

Senior expansion okayed

While proposed funding for expansion of the Acton Seniors Centre is on hold, the Town's budget committee approved, in principal, the conceptual expansion plans, and endorsed the Centre's \$400,000 fundraising goal for the project at budget talks last week.

The hold on funding is collateral fallout from a Town budget committee decision to delay debate on all arena-related spending in this year's budget until staff comes up with less expensive options, before March 1.

The proposed expansion of the Acton Seniors Centre was to be done in conjunction with twinning the Acton arena, part of a \$29.2-million arena plan – most of it borrowed money – that included two new ice pads at the Mold-Masters arena in Georgetown.

At a budget committee meeting last Tuesday, Acton's Bev Jones, vice-president of the Centre and fundraising chair, quoted Martin Luther King's famous "I Have a

Dream" speech in his appeal for approval.

"My dream is that in the not too distant future, I will be sitting in the lounge of the expanded Acton Seniors Centre, enjoying a coffee with other Centre members, while many other programs are going on in the various activity rooms," Jones said.

A space needs study found the current Acton Centre has 2,086-square-feet of dedicated seniors' space, while the provincial average is 12,677-square-feet. That works out to 6.2-square feet per member, compared with the provincial average of 10.7-square-feet.

"This does not create the environment for an enjoyable experience for our members and volunteers, nor does it create a good impression for potential members," Jones said, adding this is why they are "so passionate" about the expansion plans.

Acton Councillor Jon Hurst spoke in favour of approving the conceptual plan and the fundraising goal, but noted because of economies of scale, the

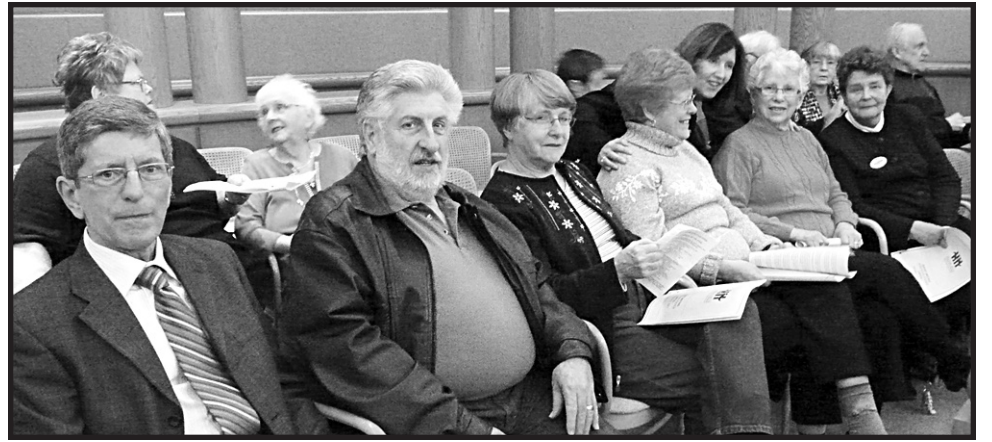
Seniors Centre expansion would not go ahead without the twinning of the Acton ice pad.

Acton Councillor Clark Somerville questioned if the \$400,000 fundraising goal in Acton, and \$500,000 in Georgetown, for a new seniors' centre, are realistic.

Terry Alyman, the Town's Director of Recreation and Parks said that was a difficult question, but added he's been "pleasantly surprised" that past fundraising targets, specifically in Acton, have been met.

Mayor Rick Bonnette voted to endorse the Acton Seniors Centre expansion plan and fundraising goal, noting that both centres are cramped with the rising number of baby-boomers.

Following the meeting, Jones said they are pleased the conceptual plan for the Acton expansion was approved, although they realize that the 2014 target may be delayed. The price tag to expand the Acton Seniors Centre and build a new one in Georgetown is \$7-million.



CENTRE SUPPORT: Members of the Acton Seniors Centre were on hand at a Town budget meeting last Tuesday in support their request for councillor approval of conceptual plans for a proposed expansion of the Acton Centre, and endorsement of an ambitious \$400,000 fundraising goal. On hand were, from left: Bev Jones, Real Tetreault, Julie Conroy, Connie Fix, Joy Thompson, the Town's Manager of Recreation Services, Pat Frizzell and Mary Walsma. – Frances Niblock photo

Court date for Acton man charged with murder

A 47-year-old Acton man, charged with second degree murder in connection with the death of 49-year-old Rick MacLeod of Acton, remains in custody and will appear in a Milton court today (Thursday) via a video link. Eddie McGuin made a brief court appearance in a Milton court on Monday and was remanded.

Last Thursday at 7:25 p.m., Halton police were called to an apartment on Mill Street West and found a man suffering from life-threatening injuries following an altercation. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

Halton police have not released any details, including the cause of death.

Police won't say what led to an altercation between the two men, who knew each other, and said they don't believe a weapon was involved.

Homicide officers continue the investigation and ask anyone with information about the incident to call at 905-825-4777 ext. 8760, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

Acton Villa Soccer Club

More than a Kick in the Grass!

Register on-line and get details & updates from:

www.actonsoccer.org

ON-LINE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR:

- Youth Outdoor Soccer: Summer 2011
- Adult Co-Ed Gerry HatTricks: Summer 2011
- Adult Men's Recreational: Summer 2011



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Early Bird Discount of 20% Ends January 31st 2011!

Sobering R.I.D.E. stats

Halton police stopped 70 per cent fewer drivers in One District (Acton, Georgetown and Milton) this holiday season and charged 12 people with having over 80-milligrams of alcohol in 100-millilitres of blood, compared to 13 similar charges in 2009. All 12 of those charged with over .08 were also charged with

impaired driving.

The District One R.I.D.E (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) statistics show that police stopped 3,544 vehicles in spot checks in December, compared with 11,855 in 2009.

Region-wide during December, Halton police stopped 31,905 vehicles at R.I.D.E spot checks,

administered 272 roadside breath tests and charged 40 drivers with impaired offences, a drop from 32 over 80 charges in 2009.

Sergeant Brian Carr said police will only be satisfied when the impaired driving and over 80 numbers are zero.

"Unfortunately, we're going to be very hard pressed to get to that number, so until that day, I don't think we can be satisfied. We have to strive to get that number down to zero, and that's going to be through education and enforcement," Carr said on Monday.

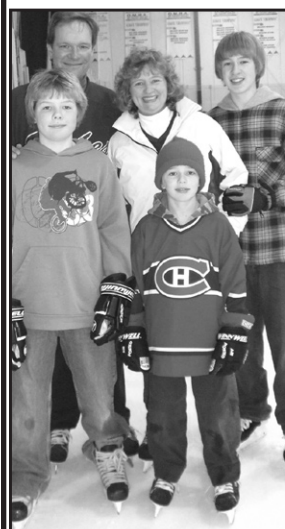
Police administered 100 roadside alcohol screening device tests in One District in December and 88 drivers passed with eight registered a "warn" and four a "fail." Police issued seven three-day administrative drivers licence suspensions, compared with 11 in 2009.

Police charged two drivers who were behind the wheel with a Highway Traffic Act licence suspension, compared with one in 2009.

A Family Skate

Come and enjoy free family skating, hosted by Wellington-Halton Hills

MPP Ted Arnott.



Sunday, January 30th
2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Acton Arena and
Community Centre
415 Queen Street,
Acton

Everyone Welcome.