



20 YEARS AGO

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Cut ribbon for new arena Sunday

Sparkling new facility envy of visitors

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Since the planning took a decade, it's only fitting that the grand opening party for the new Acton Arena and Community Centre will last all week.

The official opening of the \$5.1 million facility will occur at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Sunday. That ceremony will signal the start of a week jammed pack with events - everything from dazzling figure skating displays, fast-paced hockey games featuring young and not so young players and a full calendar of events in the Acton Seniors Recreation Centre.

For anyone who hasn't had a chance to visit the new facility there will be self-guided tours, free public skating, free refreshments on Sunday.

Acton Seniors now all settled in to their 1,800 square foot centre, have events planned for each day next week and invite the public to come and check out what's going on.

Scheduled events include craft demonstrations, line dancing and skating, fund and fitness classes, lots of euchre and cribbage, shuffleboard and bingo.

A shuttle bus, courtesy of Tyler Transport, will make regular runs to the Arena and Community Centre from the parking lots at Tyler transport, Queens Tire and the Christian Reformed Church from 11:30 until 4:30 on Sunday for the grand opening.

Thursday night's Celebration On Ice may prove to be the highlight of the week. Master of Ceremonies Ron McKnight will host a two and a half hour program featuring two 20-minute exhibition hockey games with players from House League Tyke teams and Halton Hills Novice Girls teams.

The Acton Figure Skating Club and the Halton Hills Skating Academy will showcase their talents with performances and the night will wrap up with a hockey game that will pit the Acton Proud All Stars Team against the Acton Juvenile Rep team - game time 9:35 p.m.

The All stars team features many well-known Acton residents, including Councillor Rick "Bunny" Bonnette, Jon Hurst, Scott Malcolm, Janice Vickery, George Artem, to name just a few.

The week's celebration will wrap up with a Pee wee hockey tournament with games scheduled from Friday night until Sunday night.

During Saturday's games the Acton Arena Fund Development Committee will give people a chance to test their hockey skills with the Hockey Showdown. Operating on the leisure pad the Hockey Showdown - identical to the one in the Hockey hall of Fame - tests a variety of relayed hockey skills for participants, including reaction time and skating speed.

Each hour's winners will receive prizes donated by the olde Hide House Bruce Hood Travel and Tim Hortons. All proceeds will go to the arena.



UNITED FELLOWSHIP: The congregations of almost all of Acton's churches gathered at the Acton Legion on Sunday for the 1998 Service of Christian Unity. Taking part in the service were, l-r, the Reverend Jamie Shepherd of Evangel Pentecostal Tabernacle, the Rev. Shawn Brix of Bethel Christian Reformed Church, St. Joseph's Catholic Church lay reader Helen Fowler, the Very Reverend Lois Wilson (former moderator of the United Church of Canada), the Rev. Mark Tiller of St. Alban's Anglican Church, the Rev. Bob Matton of Trinity United Church and the Rector Emrys Jenkins of Churchill Community Church. - Frances Niblock photo

Unity service draws hundreds

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

With a message of unity, worldwide witness and service to neighbour, former United Church of Canada moderator, the Very Reverend Lois Wilson, prayed with the congregations of all but two of Acton's churches at the Service of Christian Unity on Sunday at the Acton

Legion.

A crowd of over 700 people attended the annual service to celebrate the Acton church's unity in diversity.

Wilson, who stressed that their differences should not prevent them from hearing others, was aware that the congregations of two churches, Acton Baptist and the Salvation Army Acton Corp, decided not to take part in their service, but didn't comment directly on their absence.

Wilson's theology and that of the Reverend Bill Phipps, moderator of the United Church of Canada, who sparked a national debate recently with his views on the humanity of Jesus, his resurrection and the afterlife, prompted those two congregations to boycott this year's service although individual members of both churches did attend the service.

In explaining his congregation's absence, Pastor Tom Cullen of Acton Baptist Church said that Phipp's

comments and Wilson's theology triggered their decision.

"The congregation voted not to take part in the service, given the speaker's (Wilson's) theology," explained Cullen in an interview on Saturday.

"We decided to bow out this year, but we look forward to uniting with the rest of the churches next year for the ecumenical service," Cullen said.

"We've gone through all the discussions with all the churches and there's a good feeling, or an understanding anyway, about each other's position and an awareness that next year we'll have in-depth discussions and we'll go forward," Cullen said.

Captain Larry Jennings of the Salvation Army, Acton Corps, said the congregation made a unanimous decision not to take place in the annual unity service.

"We have some problems with her (Lois Wilson's) theology and a fear of what she

might say that will affect members of our congregation," Jennings explained in an interview on Saturday.

"She is a very feminist person and along with not only what she says, or what she - her thinking as a very liberal person. Also it's to do with what the moderator of the United Church has said as well about Christ."

Jennings said the decision not to take part in the service was a one time thing because they didn't want to "compromise" what they believe about the deity of Christ and the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, coequal in power and glory.

Wilson recounted that as a schoolgirl she used to throw icy snowballs at Catholic students across from her school because they were the "enemy."

"That seems a long time ago now, thank God. The Holy Spirit has dragged us kicking and screaming into a new relationship with our

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Hello again!
 People in town said they wanted it back, so here's your first issue of The New Tanner. It will appear Thursday every week and be delivered to every home in Acton and rural areas. It will also be available in areas such as Rockwood and area.
 We're glad to be back with a new publisher and new quarters at 59 Willow Street North. Our telephone number is 853-0051 and the fax number is (519) 853-0052.
 This is a first issue and there were some technical difficulties experienced which kept the number of pages down. They are already solved but in order to be on time we chose to go ahead with 12 pages. We'll do better next week.
 - Publisher and Staff

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