

"Unavoidable delays" stall arena

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ing the town if the Acton quarry dump proposal should go to a full-blown environmental hearing. Word on the possibility of a hearing is expected early this fall. If a hearing is necessary, it's possible that some large capital projects, such as the arena, will be further delayed.

One man stated: "I don't think we're getting any closer to getting an arena."

But Shepard replied that town staff has found it "just as aggravating" when faced with the unavoidable delays which come from having to meet requirements from other agencies.

The recreation director said town staff "did everything they could to remain objective on this (the report)." "We hear your frustrations, but we're under a lot of regulations from other agencies," he added.

Shepard said "costs and time delays cannot be hidden" in his report to council, which will decide where the arena will be built. He pledged that comments from the Arena Users Group and area residents will be considered before he drafts his final report to council.

Gord Chapman, a spokesman for the Group, told the crowd that a response from the organization will be prepared within the next few

weeks and passed along to Shepard.

Because of servicing costs and other requirements, the Prospect Park site will be about \$1 million cheaper than the other locations under consideration, the report to council indicated. The same outline of proposed costs, over and above the \$4.1 million capital costs allocated for construction of the arena, was distributed to the close to 50 people attending last week's information meeting.

The meeting was held to gain input from members of the Acton Arena Users Group and the general public before a final report on site selection is presented to council, September 21.

Watch for guards

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motorists," he added. Locally, the crossing guard program is administered by the Town of Halton Hills.

"The program has proven its necessity over the years," said town administrator Dan Costea. "It's as needed now as it ever has been."

Costea requests that drivers adhere to the adult crossing guards and watch for the kids.

"The safety of the children is our number one priority without any doubt or any question," stressed Costea.

Costea doesn't believe the problem of traffic not stopping for the guards has increased in the last five years. He thinks that most people are aware of the traffic rules and regulations but need to pay more attention.

"Some drivers get impatient and try to ignore the crossing guards to make a little time," Costea said. The problem seems worse on a busy corner.

Sgt. Martin said Halton Regional Police are "committed to supporting our crossing guards by vigorously investigating and prosecuting incidents" where crossing guards are ignored.

Drivers who do ignore crossing guards face a \$78.75 fine and two demerit points on their license. Those drivers who deliberately endanger the lives guard or children face Criminal Code of Canada charges that can lead to imprisonment.

"It only takes a few seconds for the children to cross the road under the guard's supervision," Sgt. Martin said. "Let them cross safely."

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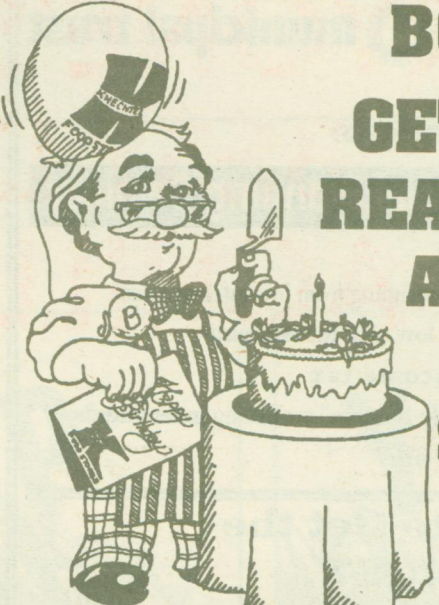
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