

ANNOUNCEMENT



MARIE LOUTH
Travel Consultant

Beeline Travel is pleased to announce that as of Sept. 14/92, Marie Louth will be joining us as a full time travel consultant. Marie lives in Georgetown, attended Georgetown High School and acquired her B.A. at York University studying Sociology and Psychology. Marie has over 20 years experience in the travel industry, of which 18 years was spent with Barber & Henley. As a certified, accredited travel consultant Marie is continuing her education to offer our clients the best of service.

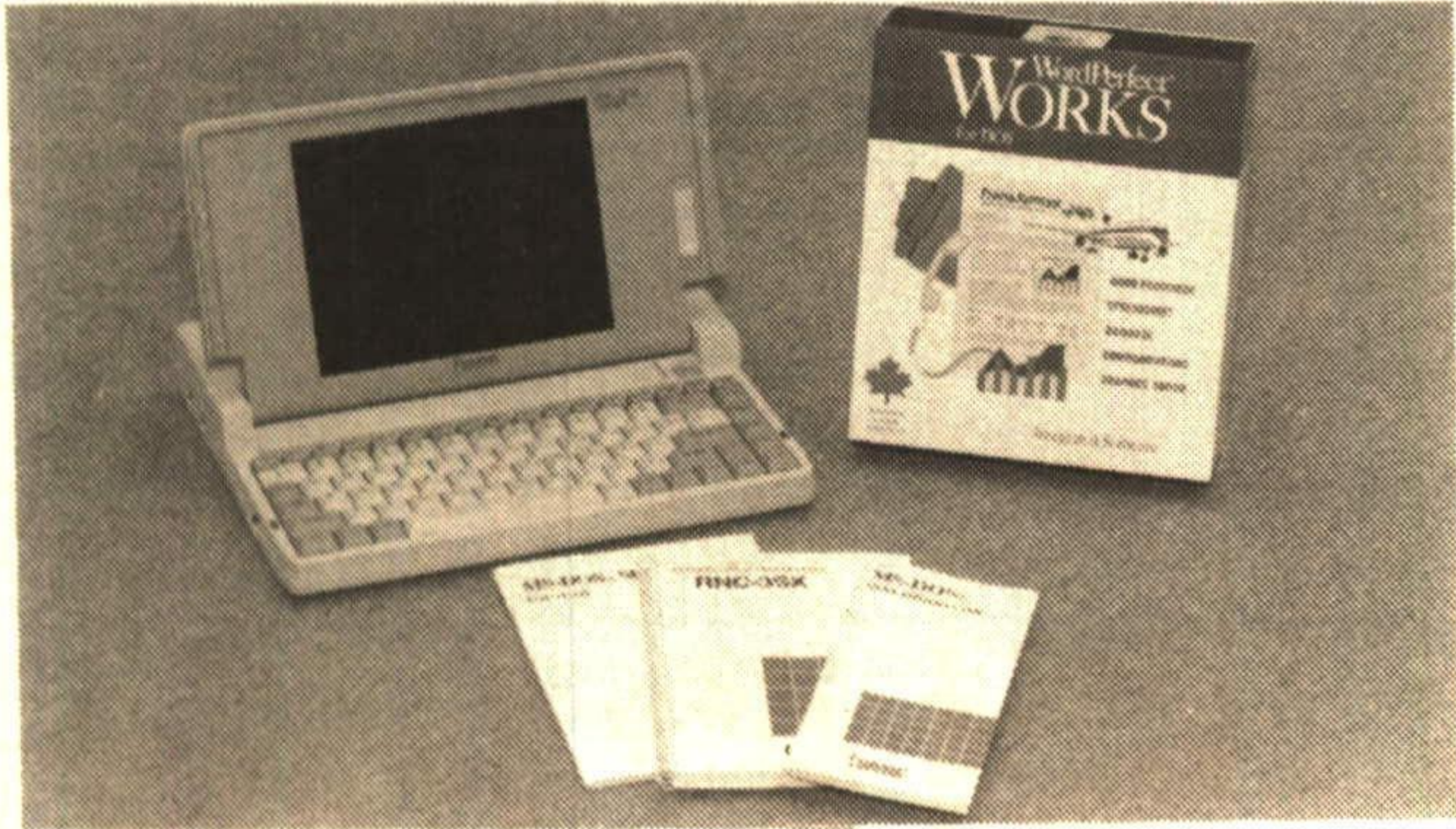
We wish Marie well and hope to have a long association with her.



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Arena users seek alternative

Continued from page 1

"And, you're planning a banquet facility there as well to cram even more people in there," Dick continued.

Shepard stressed that "each site has both good and bad points," pointing out that a decision has not yet been made one way or the other. However, in his report to council last week, Prospect Park was strongly favored, based on "financial information and technical data."

A "worst-case scenario" has tagged final costs for a new rink in the park at roughly \$4.3 million. In Acton north, the costs range from \$4.6 million to \$5.2 million, compared to an even \$5 million for the eastern location. Plans for each location show extra parking and sport fields for softball and soccer.

Costs include buying the land (in the case of Acton east), providing water and sewage, hydro, roads, studies, and, of course, actual construction costs.

So far, council has only approved \$4.1 million for the project, on the assumption provincial grants would be available to offset the costs, but Shepard didn't seem too concerned about it. Although grants upwards of \$760,000 may no longer be available, Shepard is hopeful that, given today's economy, construction costs will be well below what was originally anticipated — probably enough to offset the loss of any grants.

Many residents argued in favor of the eastern, eight-acre property, but Shepard pointed out a few of the roadblocks he is faced with.

The town is currently negotiating the price of the land with the developer who owns it, as well as who is to pay for servicing costs. Also, the land must be rezoned, which is a long and tedious process. Roads and water mains must also be extended to the property, which again costs time and money, he said.

"If the arena goes first (before development begins) it's a case of the tail wagging the dog," he said. "We're forcing the issue — by suggesting we go first, we're fronting the costs...There's a possibility of recovery of some of the costs from the developer, but we can't say for sure at this point..."

"Sounds like you're painting a

black picture to manipulate something back down here (at Prospect Park)," someone shot back.

"These aren't things we pull out of a hat — they are not our regulations, we're just the bearer of bad news, so to speak," Shepard countered. "It's just as aggravating for us...Maybe you don't like the costs, or the bottom line, but we are trying to be as objective as we can. I can hear some of your frustrations, but we're under a lot of people's regulations and rules not our own."

Shepard welcomed written comments from the user groups and other members of the public as soon as possible. They will be included in his final report to council on Sept. 21, which is expected to recommend one of the three sites.

Gord Chapman, representing some of the user groups, announced a meeting for anyone interested at Fairy Lake's boathouse this Wednesday (Sept. 9) at 7:30 p.m.

"We're going to prepare a response for Tom (Shepard) by our group, but we welcome any input from others who are interested," Chapman said.

In an interview, Chapman added the presentation only "confirmed" his viewpoint that Prospect Park is not the ideal site. He declined to comment further until his group meets this week.

Instant millionaires

Continued from page 1

"It's not set in yet," he added. "I think it's too soon to think about all this. We'll have to sit down and decide...We're not quite sure what to do — there's a lot of decisions to be made, and it's going to take a couple of weeks to sort it all out. I'm still shaking about this."

One of the couple's dreams has been to "upgrade" their living style by selling their home and buying one with a pool and a fireplace. Once the dust settles, they are going to "seriously think about" what their next step is.

"Up until now, it was impossible for us to do that, with me being unemployed," he added. "But now, I'm sure we'll be able to do something."

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