

User-pay discussions begin March 22

By DAVE ROWNEY
Herald Sports Editor

Representatives from Acton and Georgetown soccer and baseball executives have the opportunity to voice their views to town council March 22 regarding the Town of Halton Hills' proposal to initial a user-pay fee structure.

However, after a number of discussions with the sports groups concerning the new system last week, a second proposal has been made by Recreation Director Tom Shepard which more closely accommodates the wishes of soccer and baseball executives.

Staff comment

Our senior reporter Chris Aagaard covered in his story in Section A of this paper the background discussions regarding user-pay.

Based on the premise that costs have risen dramatically such as labor and general operating costs, the town wanted to look into the feasibility of a user-pay system.

FOUR OPTIONS

The increased costs give the town four options for the future. Tom Shepard wrote in a letter March 5 to council: They are (a) cut back on facilities; (b) cut back on the level of service; (c) increase direct cost to users or (d) continue

to have all tax payers subsidize the groups and their use of town facilities.

Tom Shepard's position for user-pay is based on "better cost recovery" for the facilities being used by the participants. He also recognizes that user-pay policy can prevent, to a larger extent, over-booking or misuse of facilities.

Then, there is the taxpayer who "...is asking us to take this action in order to help relieve him or her of paying more tax dollars to subsidize a facility they do not use," Shepard writes in his letter.

When our Recreation Director writes further that his department is locked in the middle, it is understandable to see their dilemma.

USER-PAY

With user-pay, a team wanting to play or practice on a top-rated diamond or soccer pitch would pay \$10 while a lower-quality field or diamond would cost \$4 per usage.

From the Recreation department's standpoint, there are a number of advantages to this system - especially in preventing overuse of the good fields for practices, plus over-booking.

Now looking at the various ball and soccer groups who have protested in varying degrees over the system, we can also understand their criticisms of the new system.

For the Acton Minor Baseball Association one-third of their registrations were completed before they were aware

of the proposals, president Elmer Dunn said. Thus, timing of the proposal has to be seen as an irritant to the sporting groups who have already formulated their budgets for the 1982 season.

SECOND PROPOSAL

Tom Shepard's second proposal of a set fee to be levied on each of the sport teams before the season begins has met with more widespread approval. Under the new proposal, youth leagues would pay \$10 per season per team while adult leagues would pay \$20. Those using lights would pay an additional \$6 to cover hydro costs.

For leagues such as the Acton Minor Baseball Association, this new proposal represents an increase in 100 per cent from the \$3 per team last year to \$10 this year if the plan is to be implemented.

The matter should be voiced clearly from both sides March 22 at town council. We can only hope both groups come away from the meeting satisfied.

Jim Bray, a GDMHA commissioner, dropped by Monday morning to voice his concern over the support the House League hockey teams are receiving from the parents as the season draws to a close.

A good point is to be made here: If your son or daughter is playing hockey, soon their team may be eliminated from further playoff action. It could be your last chance to catch some good quality hockey....



FUTURE REBELS

Centennial wrestlers hosted bouts from area schools last Saturday in a day-long tournament.

(Herald photo by Harold Branch)



North Halton curling

By PAT McLEOD
Herald Special

Well folks, here we go again. People really didn't stop curling early this year. They were just taking a breather, and have started up again with a vengeance.

Here is a team, with a real travel bug. Steve and Shirley McDermot with George and Joan Shapcott travelled all the way to Windsor, Ont. to play in the Rose City Married Couples Bonspiel.

It was certainly worth the trip. They won the trophy, and the prizes were all original Canadian works of art. This was a three day event, with teams from the U.S. and Canada. Needless to say, they had a terrific time.

Karin were Jane Burrows, Marilyn Micklethwaite and Lois Makovnyk.

Two teams went to Acton that day, and Alice Fraser and her team of Eva Bradley, Gert McGee and Janet Dean placed third in the event.

Joan Trimble and her team of Lena Burns, Kathy Burt and Penny Monckton also played in the event. They all had a great time.

On March 10, Norma Wilson with Mary Kitley, Theresa Smith and Charlotte

Way back on Feb. 24, Joan Mustard took a team to Downsview. Curling with Joan were Mary Anne Marling, Joan Shapcott and Louise Nugent. They didn't win, but had a super day anyway.

Now we jump to March 5, when we have Karen Heaslip and her team of Eva Bradley, Dot Burgess and Barb Mitrovich, bonspieling in Hamilton. They lost the first game and came back to win the second.

On March 6, things really picked up with the three teams out. Karin Henderson took a Business Girls team to the Boulevard Club, where they won the first game, and lost the second. Curling with

Con't Pg. B7

DID YOU REALIZE that spare-time efforts bought an ambulance for Lebanon last year? Red Cross volunteers made handicrafts which were sold for overseas relief. The Assistance International and Domestic program assisted people in countries from Italy to Guatemala, as part of Red Cross' continuing efforts to relieve suffering throughout the world.

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