

No construction delay for new Acton arena

Despite the town budget committee's decision to push back payment for the new Acton Arena to 1991, the actual construction date hasn't been delayed.

The budget committee will consider the amount spent on the arena in 1991 instead of this year as originally proposed, councillors decided at last week's budget committee meeting. But they approved \$100,000 to be spent on a pre-engineering report for the arena to be conducted between now and September.

The report has to be submitted to the province by September for the project to be eligible for provincial funding in 1991, said Mr. Tom Shepard, of the parks and recreation department.

Mr. Shepard didn't object to councillors' decision to defer payment for the arena to 1991 because

all he needed this year was the money to conduct the report.

But councillors suggested at last week's budget committee meeting that the arena should be a scaled-down version of the one Mr. Shepard originally proposed to council last year.

The arena was supposed to accommodate not only a rink but also a community and seniors centre.

But councillors said at the budget meeting the proposal would be too expensive and a source for a serious parking problem.

Councillors said the town should consider an arena with a lobby and a few meeting rooms to service hockey in Acton and clubs that needed meeting space.

It was suggested that the Acton Fire Hall, once replaced by a new hall, could be converted into a seniors centre.

Conflict charges fly over planner's presentation

Town councillors elected to go behind closed doors during Monday night's general committee meeting to determine whether a planning consultant representing the Guelph Street Capital Ford dealership application for a zoning by-law amendment, had a conflict of interest.

Wendy Knott of the planning consultant firm Walker Wright and Young was arguing before councillors that they should allow the Guelph Street property to be brought in conformity with the town's official plan when Mayor Russ Miller expressed concern that Ms. Knott had previously worked for the town.

"I really get upset when we put our trust in consultants and then they represent other applicants," Mayor Miller told councillors before an in camera meeting was called. Councillors decided after the meeting there was no conflict of interest problem.

The car dealership wants an amendment to the existing by-law to allow the property to conform to the official plan zoning - the new highway commercial special zone. If the amendment is approved the dealership's owner could build anything from a restaurant to a car wash on the property. But councillors deferred making a decision until next Monday night.

Ms. Knott said she had previously worked for the town on the official plan as it applied to development in Georgetown south. But because the car dealership application did not require an amendment to the official plan, Ms. Knott argued there was no conflict of interest.

"I'm not impressed," replied the

mayor. Meanwhile Ms. Knott leaned over to the town's planning director, Ian Keith, and whispered "what happened to the letter."

Ms. Knott was referring to a letter sent to the town she told the Herald after the meeting which was dated May 9, 1989. It informed Mr. Keith she was representing Capital-Ford and asked if there were any problems.

Mr. Keith told councillors he remembers receiving the letter but was unable to recall whether he had brought it before council.

A similar procedure was followed on previous occasions when Ms. Knott represented Maple Creek Developments and Bramalea Developments. And council found no conflict of interest those times, Ms. Knott said after the meeting.

Acton Councillor Norm Elliott said he thought it was understood under what circumstances Ms.

Knott could represent a private application. But the councillor stressed if there was still a problem "let's discuss it in camera and resolve it once and for all and not act unprofessionally by trading accusations (in public)."

Ms. Knott, who appeared shaken following the meeting, called Mayor Miller's accusations "strange."

Easter seals campaign wraps up March 31

Easter may be just around the corner but the Easter Seals campaign is already into its fourth week.

The campaign, run by Georgetown's Rotary Club, has only one more week to raise money. The campaign runs from March 1 to March 31.

While the provincial target stands at over \$4.5 million, almost \$400,000 more than what it achieved last year, the target set for Halton Hills remains near to the achievement mark last year.

The club is looking to raise \$10,500 through the handing out of Easter Seals to approximately 9,600 homes in Halton Hills.

Chairman of the Easter Seal committee, C.G. "Bud" Bishop, said almost 8,600 homes in Norval, 275 homes in Limehouse and 80 homes in Ballinafad should have received the seals.

The Rotary Club was formed 35 years ago this month, Mr. Bishop said. The club has been operating the campaign almost since the club was formed, he added. The first Easter Seal campaign was held in 1922.

The Easter Seal Society owns and operates five summer camps for more than 7,400 Ontario youngsters (up to the age of 19) with physical disabilities. The

summer camp for the Georgetown area would be Lakewood, Mr. Bishop said.

But it's not just the camps the Easter Seal Society works with. The society provides financial help to purchase such items as wheelchairs, braces, artificial limbs, communication devices and transportation. Any money raised in Halton Hills will "cover local children first," Mr. Bishop said. He noted that whenever the local money is running in abundance the Rotary Club will send it to the Easter Seal headquarters in Toronto.

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