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News

Digest

**People evacuated**

Residents on one side of John St. in Georgetown were evacuated from their homes Friday morning. A call came through to the Halton Hills Fire Department at about 10 a.m. that there was a gas odor and the problem was later found to be a chemical in a storage shed across from the apartment building at 115 John St. At 2 p.m. firefighters were still busy with this call.

**Kitchen fire**

About \$1,500 damage was caused to a Park Ave. apartment when some cooking oil was left on the stove, Thursday. The Fire Department was called at 11 p.m. The cupboards and drywall was damaged.

**Serious accident**

Two people were taken by ambulance to Georgetown Hospital Thursday night. A Toyota driven by a Georgetown resident hit a tree stump on King St. and Mountainview Rd. at 11:20 p.m., police said. No further details were available.

**Closed for the season**

The Civic Centre may be closed the week between Christmas and New Year's Day this year. The closure is not required as part of social contract requirements, as it was in 1993, but because it makes good business sense. Town administrator Ray King said since demand for administrative services is down during that period, closing will result in cost savings and boost employee morale. The recommendation has to be adopted by council.

**Severe damage**

A 1986 Buick was severely damaged when the accelerator jammed Monday. The driver was reversing out of a parking spot on Guelph St. when the car spun backwards out of control, hitting the curb, then an island and landed on top of some shrubs. No charges were laid.

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\$22,000 day



An ecstatic Phil Jones accepts his prize of a black blazer from Bill Smith after he won the Bill Smith Invitational Golf Tournament, Monday night at North Halton Golf Course. At the end of the tournament, Jones tied with George Prior, with a 73, forcing a playoff round. The tournament raised \$22,000 for the Georgetown unit of the Canadian Cancer Society. See story on page 20.  
TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

## Town reveals Acton arena site preference

By LISA TALLYN

Staff writer

Acton residents are one step closer to having a new arena and community centre.

At the committee meeting Monday night committee passed a recommendation that gave town staff the go-ahead to present an option to purchase an eight-acre parcel of land in Acton on the north side of Hwy. 7 between the high school and the highway (on the proposed Rinarin lands).

The recommendation has to receive council approval before it is official however, likely at next week's meeting.

Tom Shepard, director of the town's Recreation and Parks department, said the option to purchase sends a message to the owner of the land that the town is serious in its intention to buy the land.

The option was initiated by the town.

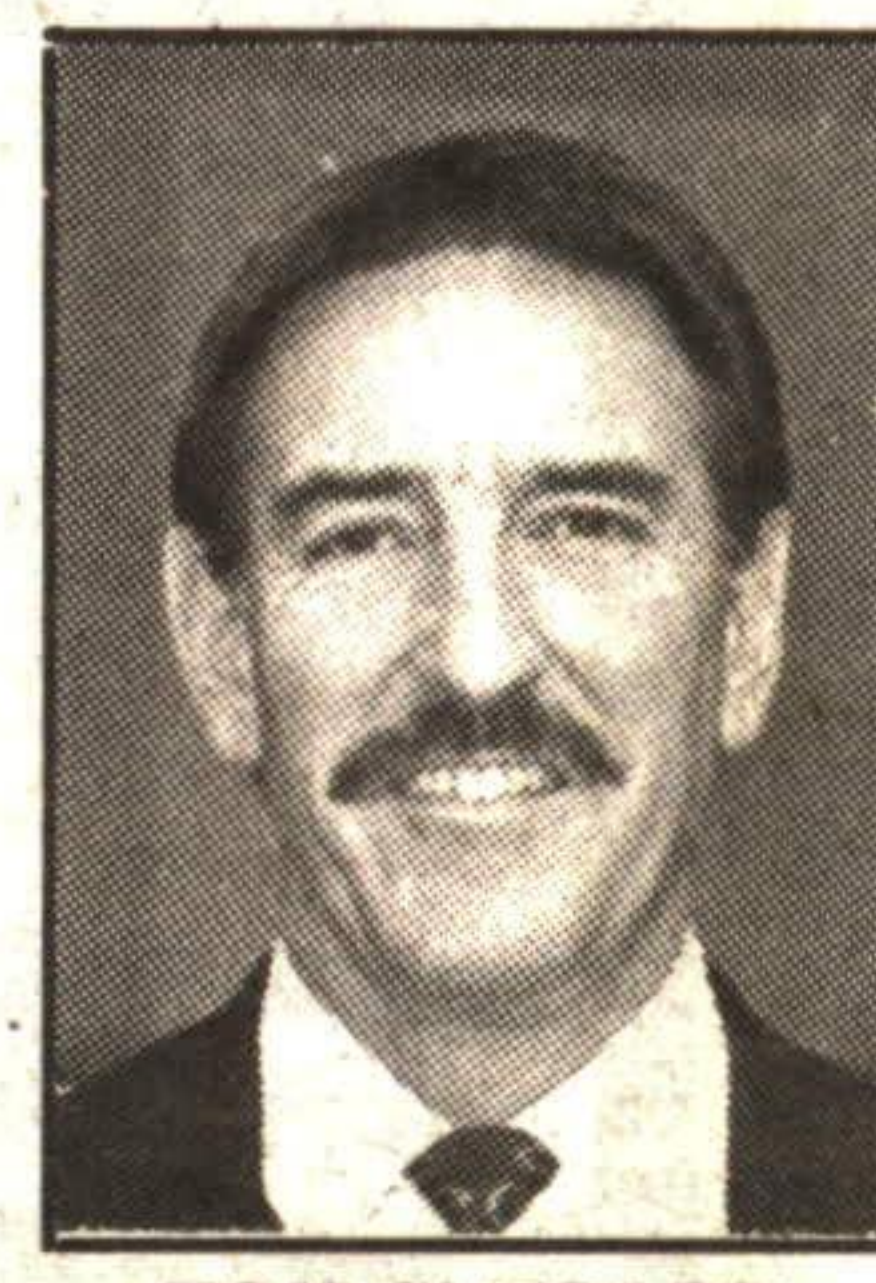
Shepard said the purchase option, if it is accepted, will give the town flexibility to not go ahead with the offer if full development doesn't take place in Acton, or to perhaps build on a different site. The Acton development issue is currently before the Ontario Municipal Board and studies are being done to determine whether fish in Black Creek will be harmed by the water requirements of increased population.

Shepard added the option to purchase doesn't yet put the town in the position to begin applying for grants for the arena and community centre, as a site has to be secured before those applications can be made. Town staff has been working on the project for some time now however.

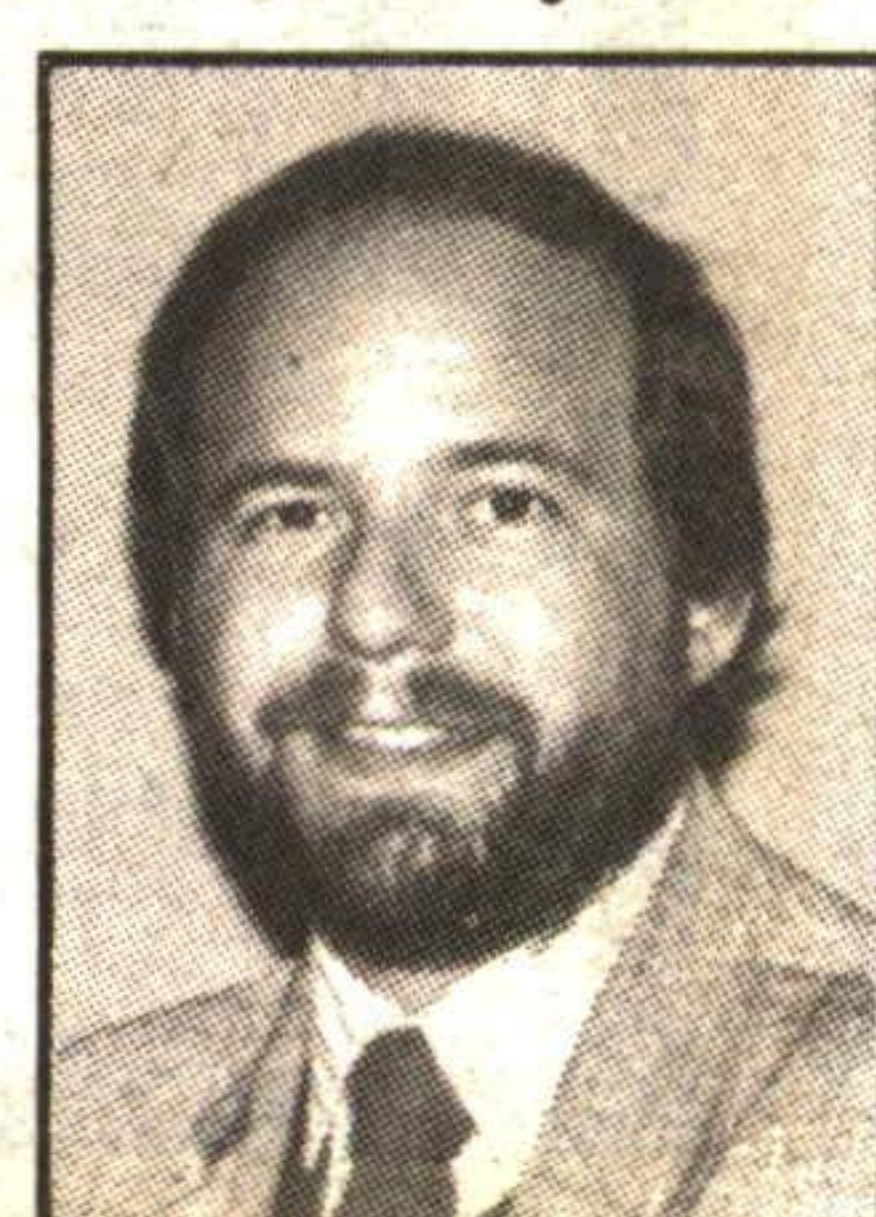
Acton councillor Rick Bonnette was very pleased the recommendation was passed.

"This is the first step," said Bonnette. He added it has been a very long time coming.

The amount of money to be offered to purchase the land was not disclosed publicly at the meeting, but \$200,000 was earmarked in the 1994 budget.



TOM SHEPARD



RICK BONNETTE

## Guns turned in

The following are the totals of the firearms and weapons turned in to police in the Region of Halton during the first three weeks of the gun amnesty program:

Handguns, 21; rifles, 35; shotguns, 19; prohibited weapons, 6; machetes/knives etc, 14; near firearms (pellet guns), 8; rounds of ammunition, 6,051.

The program has been very successful to date and will continue to September.

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