



I'M NOT SELLING ICE CREAM but Councillor Mike Armstrong, a member of the special building committee did host the centre ice ceremonies. Prior to the ceremony he had been teased about the white suit. MPP Jim Snow (behind) awaiting his chance to speak at the grand opening.

## It's open!

Hundreds of people attended Saturday's grand opening of the new, long-awaited Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.

Mayor Tom Hill, assisted by Mrs. Gordon Alcott, cut the ribbon to officially open the new arena to the public. A plaque dedication followed in the lobby conducted by Reverend L. Self with the Mayor and Mrs. Alcott.

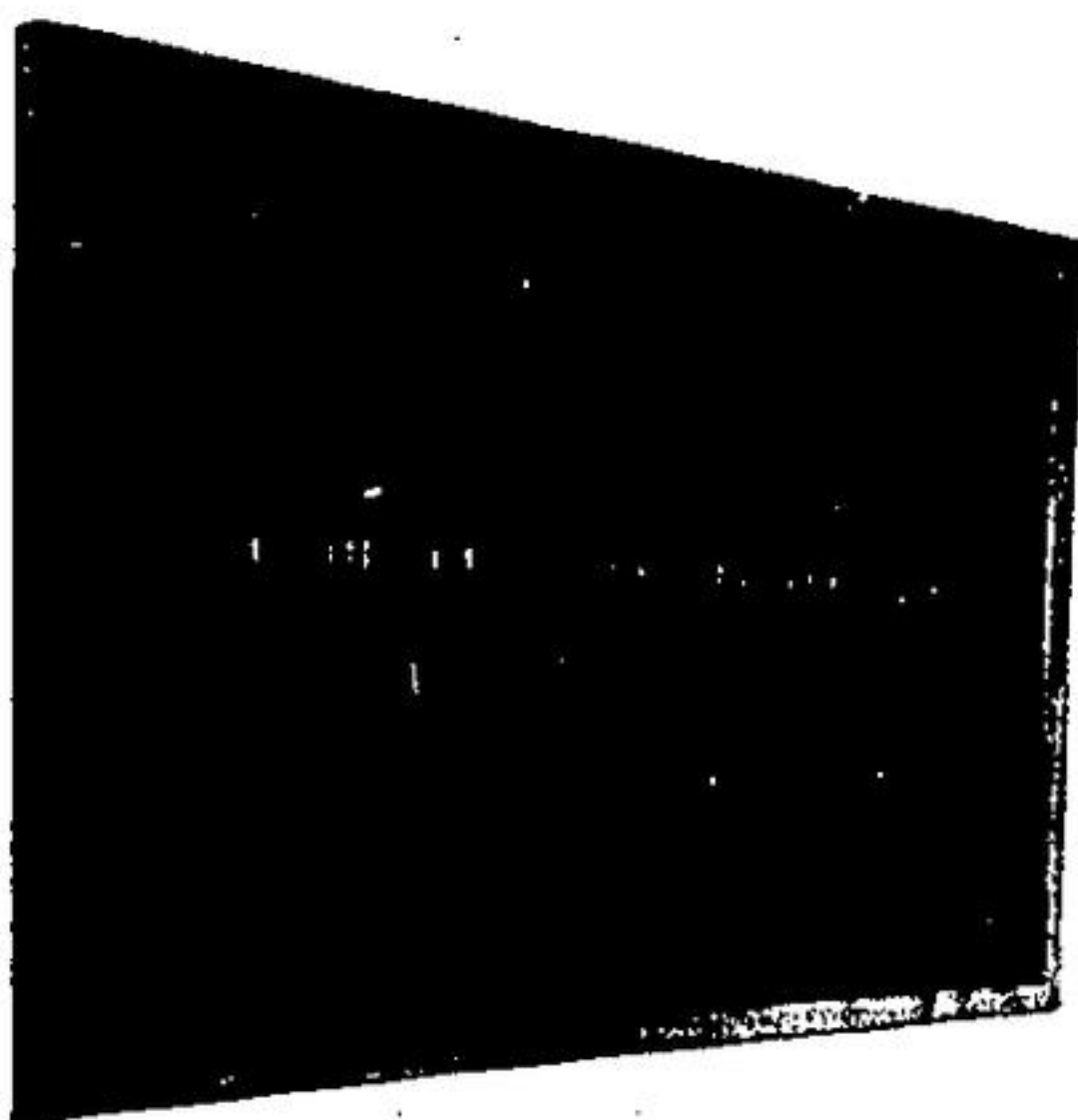
Visitors to the new arena were given a chance to tour Georgetown's latest recreational asset before the Georgetown Figure Skating Club performed on the new ice. Don Jackson, Canadian Figure Skating Champion, also appeared with the club with an excellent display of figure skating prowess. Laurie Yerssa, Kirsten Mogg, Kris Barber, David Watson, Rene Pilote, Leslie Pritchard and the team of Eddie Howard and his sister Colleen, provided an

interesting display of their abilities.

Centre ice ceremonies were hosted by Councillor Mike Armstrong, a member of the building committee with Frank Philbrook, MPP; Jim Snow, MPP; Mayor Hill; Steamer Emmerson; Pat McKenzie; Ab Tennant; Doug Collison; Bob Lane; Ed Etaliger; Reverend Self along with Mrs. Gordon Alcott to dedicate the ice surface. Armstrong paid tribute to Gordon Alcott for his work with the boys he encouraged to play hockey, and gave a brief history of the battle to get the arena for the town of Georgetown.

Mayor Hill presented a \$100 bill to Ed Etaliger, chairman of the building committee, to be used when further expansion is needed to the recreation complex.

A minor hockey game followed with public skating for all to fully utilize the new summer ice.



HARD WORK AND DEDICATION paid off. Mrs. Gordon Alcott stands beside the plaque that commemorates the work of her late husband with the Little NHL of Georgetown.



# Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena

## There's a right way and a wrong way

Everyone who owns a bicycle should be concerned with bicycle safety.

The Optimist Club of Georgetown, along with the Halton Regional Police Safety Office, are concerned about the people who are not interested enough to obey stop signs, use the proper hand signals and to ride on the correct side of the road.

Last year, in Ontario, over 3,400 cyclists were injured and 45 killed as a result of collisions with motor vehicles. Two accidents have been recorded in Georgetown already.

The bicycle is the smallest vehicle on the road and does not have the equipment to challenge a car. The driver of a car is protected by glass and steel, while the driver of a bicycle is protected by just the clothes he wears and the knowledge he has about the proper use of the bicycle.

Motorists have yet another advantage over the cyclist, in the fact that the driver does not have to maintain balance to operate his vehicle as does the cyclist.

Bicycles are vehicles and are therefore governed by the same rules and regulations as cars, under the Highway Traffic Act. Fines for improper use of bicycles are the same for cars and bicycles.

Safety clinics have been conducted by Safety Officer Keith Woods and Sergeant Peter Bromley at all the public schools in the area in hopes to teach Grade Two and Three students the safe and legal ways of driving their bikes. "Response was good for all the sessions," added Officer Woods. "Hopefully we can reduce the number of accidents by just making the kids aware of the correct operating procedures."

The 4-hour session stressed that bicycles are vehicles and must be operated within the law.

"One thing that really concerns me is the fact that bicycles are being driven on the wrong side of the road," furthered Officer Woods. "They must ride on the right hand side of the road with the traffic, not against it."

The law requires that all bicycles come to a complete stop at all stop signs; red lights; at yield signs if there is oncoming traffic; when approaching a school bus when the signal lights are flashing, indicating that there are students boarding or leaving the bus; when the signals at a railway crossing indicate there is a train approaching.



### SLOWING OR STOPPING

A further regulation for bicycles insists that you must stop when coming to a street or road from a laneway or alley and you must stop before reaching the sidewalk of the roadway.

Hand signals are also required by law and must be made prior to negotiating the turn or stopping. Proper signals are given with the left arm. An outstretched arm indicates a left turn, an arm pointing upwards indicates a right turn and a pointing down means slowing or stopping.

Recent legislation also insists that a bike be equipped with a horn, or bell that can be heard at least 100 feet away, to warn others of your presence. A white light must also be mounted on the front of the bicycle and must be seen for a distance of 500 feet.

"The purpose of the light is to be seen. The bike operator should be able to see without the light, but the light makes

sure he is seen," added Officer Woods.

A red reflector one and one-half inches wide must be on the back with two strips of red reflective tape on the rear forks. White reflective tape 10 inches long and 1-inch wide must also be placed on the front forks to ensure visibility.

Reflective kits are available with the legal required amount of reflective tape in pre-cut lengths at all bicycle accessory outlets.

Simple maintenance must be carried out with regular inspection of the mechanical condition of the bike.

Lubrication of pedal bearings, sprocket hanger bearings, wheel bearings, chain, fork bearings, hand brakes and all points where metal rubs on metal.

It is also important to keep the frame of the bicycle clean and free of rust for efficient operation.

Spokes must be kept tight and aligned to prevent the tires from rubbing on the frame and brakes. Bicycles equipped with calliper (hand) brakes make it essential to keep the wheels properly aligned for efficient use of the brakes.

Hand brakes should be checked for worn control cables, and worn brake shoes. Replacements are inexpensive when it comes to saving a life.

When considering a bicycle it is important to evaluate the use of the bike and the size of the person who will be using it.

"Racing bikes, or ten speeds, are designed for racing and long cycle trips, not



### LEFT TURN

jaunts to the corner store," explained Officer Woods. "They are designed to be operated differently than a regular bike and should fit the rider even closer."

When selecting a bike, proper height is a prime point. Halton Regional Police recommend that both feet should touch the ground when sitting in the saddle in order to prevent the cyclist from losing balance and falling into traffic.

The height of the seat should be determined by sitting on the saddle and noting the position of the leg on the lower pedal. If the leg can reach the lowest path of travel of the pedal without straining and in the rest position the leg and body are at a slight angle the seat height is correct.

The handle bars should be no further than one arm's length from the seat to the stem when measured from the elbow to the knuckles. Handle bars must be equipped with handgrips or tape to ensure maximum control when steering.

"It is not only the police, the Optimist Club and the schools that should be concerned about safety, but the parents should also try and encourage proper use of bicycles," said Staff Inspector Ray Andress of Halton Regional Police, District One.

The Optimists are doing their part in attempting to reduce bicycle accidents in Georgetown but if everyone did their part by:

- riding on the proper side of the road, the right.
- obeying all stop signs.
- obeying all speed limits
- using hand signals before turning and stopping.
- riding single file when with a group
- equip your bike properly with light and reflectors
- wear light colored clothing at night to be seen
- WATCH OUT FOR THE OTHER GUY.

There are over 2.5 million bicycles in Ontario and as more and more people find out about the fun of cycling the number of bicycles goes up, but so does the rate of accidents.



KEEPING IN SHAPE is important, and keeping your bike in shape is just as important. Caroline and Debra McConnell indicate the proper lubrication points on a bicycle to Safety Officer Keith Woods.



### RIGHT TURN



No U-turn



Yield right of way. Be prepared to stop, if necessary.



Stop



THE STOP SIGN IS FACING THE WRONG WAY to show the proper signal to be used when stopping. Scott Hamilton was one of the many that turned out for the Optimists' inspection and rodeo held in conjunction with Halton Regional Police for bicycle safety.