normal to increase this protection.

The new facility features six dressing rooms, all with different color schemes and, at 19 feet by 19 feet, are probably the largest of any dressing rooms in any arena in Ontario. Each dressing room has shower and washroom facilities and all six are located close to the ice surface.

The new arena will feature a skate shop and a first aid room, the latter to be fully equipped to handle any minor injury. There will be one Men's and one Ladies' washroom and both have been equipped to handle

wheelchairs. Five main exits are available in the new complex. This should relieve congestion and provide for orderly filing out should an emergency arise.

A feature which will please fans is the new "People Heaters." They have been installed throughout the spectator area and will provide ample heat without affecting ice conditions. The refrigeration plant for the Alcott arena is capable of making summer ice and the facility will be available to the public in the warmer months.

In the upper part of the new arena, space has been

provided for a banquet area and offices. The banquet area is capable of holding up to 150 people but no decision has been made as yet by council as to who has priority for the offices.

The Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena provides Georgetown with a second arena complex. It is on par with the majority of new arenas in the province and, in some ways, provides even better facilities. The second ice surface was sorely needed and now that the need has been fulfilled, Georgetown will not have to take a back seat to any area in terms of arena activities.



**Official opening
ceremonies
Saturday, May 31
12:30 p.m.**