



The Peanut gang came to life on the stage of the John Elliott Theatre on the weekend when Rotary Presents... featuring You're A Good Man Charlie Brown was presented. Cast members were... from left, Bill Corcoran (Herald photo)

## Council sets policy on future arena sales

By BRIAN MACLEOD  
Herald Staff

Retail and special sales will be allowed in Halton Hills arenas at rental fees which make sure that all operating and administrative costs are covered.

The town's general committee decided Monday to allow the sales after a sometimes fiery debate on the issue.

But the town put some restrictions on the sales.

Retail sales will be allowed only by local businesses paying business taxes. Any individuals who want to hold a sale, or non local people or businesses, must apply for a special sales permit which must first be approved by council.

The move was taken in response to complaints by the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce last summer that sales in the Memorial Arena hurt local businesses and that local businesses were actually subsidizing the sales through their business taxes.

But Recreation Director Tom Shepard said Monday that the rental rates charged make sure that all costs to the town are covered and in fact there is a small profit to the town.

CFP Liquidators held a sale in the arena on May 6 and 7. The business is local and does pay business taxes, said Mr. Shepard.

Some councillors thought they had put a hold on all such sales at the arena last summer until Mr. Shepard prepared his report but the recreation director said, "according to all local bylaws, there was nothing to prevent this, or any other local businessman from holding this type of sale."

"Given that the facilities are for

community use and that local businesses are part of the community it would seem reasonable to rent the facilities to them at a rate that covers all operating and associated administrative costs," said Mr. Shepard.

Any money made by the town on the sales helps keep rental rates lower for ice in the winter, he said.

But the sales "potentially" hurt sales in the town's other businesses, said Mr. Shepard.

Other municipalities allow the sales, said Mr. Shepard.

The Memorial Arena is rented more often because it has a shorter ice season than Gordon Alcott Arena, said Mr. Shepard.

Currently, renters pay \$65 an hour for the Memorial and Acton arenas with a two-hour minimum and an eight-hour maximum. If a liquor license is included those rates are \$10 an hour more.

On Monday council added two other rate categories.

Local retail businesses can rent the Memorial arena and Acton arena for \$75 an hour with a five-hour minimum. Gordon Alcott Arena is \$5 more an hour.

But non local businesses or sales by individuals held under a special sales permit will cost \$112.50 an hour at Memorial and Acton arenas and \$5 more at Alcott with a five-hour minimum charge, for the sales.

Mayor Russ Miller wanted to defer the issue until next week so he could meet with the Chamber and Business Improvement Area representatives and get their view on the recommendations.

Coun. John McDonald agreed that getting input from the Chamber is important before making the decision.

But Coun. Pam Sheldon argued against the deferral saying the Mayor can meet with the Chamber without council instruction.

Coun. Gerald Rennie wanted town staff to find out what commercial space rents for at a price per square foot. Charging that price would be fair, he said.

But town Treasurer Ray King said the circumstances for renting the arenas differ from commercial rental spaces for businesses.

"It's very hard to find that magic figure you're looking for," he said. Mayor Miller pressed for input from the Chamber before the town came to a decision.

"At least I think they deserve the right (to voice their concerns)," he said.

Coun. Betty Fisher urged chamber representatives to appear before council next week, when the decision must be endorsed, to voice their concerns.

"The taxpayers think it's great, going up there and getting their shoes for cheap (prices)," said Coun. Fisher.

Coun. Sheldon was also in favor of holding the sales.

"If we don't allow them, we're taking away choice from the consumers," she said.

And not all businesses are against the sales, she said.

"Some businesses believe in free enterprise."

Chamber President Murray Lawton likes the compromise solution.

The Chamber doesn't want to stop all sales, it just wants to make sure such sales aren't subsidized by taxpayers, said Mr. Lawton.

He said the solution "sounds fair."

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### Police beat

#### Three arrested

Three males were arrested and charged with possession of stolen property and one was charged with theft after a pick up truck was stolen from a house on King Street in Georgetown at 4:30 a.m. May 13.

Police arrested the trio after the pick up was involved in an accident and rolled over at River Road and Maple Avenue at 4:50 a.m. The three will appear in Milton Provincial Court on June 20.

#### Impaired driving

A 41-year-old Mississauga man was charged with impaired driving after police saw the car travelling erratically on Trafalgar Road shortly after 1 a.m. May 13. The man was later released.

#### Narcotic seized

A 29-year-old Acton resident faces charges of impaired driving and possession of a narcotic after police saw the man driving erratically and stopped the car on Mountainview Road at 1:30 a.m. May 14.

Police suspect the drug is hash oil.

The man will appear in court on June 13.

#### Court date set

A 24-year-old Bolton man was charged with possession of a narcotic, suspected to be hashish, after he was observed smoking a foreign substance at the Georgetown District High School at 11:50 p.m. May 13.

The man will appear in court on June 13.

#### House robbed

Someone entered a house on Delrex Boulevard and stole a purse and identification and \$7 cash between midnight and 2 a.m. May 13. The thief entered through an unlocked door.

#### Jewellery taken

Two houses on Trafalgar Road were robbed between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. May 12. Police say a substantial amount of jewellery and cash amounting to \$3,000 was stolen from the two houses.

The door was forced open on one of the homes but police have not yet determined how the thief got into the second residence.

#### Chairs gone

Someone stole two wicker chairs and flowered seatpads valued at \$100 from outside a home on Storey Drive in Acton between May 12 and 15.

#### Pole hooked

A fishing pole valued at \$30 was stolen from an unlocked car parked at 15 John Street between May 6-11.

#### Window broken

A concrete brick was thrown through the front window of the Arcade on Mill Street at midnight on May 15. Damage is estimated at \$500.

#### Tank stolen

A propane tank was stolen from a barbecue outside a house on Chelvin Drive on May 10 or 11. Value of the tank was \$75.

#### \$500 damage

Someone scratched both sides of a car parked near 300 Guelph Street on May 7. Damage is estimated at \$500.

#### Vehicle taken

A 15-year-old female was charged with taking a vehicle without the owner's consent after a car was removed and returned from the parking lot at the North Halton Golf and Country Club on May 13. The youth will appear in court on June 17.

#### Vandals strike

A house under construction on the Fourth Line received \$750 damage by vandals on May 11 or 12. Six windows were broken in the house.

#### Woman injured

A Brampton woman is in Georgetown District Memorial Hospital in satisfactory condition following a single car accident on Winston Churchill Boulevard at Highway 7 at 4:05 a.m. May 14. Police say a 24-year-old Brampton man was driving his 1983 Honda southbound on Winston Churchill Boulevard when he failed to negotiate a curve and skidded 27 metres before striking a tree. Passenger Lisette Millette was taken to Georgetown hospital by ambulance.

#### Trucks collide

Two pickup trucks collided at the intersection of Trafalgar Road and Maple Avenue at 5:50 p.m. May 14. Police say a 52-year-old Acton man was driving his 1988 truck northbound on Trafalgar Road when he failed to stop for a red traffic light. The truck collided with a 1987 GMC pickup driven by a 23-year-old Georgetown man. Damage to the first pickup was moderate but the GMC received severe damage. Charges were laid in the accident.

#### Careless driving

Charges of careless driving were laid following an accident on Mill Street at the First Line at 6:15 p.m. May 6. Police say a 16-year-old Acton woman was driving her 1983 blue Datsun westbound on Mill Street at 80 kilometres per hour when the car left the road and went onto the gravel shoulder. The car struck a tree and swerved back onto the roadway. The car received severe damage to the right front and centre.