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NEWS

Outdoor rinks a washout in Halton Hills

Despite long stretches of frigid weather in the area this winter, Mother Nature hasn't been co-operating with town staff in efforts to get three outdoor rinks in Georgetown and Acton up and running.

Warm spells in consecutive weeks have thwarted a couple of attempts by public works department employees to build a base of ice and erect boards at Acton's Prospect Park and 3 Musketeers Park, as well as on one of the baseball diamonds at Fairgrounds Park in Georgetown.

"We're fighting a losing battle so far this year," said Town of Halton Hills superintendent of public works Dick Spear.

"It's a difficult thing to keep going. I love nothing more than seeing a bunch of kids out on an outdoor rink, (but) our staff is involved with winter control when the bad stuff is hap-



Eamonn Maher photo

Boards that would be used to build an ice rink at Georgetown Fairgrounds sit idle as the fluctuating temperatures during the month of January have prevented Town of Halton Hills Public Works staff from getting the work started. The case is the same for two municipally run outdoor rinks in Acton.

pening - they're plowing, salting and sanding. When they get the chance they get back to the rinks, but at some point you have to draw a line with the changes in weather."

The town hasn't ruled out trying to build the rinks again this winter if the weather is agreeable,

although Spear pointed out that prime time for ice making is running out and that budgetary responsibilities must also be taken into consideration.

"When you get the cold-to mild, cold-to-mild weather like we've had, it just causes pot holes like crazy," he added.

legal matters | LITIGATION

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ASK THE PROFESSIONAL

Q

I have separated from my spouse. How do I know if I am entitled to spousal support?

A

Both married and "common law" spouses can make a claim for spousal support. Common law spouses must have either cohabitated continuously for a period of 3 years or more, or have cohabitated in a relationship of some permanence and have natural or adoptive children together. Gender is not an issue; both men and women may claim spousal support. In fact, I am seeing more husbands claiming spousal support than ever before. The courts will consider the means, needs and other circumstances of each spouse, including assets and liabilities, age and health, the duration of the relationship, whether there are children of the relationship, and the functions performed by each spouse during the relationship, to determine whether and how much spousal support. Essentially, spousal support will try and redress the economic consequences of the relationship, relieve the economic hardship arising from the breakdown of the relationship, and promote economic self-sufficiency. The courts will invariably consider what the Spousal Support Advisory Guidelines (or "SSAG's") provide in terms of the amount of, and duration for which spousal support is payable. Generally, conduct, e.g. adultery, is not relevant as we generally have a no-fault family law system. If there is a written agreement between the spouses, e.g. a marriage contract or cohabitation agreement, then it may deal with spousal support and should be referred to. We are a full service firm that does a lot of family law. We are happy to meet you for a free consultation about your matter at one of our three offices, including 8 Guelph Street, Georgetown, in the Lounsbury Life & Group Insurance Benefits building. Have a great weekend.

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