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**TUESDAY,**  
 March 1, 2011

Halton Hills' award-winning newspaper



## The march for new arenas

Members of various arena users groups marched from Mold-Masters SportsPlex to Christ the King School last night (Monday) where a special council meeting was being held to decide whether to spend money on a \$29.2 million three-arena program.

Photo by Ted Brown

## Town staff recommends a go on all three arenas— \$29.2 m

By **CYNTHIA GAMBLE**  
 Staff Writer

In a report released Friday afternoon, Town staff recommends “quadding” the Mold-Masters SportsPlex and the twinning of Acton Arena with the addition of a Dedicated Arena Tax Levy in the 2013 to 2015 budgets.

This recommendation was considered by Halton Hills council at a special council meeting held last night (Monday), at Christ the King School.

**Their decision was made after press time. Please go to [www.independentfreepress.com](http://www.independentfreepress.com) today (Tuesday) for the latest update on this story.**

Local arena users marched to the meeting from Mold-Masters SportsPlex. At least 16 speakers including seven

community groups such as Acton and Georgetown seniors centres and sports groups reps had registered by Monday afternoon to speak at the meeting

“I am very pleased with the information contained in the report,” said Ward 2 Councillor Bryan Lewis and chair of the Georgetown Arenas Task Force. “It shows the depth of detail that Ed DeSousa, Director of Corporate Services & Treasurer and Terry Alyman, Director of Recreation & Parks along with their staff have done, to enable the public to understand the comprehensive details. We (council) are given options for consideration and even if, some-

one did not appreciate nor accept all or one options, there is enough information that you could formulate your own valued opinion of the most appropriate option”.

Lewis added, “The Georgetown Arena Task Force’s detailed information is included in this report, which allows all participants to make a knowledgeable decision.”

The recommendation directs staff to proceed with quadding (adding two more ice pads to the current two at Mold-Masters SportsPlex) in time for the fall 2013 season. Staff said it would help to alleviate the current deficiency in ice pads (replace the Memo-

rial and add an extra pad).

Staff said it would provide the best value based on service and money compared to the other options since the greatest demand for ice use is by Georgetown-based groups. Two arenas at the Mold-Masters location would “address ice deficiencies in part, optimize economies of scale, capitalize on current low interest rates and proceed with familiar construction cost estimates.”

Total cost of the two-pad addition would cost \$18.9 million and would not require a tax levy. An affirmative decision, however, would mean the removal of the Alcott tennis courts to the Gellert Community Centre property and the lit soccer field to the Trafalgar Rd. Sports Park.

	2013	2014	2015
Property Tax Impact	0.2%	1%	1%
Dollar value per \$100,000 of residential assessment	\$.70	\$3.55	\$3.55
Dollar value on \$350,000 of average assessment	\$2.45	\$12.40	\$12.40

The three-arena program would require the addition of a Dedicated Arena Tax Levy on property tax bills to raise \$5.2 million. This levy would be phased in over three years.

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