

Hwy. #7

873-1626



The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce took a strong pro-development position at the Acton Ontario Municipal Board hearing on Tuesday.

Bob Malcolmson, president of the local Chamber, spoke in support of proposed development for Acton on behalf of the organization's 400 members.

"We need development to sus-

tain business," said Malcolmson. "Many commercial operations in Halton Hills, an specifically Acton, in this economy, are hanging on by their fingernails and are one step away from closing."

Malcolmson added over the past 15 years the town has slowly lost its viable shopping district, due to lack of development over that time.

"Development means increased population, improved job prospects for the residents of our community and the possibility that our children may be able to grow up and work and live in Halton Hills." added Malcolmson. "It also means an improved tax base."

Malcolmson said development was positive, and cited the example of Georgetown, over the past

couple of years.

Malcolmson urged the hearing chair to "think of what this news development means to the people of Acton...and consider the effect on the small business in this community."

"Smali business in Acton provides jobs, community support and a sustained tax base," said Malcolmson.

Users argue new arena not an OMB issue

Gord Chapman, representing the Acton Arena User Groups, was at the Ontario Municipal Board hearing Wednesday attempting to convince the board the Acton arena should not be an issue in the hearing.

"The arena is a replacement facility," said Chapman. "It is not tied in with Acton growth."

Chapman said the user groups supported the concept of the new arena being in Acton east "because it seemed to fit into this process."

"But if it can't be banged together quickly, we should go with a site in Acton north (on the Dawkins property which had been offered as a site)." Servicing is

readily available on that land.

"There was not a universal feeling for one site or the other from members of the groups. If there is going to be a two to five year delay of development of the site, then our committee's view would probably change (from the site in Acton east), "said Chapman.

Chapman stressed to the OMB

that there is a desperate need for an arena now.

He said the facility is "living on borrowed time," there is inadequate parking, and the ice surface is not even standard size.

Chapman added that a new arena should also include a 180plus seat community hall, which is needed by the town.



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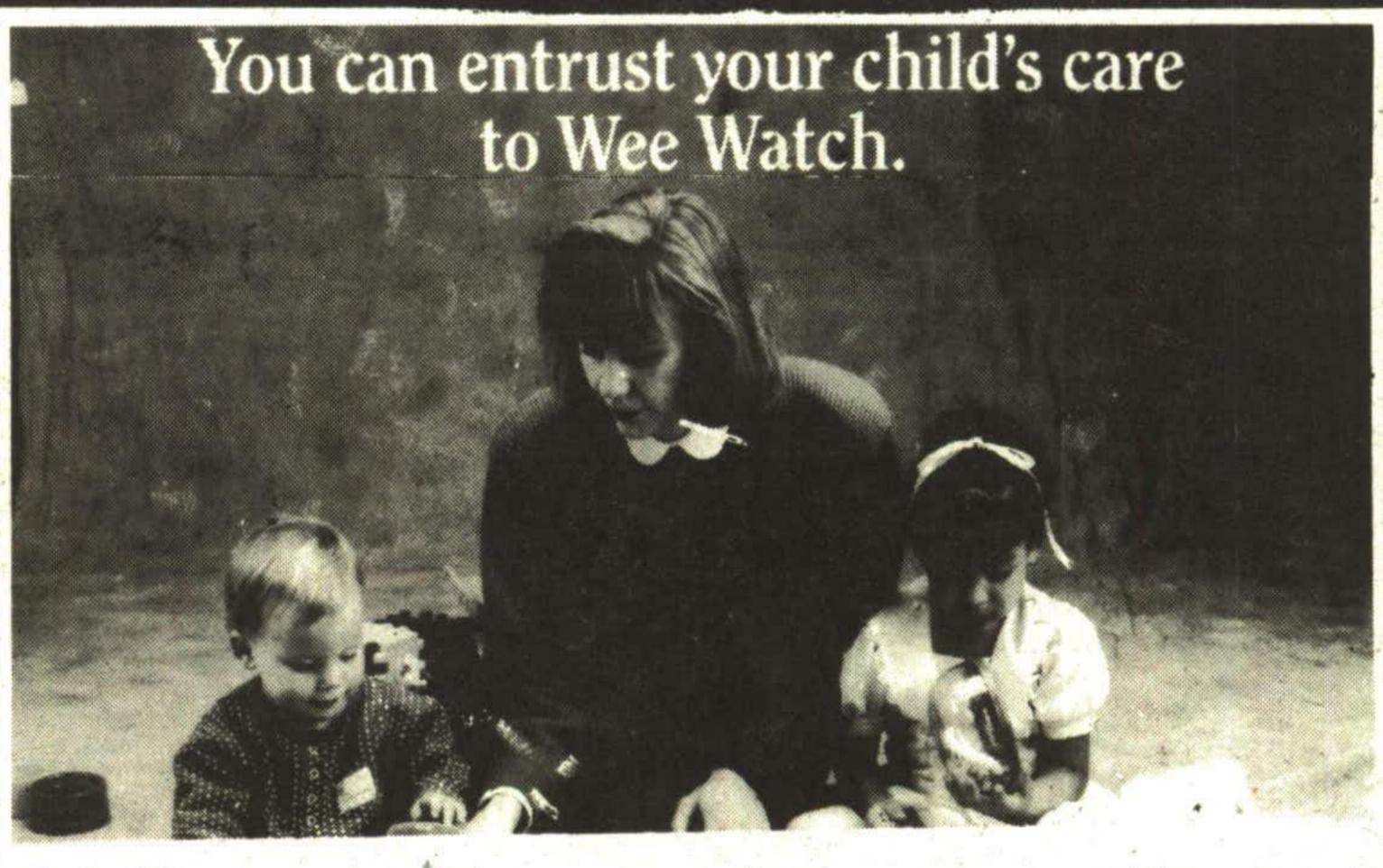
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