



### Close call...

Georgetown Councillor Anne Currie received minor injuries after her car collided with a yellow bus on the corner of Main St. and Guelph St. in

Georgetown late Tuesday afternoon. Currie's 1988 Mercury Tracer was demolished in the accident. SCOTT KLINE Halton Hills Weekend

## Budget committee approves \$61 million nine-year forecast

By STUART JOHNSTON  
Arena replacements for Acton and Georgetown's fire station, new parks, and a new cultural centre are some of the tentative projects in the town's nine year capital forecast approved by Budget Committee Tuesday night.

The gross cost of all the projects proposed until the year 2000 is estimated by Treasurer Ray King to be \$61,436,515. King stressed the capital forecast does not commit council to the projects, but merely acts as a

guideline for future planning.

Committee members approved the figure, in principle, after a few modifications and changes were suggested. Ward 1 (Acton) councillors and Mayor Russ Miller voted on the 1992 forecast separately, as a way of protesting the deletion of the Acton Arena project from that year.

Town Council must still formally approve the budget in early spring.

One of the changes, proposed by Councillor Norm Elliott, was to keep \$100,000 for repairs to the Acton Arena in 1992. The original sum of \$201,650 had been deleted earlier from the budget.

A proposal to relocate the Area 2 (Georgetown) fire station in 1993, at an estimated cost of \$4 million, was deferred until 1996. The project may be necessary in order for the firefighters to be in a more "strategic location" to service Georgetown, according to Fire Chief Bill Cunningham.

"I don't have a problem pushing it down the road a few years," Cunningham told Committee. "One of the critical factors, of course, is the growth of Georgetown South. If that occurs rapidly, I would be obligated to bring this project back."

The Georgetown and Acton

seniors' centres have also been deleted from the forecast.

King stressed that the nine-year forecast, although different from the previous four-year-method, will help the municipality plan better for the long-term.

"We don't have a crystal ball to gaze into to determine the future, but the fact is all departments are experiencing a growing need to have long-range planning," he said. "With the '91 budget, we've taken serious steps backwards from previous (Provincial) funding levels. What we're trying to do is build the level of capital from current back to its former level."

Major projects requiring high-level debentures over the next decade include: replacing Acton Arena in 1993; improving the Acton library in 1995; twinning the Gordon Alcott Arena and constructing a new Public Works facility in the year 2000. The debentures for these, and other projects, will be roughly \$9.55 million.

Georgetown South will also receive quite a make-over if the rate of development improves dramatically over the next decade.

Community and neighborhood parks, an arena, hall, indoor pool, a performing arts and community centre are all tentatively slated for Georgetown South.

## Actonians plan to press on in arena budget battle

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thought differently, and struck the motion down. Councillor Al Cook did not attend the meeting.

"The whole question is whether council gets involved in good planning or leaves it alone," Elliott said. "What bothers me is we're looking at a \$4 million project in the forecast — I'd like to point out that if council doesn't put it in the 1992 budget, then that means we do nothing with it for 18 months. Even if the opportunity is there to build, we can't do anything."

"If the arena goes down, the financial disruption that you've known so far won't even compare — don't hang this on the smoke and mirrors of fiscal responsibility."

However, administrator-clerk Dan Costea pointed out that engineering reports conclude that a "50-50 risk factor for further repairs" exists for the arena, adding the structure could probably operate safely for the next two or

three years.

"The engineers feel it is a good risk operating the arena for one or two more years without any major occurrences," Costea said. "Even though there is no way of determining if the (pipes) are going to spring a leak, they feel it is a good risk."

Serjeantson noted she is already receiving phone calls from her constituents "complaining on the proposed tax bill," adding she can't support the arena project because it will only increase taxes. Reports from various sources claim a new arena will add anywhere from four to seven per cent on next year's taxes.

"It always seems to be something else — we still have the RSI fight (proposed landfill for Acton Quarry) and we're probably going to go to court for that," she said. "We've got something hanging over our heads that we've got to be a part of against our wishes, but a new arena on top of that? People simply can't afford it."

### Boudreau pleads guilty to abduction

Brian Boudreau pleaded guilty to abducting his five-year-old son in Milton provincial court Tuesday.

Boudreau, 35, also pleaded guilty to breach of probation in connection with last spring's disappearance of Luke Boudreau.

What was thought to be a regular weekend visit between father and son turned into a nightmare for Luke's mother Janet Cipryk.

Boudreau picked up Luke from his ex-wife's Milton home in mid-April, but never returned.

Instead, a man appeared at her door with a letter advising Ms Cipryk to obey specific instructions or she would never see her son again, Crown Attorney Katherine Livingstone-Pickett told the court.

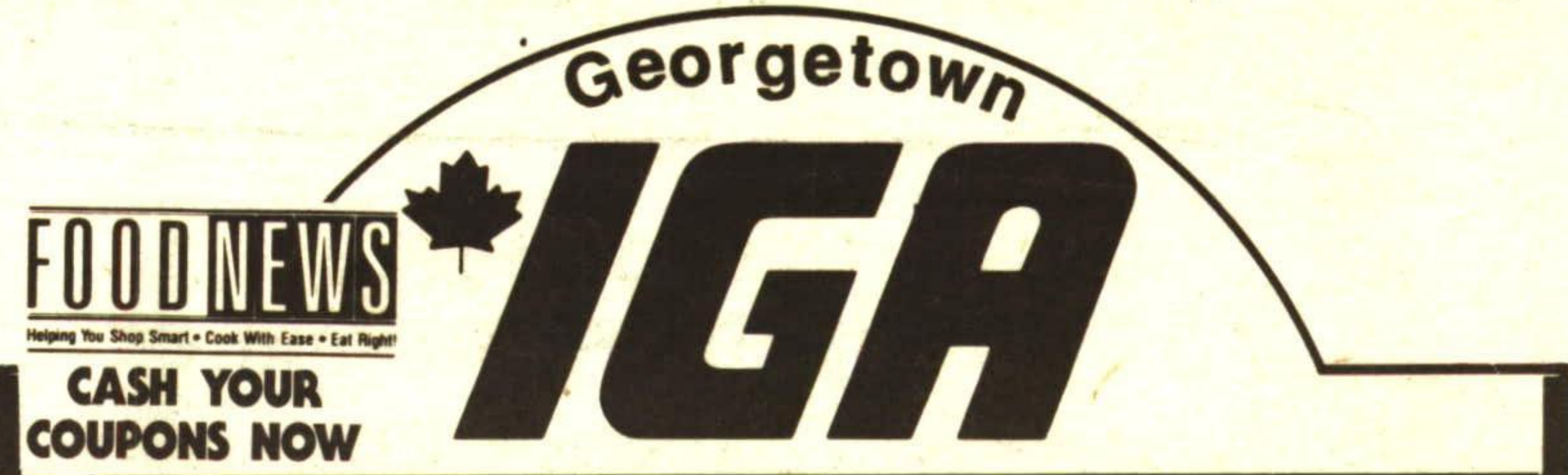
In July, police recovered Boudreau's car in an Etobicoke parking garage. In the back seat was a bag of clothes which Luke had last been seen wearing.

Luke's disappearance sparked an intensive investigation by Halton Regional Police and an outpouring of community support which saw thousands of posters distributed across North America.

As a result of information received, Boudreau and Luke were found by authorities in Hawaii the following October.

Other charges of extortion and conspiracy to commit an indictable offence were withdrawn.

Boudreau will be sentenced in provincial court March 6.



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