

Many memories left in Memorial Arena

Continued from pg. 1

"It's sad to see it closing down," said Lisa Densmore. "For years I came to watch my husband (Al) and boys play hockey. Al won the Silver Stick here when he played. There's lots of good memories in this place. I'll miss it."

Her sister Carol Hall had similar thoughts. "I recall sitting for what seemed like hours in the front lobby, waiting for George (her late husband) to come out of the dressing room, after playing industrial hockey," laughed Hall. "I'm pretty sure he and the other guys were up to no good."

"In the '60s, this was the place to go in town, the place to hang out, both summer and winter," said Laurie MacKenzie. "In the summer I went roller skating with my future hubby Jim, and in the winter we attended hockey games and watched figure skating."

"Oh, and the best was bantam hockey week, when we came to the arena to check out the 'hunks' from the out-of-town teams!" said MacKenzie.

"It was the place to come hoping that you'd meet a boy and he'd hold your hand while skating," laughed Hall.

Fond memories at Memorial aren't exclusive to the middle age set. The younger kids have good memories of Memorial Arena as well.

Michael Russiani, 12, doesn't like to see the old arena come down.

"I'm kind of sad," said Russiani, "This place has a lot of great memories, not only for me, but for my whole family. We're really going to miss it."

Even Adam O'Meara, 13, a relative newcomer to Georgetown feels a bit sad.

"When we moved here, we heard this is one of the oldest arenas in Canada," said O'Meara. "And now it's going to be destroyed. I'm surprised it wasn't saved, as a part of the town's history."

Myles McVeigh, 12, is pretty set in his opinion.

"I'm really mad that it's closing," said McVeigh. "I wish they could have kept it (the arena) going."

Memorial Arena was originally built as an outdoor ice rink in 1922, but was later enclosed. The building has outlived its normal life expectancy by nearly 40 years.

In December, Town Council deemed the arena land surplus and has hired a consultant to create development options for the property and two others on the surplus list.

A brainstorming session with the public on options was held and the consultants are to report back to council.

Requests for proposal for demolition of Memorial Arena are expected to go out sometime this spring or summer.



The Bradley sisters— Lisa Densmore Laurie MacKenzie and Carol Hall— enjoyed a trip down memory lane as they gathered for a skate at Memorial Arena Friday afternoon. The 91-year-old arena will be torn down later this year but this past weekend marked its final time to be used as an ice facility.

Photo by Ted Brown



Residents were allowed to enjoy a free skate at Memorial Arena for the final time this past weekend. Photo by Ted Brown



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