

# Teams plea for lower ice rates

Representatives of Acton Junior and intermediate hockey teams appealed to general administration committee (GAC) Monday to lower ice rink rental rates to prevent bankruptcy.

This request was turned down because the recreation department faces deficits in arena operation.

"By introducing the new rates you're killing hockey," said Fred Buchanan, representing the intermediate team.

He and Mitt Ball for the junior club wanted a flat 60-40 split for games in place of the new hourly rates recently approved by council. This would eliminate the minimum ice rental rate of \$30.

Their other proposal was paying \$2 an hour less for practice time—or \$28 the charge for groups other than intermediate and junior hockey teams. They also requested one hour free practice time.

Objections were voiced against the new increased rates: \$30 an hour for practices; \$35 an hour for exhibition and regular season games; \$40 an hour for playoffs.

These rates were revised at the Aug. 9 GAC meeting upon charges by local hockey clubs that they were too high. Playoff ice rates were reduced from \$50 to \$40 at that time. Council approved.

The Acton hockey teams presented three reasons to justify their stand for lowering ice rental rates more.

Financial problems were explained. Last year two executive members of the hockey team co-signed for a bank loan to cover expenses, leaving them \$11,000 in the red.

"They have little chance of recovering the money," said a report to GAC from the hockey clubs.

Travel expenses for out-of-town team members and the cost of establishing an intermediate team without a sponsor in 1975 compounded economic difficulty.

Louis Bonnette of Acton pointed out the benefit of local hockey to the community. He reminded GAC that donations from citizens including himself, not tax dollars, were used to build the arena to "provide recreation and entertainment."

The third argument against increased ice rental rates for Acton was based on a comparison study of Acton and Georgetown arenas.

Research concluded Georgetown arena can accommodate 1,000 people, twice as many as Acton arena holds. About 600 of the 18,000 Georgetown residents attend local hockey games whereas

Acton with a population of 6,000 draws an average crowd of 150.

The report also described the six dressing rooms in Georgetown arena as "excellent" and the four dressing rooms in Acton arena "inadequate."

Acton hockey team representatives said charging the same rates for Acton and Georgetown arenas is "unjustifiable" and "unfair".

In their report, they pointed out Toronto teams do not pay the same at George Bell arena as they do at Maple Leaf Gardens.

"We are not a private enterprise; we are a gang of guys who got together to form an intermediate hockey team to play hockey, not make money," said Mr. Buchanan.

"We are not out to make money either," said recreation director Glen Gray, "we only want to pull our pants up financially."

Coun. George Malby added "We have a responsibility to the people of Georgetown and Acton as far as the (recreation department) deficit is concerned."

"I believe the deficit to Acton arena is \$30,000."

After almost an hour of discussion on the ice rink rental rate issue, Coun. Ric Morrow pulled out \$5 and suggested donations be made to cover the \$70 loss to the Acton hockey team if \$30 instead of \$28 is charged next year.

Recreation facilities superintendent Pat Sheehan offered \$20.

"I have never heard so much BS over \$2 in my life," said Mr. Morrow.

"I do not go for the business of pitching \$5 in the hat—we'd soon go broke if we have to give \$5 for every item on the agenda," said Coun. Roy Booth.

The final decision by GAC not to change the existing ice rental rates saw Mr. Morrow and Mr. Sheehan pocket their money.

## Meeting on improvement

Acton residents will have a chance to discuss the effect of a Business Improvement Area in their downtown at a meeting Oct. 5 at the Legion hall, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Acton Chamber of Commerce president Louis Charlebois said a representative from the ministry of tourism and industry, Robert Pollock, would make a presentation on the Business Improvement area concept and field questions.



## CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Isabel Watson has been named Citizen of the Year by the Acton Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Watson, who will retire after 50 years with the library in Acton this December, was at a loss to explain why she received the honor. When contacted by The Herald, she said, she had been "floored" to hear the decision and speculated that her involvement with children may have been part of the answer. A special dinner will be held for Mrs. Watson at the Royal Canadian League on Oct. 8.

## Sabres lose two games

The Acton Sabres Junior B hockey team dropped the first game of the 1976-77 season Friday night to the Streetsville Derbys and met similar misfortunes against Port Colbourne in an exhibition game the following evening.

Club Secretary Bill Campbell reported Sunday that penalties during the last half of Friday's game in Streetsville took their toll of the team's momentum. Five power play goals by the derbys boosted the score, which was only 2-0 in their favor halfway through the second period, to an impressive 8-2 by game's end.

Saturday night saw the Sabres lose 4-2 to Port Colbourne, in a third exhibition game which had been postponed from the previous week. In their first exhibition face-off, Port Colbourne rallied to a

10-0 victory over a disorganized rookie Acton squad. Acton's losses thus far, Mr. Campbell said, have helped the team "see where we have to fill in."

New Sabre goaler Ken Eckroth, formerly of the Georgetown Geminis, was the hero of the team's second exhibition game against Markham last Thursday night in Guelph. There, Acton had its first taste of success, taking the match 3-1.

During a two-week break before their next game, the Sabres will be adding several more players to round out their new line-up Oct. 7 will see Acton travelling to Dixie for the second season game, while the following evening the Burlington Cougars visit the Acton arena for the Sabres first home game.

# Acton pool advisory board re-established by Lions club

A request by the Acton Lions Club to re-establish the Acton Indoor Pool Advisory Committee (AIPAC) which disbanded in May, was accepted by general administration committee (GAC) Monday.

It was recommended the new board consist of three Lions Club members, and one representative each from GAC and the pool staff.

The original AIPAC was abolished May 6. There were no representatives of the Lions Club at this meeting.

Recreation director Glen Gray explained in a report that the AIPAC felt since the construction of the pool was completed and it was operating smoothly, a need no longer existed.

## Tennis tourney

Sunday's rain forced the postponement of several scheduled matches in the Acton Tennis Club's annual tournament, which this year has attracted 50 area competitors.

This year, 18 Acton area men are vying for the men's singles title captured in 1975 by Bernie Kovacs. Trophies will also be awarded by the club to winners in the senior women's class, which features 12 competitors in the 18 years and under class, in which eight boys and girls are participating, and the 14 years and under class, which includes youngsters.

The semi-finals area expected to take place at the Prospect Park courts next weekend, followed Oct. 9 and 10 by the finals.

Although Mr. Gray welcomed input from the Lions Club, its vice-president Ray Evelan said they were "not satisfied."

"The door has been closed, and we have been gently nudged outside," said Mr. Evelan. "We can meet with Miss Pickering (recreation coordinator for wards 1 and 2) and make a gripe and she'll say 'we'll think about it.'"

"Any citizen can present ideas, but that's as far as they go," he added. "We are supposed to know what's going on through regular meetings. We have the right to be there... so we missed two meetings... we still have the right to be there."

Mr. Gray said: "As far as opportunities for discussing problems the door is wide open... without the community we are nothing as a department and your attitudes, comments and feelings on the Acton pool will be considered seriously."

Despite a suggestion by Mr. Gray that "There are quicker ways to get results than through formal committees," the Lions Club still wanted to form one.

A recommendation by Coun. Ric Morrow to allow the Lions Club to decide the frequency, dates and times of meetings, at the mutual convenience of all AIPAC members, was approved by GAC.

Council must first approve AIPAC's re-establishment.

## New chairman

Susan Burns has been appointed acting chairman of student services at Acton Highschool for the period Feb. 1, 1977 to Aug. 31, 1977. The appointment is made following the approval last week of a leave of absence for Brian Skerrett, head of the department.

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