

33 per cent increase

Arena rates going up despite protest



(Herald photo by Paul Dorsey)

Daring feats like this double slalom abounded during the free-style portion of Saturday's skateboard competition, part of the Pioneer Days festivities in downtown Georgetown. The community's Jaycees organized and ran the event, which saw eight competitors vying for prizes in both racing and free-style meets on the James Street slope. Howie Mendoza took top honors overall for his roller-skating skills, followed in order of standings by Jim

Orwin, Cameron Lavers, Danny and Doug Walters, Derek Murphy and Rick Mendoza. Steve Bligg was the sole competitor in the event's senior section. Derek Murphy sustained the only injury of the day, leaving the competition briefly to have a twisted arm placed in a sling at Georgetown hospital. Competitors were otherwise well-protected by helmets and knee and elbow pads and all, including Derek, had a great time.

By PAUL DORSEY
 Herald staff writer

The disappointment shared by Acton area sports groups over town council's failure to modify its ice rental rate increase has prompted an offer to take over the Acton arena's operation for a year.

Bruce Cargill of the Acton Legion Minor Hockey Association made the offer on behalf of all groups using the Acton arena at Monday night's meeting of the town's general committee, where the results of three months' controversy and closed-door debate were finally revealed.

The legal and administrative ramifications of accepting the Acton groups' offer are to be examined in a forthcoming staff report.

If a four-point recommendation prepared by a special committee of council and endorsed by the general committee is accepted next week by council, rental rates at the town's three arenas will increase an average of 33 per cent in September. The same rates would remain in effect until 1981.

MINOR GROUPS

The same recommendation would eliminate plans to charge organizations other than local "minor groups" which have admission fees 10 per cent of their nightly gate receipts. The feasibility of charging other local sports groups for using town-operated recreational facilities such as pools, soccer pitches, baseball diamonds and tennis courts will be investigated.

Also to be examined is the possibility the town may find additional revenue from its arenas by selling advertising space everywhere in the arena but along the rink boards. Finally, a policy would be defined requiring the town to consult all affected groups before approving any future rate increase.

Representing Acton area hockey and figure skating groups, Mr. Cargill joined Bob Hooper, president of the Georgetown Chrysler Raiders Intermediate Hockey Club, and Don Davis of the Georgetown and District Minor Hockey Association in expressing unanimous disappointment in the special committee's failure to respond to their requests and concerns.

The feelings of all local groups using the arenas were outlined at length during two closed-door meetings with the special committee made up of Mayor Pete Pomeroy and

councillors Roy Booth, Harry Levy, Ed Wood and Pat Patterson.

EXISTING RATES

Reacting to the recommendation presented Thursday night during the second in camera meeting, Mr. Cargill told general committee this week that the Acton arena users are willing to lease the building from the town for \$100, operate it for a year under existing ice rates and absorb any profits or deficits outstanding at year's end.

Mr. Cargill said Acton groups will provide staff for both the arena and concession booth operations and still expect to face only a minimal deficit in the end result.

"We don't necessarily disagree with the arena's management, but we know certain areas where costs can be cut back," he said. "We're all business people. We're offering you \$69,000 profit; I'd call

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Streets to close for film shooting

Internationally-known film stars Orson Welles, Glen Ford, Burgess Meredith and Rich Little may be among the celebrities strolling the streets of Georgetown next month when production work begins here on Never Trust an Honest Thief.

Westfront Productions Incorporated spokesmen Richard Flower and David Robinson raised some eyebrows among downtown Georgetown merchants with their name-dropping at last Wednesday's meeting with the board of management for downtown's Business Improvement Area (BIA).

As announced by the company last week, production will begin August 6 on the third major feature film to be shot

on location in Georgetown in less than two years. Producer George McCowan, who directs television's Fantasy Island series, will arrive in town next week to begin work on sets and locations.

NEED EXTRAS

While requesting town council's approval to close several downtown streets for the filming, Mr. Flower told the general committee Monday night that his company will be opening an office, contacting the Georgetown Little Theatre and advertising locally for "extras" to work on the film.

Having received the committee's consent and the BIA's blessing, the company is now awaiting the nod from the Georgetown Baseball Association for permission to build a

"bandshell" in the centre of the Association's baseball diamond in Fairgrounds Park, which Mr. Flower said "has become a fairly major location" for the film.

Town recreation director Glen Gray assured the general committee that he will contact the Association regarding the company's request. A passing mention in the film's credits might go a long way toward persuading the Association to loan its diamond, Mr. Gray joked.

Since Never Trust an Honest Thief deals largely with a series of annual Independence Day celebrations in a small U.S. border town, Mr. Flower told merchants and councillors Georgetown's Main Street has been selected as an ideal setting for festive decorations, parades and similar celebration activities.

Subject to town council's approval next week, the company will be allowed to close portions of Park, Charles, Mill and Main Streets to through traffic while filming the July 4 parade. Halton region's permission is being sought specifically for Main Street's closing.

LARGE PROP

The "bandshell" which the company proposes to erect in Fairgrounds Park will be nothing more than a large prop, Mr. Flower told the committee this week. Similarly, the company plans to build a monument of fibreglass which will be lowered over the existing statue in the park, presumably to lend a more American appearance. The festive atmosphere of the park, which Mr. Flower caught the eye of the film's art director in particular during a recent visit, will be enhanced by the siting of "small fair", hot dog stands and plenty of extras.

Four weeks of the film's seven-week production schedule will take place in Georgetown and area, with subsequent shooting scheduled for a Toronto studio and possibly some location filming in Las Vegas.

Downtown merchants were assured last week that the company will attempt to confine downtown production work to the slower business days each week.

"We don't want to jeopardize downtown business," Mr. Flower said.

Members of the BIA were enthusiastic about the film project and expect to gain some benefit from the production crew's presence in terms of downtown promotion.

Among the locations being researched by the film's art departments are local banks, cafes, hardware stores, taverns, real estate offices and cemeteries. Final selections of store fronts will be known by the middle of this week.



YOUNGEST ENTRY

Six-year-old Andrea McLean was the youngest competitor in the First Annual Mayor's Halton Hills Road Race. Andrea finished the 3.4-mile race in a time of 39 minutes and four seconds to take home a ribbon and a trophy.

(Herald photo by Tony Panacci)

WEATHER COOLS PIONEER DAYS

Despite a raw deal from the weatherman Pioneer Days was a great success in the eyes of the organization committee.

"We haven't had a meeting yet to really go over how things went," said Lynn Barnard, president of the Downtown Merchants' Association, "but all the feedback I've had so far has been positive."

She said merchants who set up street displays and really participated in the

MORE PHOTOS

activities commented on how much fun they had and how well they fared financially during the three day promotion.

Bob Gougeon noted that a lot of people showed up for the festivities but the crowd was changing constantly because it was too cold to wander around the displays for long. The cold forced the cancellation of Friday's street dance.

People manning the museum mobile told him an unusually high number of

spectators visited the display during the three days. Attendance was said to be over 1,900 during that time, he said.

Mr. Gougeon felt that window displays from the museum didn't receive quite enough prominence this year but next year improvements could be made in that area.

Mrs. Barnard would like to see more street decorations and old-fashioned bunting trimming the downtown for next year's festivities.

Both organizers were pleased at the number of merchants who got involved for the first time and felt that everyone had a good feeling about the results of their efforts.

This Week

Local seer

Ignorance of the subject is no reason to rudely condemn clairvoyants and other believers for their views, according to local psychic Jessie Zuest who is interviewed this week for "Halton's People".

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Building project

Thirteen students from Acton High School got a taste of life in the working world with a building project course: building a garage. For a look at the results,

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Store robbery

The Canadian Tire stores in Acton and Georgetown have something in common: both were robbed at about the same time of almost the same amount, by groups of women.

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Conditional gravel pit approval angers Sixth Line residents

A last minute change of heart by two members saw town council reverse its stand on the controversial opening of a Sixth Line gravel pit last week, contrary to the wishes of ratepayers who had just left the council meeting, assured the town was on their side.

Following a lengthy confrontation last Tuesday night between council's committee of the whole and ratepayers who had challenged the committee to have "the guts to stand up with us", members had voted to defeat a general committee recommendation endorsing the opening of the Pitutti way-side pit near Limehouse.

Moments after the Sixth

Line neighbors of the pit left the council chamber believing the town would oppose the pit's opening until noise and traffic problems with other area pits were resolved, the committee reconvened into its council format to ratify the first vote.

LAST MINUTE
 A last minute appeal by councillors Roy Booth and Mike Armstrong had its desired effect upon two other members, councillors Ross Knechtel and Marilyn Serjeantson, and the pit opening was sanctioned by a 6-5 vote.

Joining councillors Booth, Armstrong, Knechtel and Serjeantson in favoring the extraction were councillors Har-

ry Levy and Pat Patterson. Those maintaining their opposition to the approval were Mayor Pete Pomeroy and councillors George Maltby, Russ Miller, Ed Wood and John McDonald. Council Walter Biehn was absent.

Coun. Booth apparently found two more votes for the project when he said in council that preventing the pit's opening could jeopardize the Trafalgar Road reconstruction project for which gravel is needed from the Pitutti pit.

Halton Hills is only contributing 19 per cent of the road-work project's total cost, Coun. Booth explained, and must justify the project to regional

councillors from Halton's three other area municipalities which are providing the balance.

"I really can't see myself going to the region and saying 'you're going to have to renegotiate this contract'," he said. "We're not voting on the opening of this pit alone; we're voting on whether or not the reconstruction project goes ahead."

TREES CUT

Coun. Armstrong, who represents Halton Hills on regional council along with Mayor Pomeroy and councillors Booth and Wood, added that many roadside trees have already been cut down and utility poles replaced for the Trafalgar Road's reconstruction between Ashgrove and Stewarttown. It would be "utter craziness" for the town to "undo" all the preliminary work completed thus far by the region, he said.

The remarks followed the departure of Limehouse area resident Peter Snider, who had outlined the complaints and concerns he shares with his Sixth Line neighbors over way-side pit operations on the Pitutti and nearby Odorico properties, as well as the established Indusmin quarry.

"All I want to know is if you've the guts to stand up with us," Mr. Snider told council. "We've had 15 years of troubles with these gravel pits and you guys haven't done anything about it except maybe pave the roads."

Mr. Snider asked council on behalf of the ratepayers to put an end to gravel truck movements between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m., to ensure that the trucks are not speeding, to stipulate that loads must be covered and

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Council remains firm on LACAC proposal

Contrary to earlier speculation, town council has maintained its opposition to the formation of a citizens' committee to advise the town about preserving local buildings of historical or architectural significance.

A modified format for the proposed Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) may be suggested at a forthcoming council meeting, however, and indications are it may win the town's approval.

Following last Tuesday night's meeting, which saw council accept a general committee recommendation to "receive and file" the LACAC proposal, some members who

had voted against the proposal expressed willingness to support a revised concept.

PREVENT MATTER

The absence of councillors George Maltby and Marilyn Serjeantson from the June 12 committee meeting, and the fact that the LACAC's chief proponent on council, John McDonald, was prevented from voting on the matter because he was chairing the meeting, led to speculation that last week's council meeting might see a reversal of the committee recommendation.

Coun. McDonald's vote in favor of the LACAC last week had no effect on the outcome, however. Coun. Maltby voted opposed and Coun. Serjeantson

had to leave the council meeting, which continued past midnight for the first time this term, prior to discussion on the matter.

While expressing regret at being unable to participate in the debate, Coun. Serjeantson told The Herald this week that the financial ramifications of maintaining a LACAC leaves her largely undecided about the proposal.

Coun. Roy Booth, whose reservations about the LACAC's effects upon private homeowners were shared by a majority of general committee members, told The Herald he is willing to support a modified