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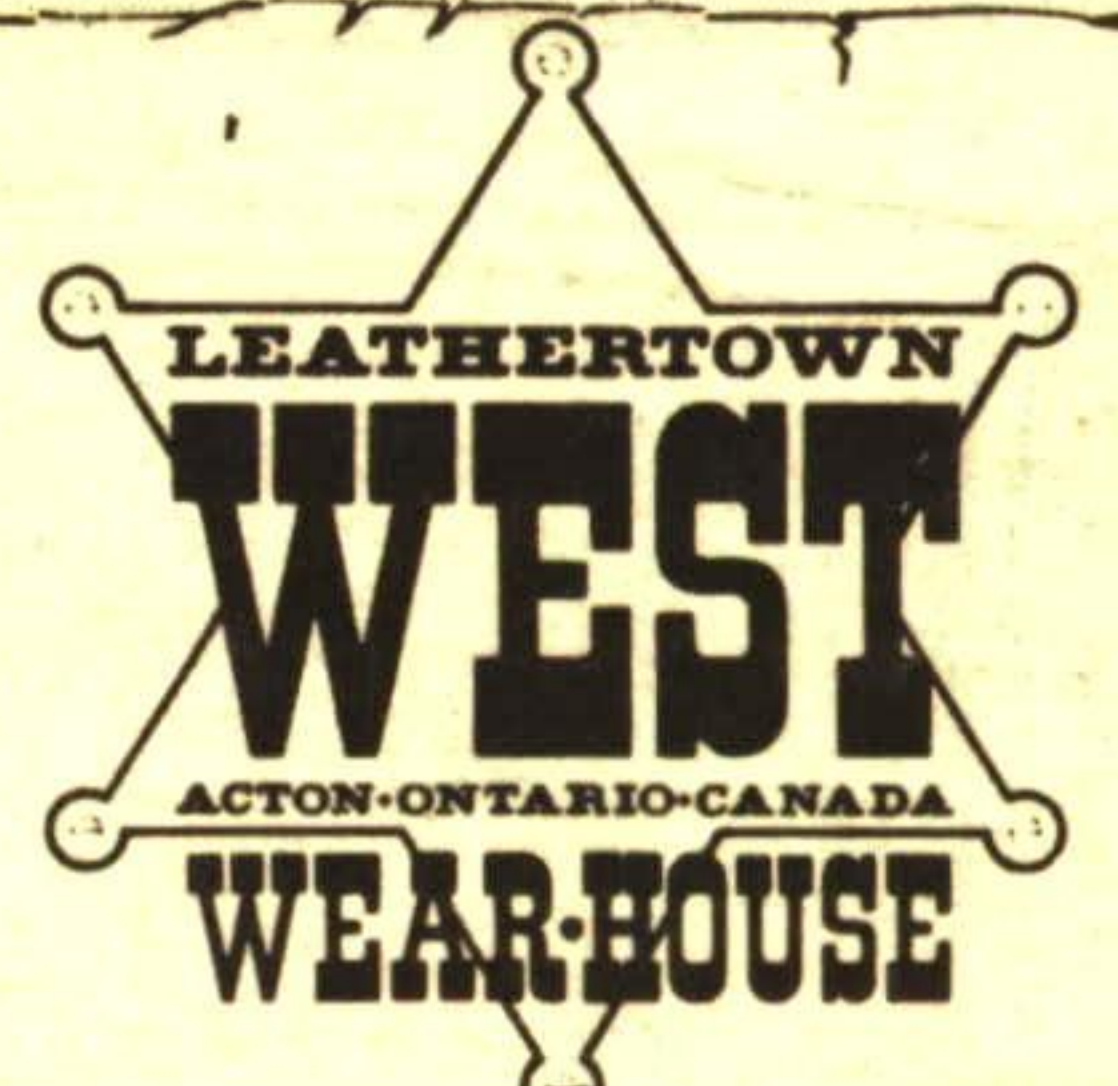
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It's Worth the Drive to Acton!

Halton Hills

WEEKEND

The Georgetown Independent and Acton Free Press



OPEN 10-8 DAILY
12 Church St. E. 853-0506

VOLUME 6 -- NO. 47

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1991
A Metroland Community Newspaper Serving all Halton Hills and District

28 PAGES/50 CENTS + G.S.T.

Acton arena nixed again

By STUART JOHNSTON

Budget Committee stuck to its guns Tuesday night and again voted against placing the new Acton Arena project in the 1992 capital forecast.

Despite last ditch attempts by the user groups, and impassioned speeches by Ward 1 (Acton) councillors and Mayor Russ Miller, Committee bumped the approximately \$4 million project another year until 1993.

"I was rather surprised at the vote," user group spokesperson Gord Chapman said in an interview Wednesday. Chapman had presented Town councillors Monday night with a 1,187-signature petition urging them to get the ball rolling on the arena project as soon as possible.

"At least they will have a better understanding of our problems—I had the feeling that, if nothing else, at least they were listening to us," he said. "I've got to find some silver lining in this cloud -- I've got to remain hopeful."

Chapman noted his group will try once more to persuade council to change its mind before it approves the budget in early spring.

"But, we're going to ensure that if we're not successful this year, that (councillors) will remain committed and keep the project in 1993," he said. "We will also try and mobilize the Georgetown user groups because this is all going to have an impact on them, too."

Councillors Gerald Rennie, Norm Elliott, Rick Bonnette and Mayor Russ Miller again favored replacing the arena in 1992, while putting the paperwork for Provincial grants through the system this year.

They argued it wouldn't cost the municipality anything to apply for funding, as the project could be delayed by council next year if economic conditions weren't favorable to building.

However, Councillors Anne Currie, Pat McCarthy, Joe Hewitt, Marilyn Serjeantson, Alf Spence, Rob Heaton and Lil Bowman

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Megan Wells (Shiona Watson) and Cecily Farr (Sue Cranford) (seated) chat about their letter-writing correspondent Helene Hanff of New York while at their workplace, Marks & Co. a bookseller at 84 Charing Cross Road, London, England. The Georgetown Little Theatre production, "84 Charing Cross Road" opened Thursday night at John Elliot Theatre with a benefit performance in aid of the Halton Hills Toy Lending Library. The play, which spans 22 years of letter-writing, continues its run next week.

TED BROWN Halton Hills Weekend

49 lose jobs Provincial Papers closes March 31

By JANET BAINE

Abitibi-Price announced Wednesday it is closing Provincial Papers in Georgetown on March 31, leaving 49 people out of work.

"The Georgetown plant is over 85 years old and it just can't compete in today's competitive environment," said John Olsen, president of Provincial Papers, a division of Abitibi-Price. "The employees at the plant have worked hard to keep the operation going, but unfortunately market conditions have declined dramatically even over last year, with no recovery in sight."

"The recession didn't help it," said Vice-President Sharon Paul, spokesperson for the company. "But it is really new competition from European companies which are responsible. They can make the same products for a cheaper price because they have new machinery."

In operation since 1905, the Georgetown division provided two functions: cast coating and converting. The cast coating process creates a high gloss finish on paper which is used for event tickets and presentation folders. No cast-coating has been carried out in Georgetown since last fall, when 28 workers were laid-off.

Paper from the Provincial Papers mill in Thunder Bay were also converted into products suitable for sheet fed printing. The 21 workers carrying out this part of the operation will lose their jobs when the plant closes at the end of March. None will be placed in other divisions of the company, Paul said.

Abitibi-Price released its year-end financial report last week which showed it lost \$45 million last year, compared to a profit of \$55 million in 1989.

"Unfortunately all of Abitibi-Price is having problems. We have laid off a lot of workers from most of our operations so it isn't like Georgetown is not doing well but another operation is expanding,"

Paul said. "The company won't be relocating the workers who are losing their jobs. We will be providing them with counselling and some relocation assistance."

Mayor Russ Miller said he is sorry to see the plant close. He recalls back in the '70s when Provincial Papers employed over 200 people.

"At one time we had three paper mills (in Georgetown). They were the big employers," he said. One paper mill closed in the 40s or 50s, Domtar closed in 1976 and now Provincial Papers is closing in 1991, he said.

John R. Barber, Georgetown's former reeve and a member of a prominent local family, constructed the paper mill in 1905 and sold it to the Provincial Paper Company in 1911.

"All (the closing does) is compound the scarcity of jobs we already have," Miller said. He hopes it won't have much of an impact on the local economy.

Miller said the town and Halton Region will do what they can to help employees find new jobs in the area. When the tannery closed in Acton, the Town set up interviews with employees and found some jobs in other companies within the region.

"Now it's hard times, so it might not be as easy," he said.

Union representative Kevin Hyde was unavailable for comment before press time.

Young's Pharmacy is tobacco-free. See page 5

Raiders end season. See page 14

Region set to approve new Development Charges Act

The second draft of the controversial Development Charges Act was issued for public review last week.

Regional councillors are expected to tentatively approve the

document next Wednesday afternoon.

The Development Charges Act will set out new fees levelled at residential and non-residential developers to recover capital costs

that the municipality incurs when it provides services to the developers.

A public meeting was held early last month, where 140 submissions

from developers, landowners and public agencies were received. As a result, a number of changes have been incorporated into the Act, which are set out in the second draft copy of the document.

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