

Council must find a 'balance'

Dear editor,

In reference to J. Snyder's comments in the Feb. 3 edition.

I, too, would find the comment you referred to ludicrous. However, thanks to the magic of editing, you have been misled. The comment that was made was in response to a councillor who in frustration, two weeks prior to the hospital public meeting, declared the end of the arena projects if the hospital funding proceeded.

My comment was, we cannot steal from the arenas, to pay for the hospital or steal from the hospital, to pay for the arenas. I appealed to the council for "balance".

We need both. And we can have both because the two issues fall in completely different government jurisdictions.

The Town should build one arena and only one. That is all we can afford. This may require a small increase in local property taxes. Then, revisit the issue in 10 years and see how we're doing.

The hospital addition should also take place but the Province should pay for the hospital addition through the Ministry of Health not by having the Town increase our local property taxes. Mayor Bonnette is going after the province now and I think because of our unique situation (having so many growing communities sitting on our borders) he has a pretty good case (in spite of a recent editorial suggesting he would fail). Remember, this is the mayor who fought so hard with the province to keep this hospital's (obstetrics ward) open in the first place.

I believe the folks of this town should stop bickering amongst ourselves. We need to accept a little less for now with respect to the arenas. We also need to put our voices behind the Mayor and help him force the province to fulfill what they are mandated to do and what we have already paid for in health care.

Ken Key,
Georgetown

Gellert site should be considered

Dear editor,

It should be clarified that the arena task force was a GEORGETOWN Arena Task Force (GATF), a distinction that has been lost in parts of this discussion.

The GATF recommendation to twin Acton was largely based on receiving available stimulus government money due to the economic crisis at that time. Unfortunately, the Town was unsuccessful in that bid.

It is disappointing that members of council on the GATF did not lobby more diligently at council for the GATF recommendation to locate the Georgetown, 2.5 ice pad deficit with the recommended facility and preferred site,

the Gellert Community Centre area. That recommendation was based on important criteria identified at GATF discussions, including a location near planned development, near existing facilities and readily available space.

With cost now the overriding issue, some hard questions need to be asked of council on their current recommendation.

The additional cost of, and availability of, parking, moving tennis/soccer/police facilities, adding additional youth and senior facilities, and the priority of facilities in Acton and Georgetown, to name a few.

Todd Kearney,
Halton Hills

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David Euale, Director of Education

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