

Acton arena report expected within weeks

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

Town Council should have enough information within weeks to choose a location for the proposed \$4.1 million Acton arena.

Town administrator, Dan Costea, told General Committee members Monday night that negotiations are on-going with the developer of the Acton east site.

"We have talked about alternatives to locating the arena in the Acton east area. We're hoping to get some information back from them by Wednesday (today). That will enable us to report back to council in the next couple of weeks."

Recent provincial legislation protecting wetlands means that not all of the Acton east site is suitable for development and Costea said the developer is willing to resite the proposed facility on his land.

The Acton east site is one of three proposed locations for the new facility to replace the aging building at Prospect Park. The other sites include one near the existing area and an industrial site on Wallace Street north of McDonald Boulevard.

Halton Hills director of Parks and Recreation, Tom Shepard said they need more information from the province before a final decision can be made.

"We need them to provide us with better mapping of the wetland areas. We have tried to point out the significance of their legisla-

tion to development of not just the area but all development in Acton. If they can be more specific with their mapping it would be real helpful to us because it's a real gray area."

Shepard says they have been given two sets of maps which show different boundaries for wetland areas and until they get a definitive map, nothing further can be done on the arena selection process. The development potential of both the proposed Acton east site, and the Acton north site is affected by the wetland legislation but Shepard says until he sees a finalized map, he won't know by how much.

"We need to know what areas we have to be concerned with because even if we can't build something, if it's encroaching a given perimeter of the wetlands, it requires anything from a partial to a full environmental impact study which could be extremely expensive and delaying."

Shepard says any further delays could jeopardize the proposed October 1994 opening for the new Acton arena.

No stop on McDonald Boulevard

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

McDonald Boulevard homeowners will not get the stop sign they claim is necessary to make their street safe. Instead Town Council is expected to approve some safety measures that will reduce speeding and accidents.

Armed with Town and police reports showing that 85 per cent of motorists using McDonald between Wallace Street and Churchill Road speed, residents petitioned the Town to put in a stop sign on McDonald Boulevard at Division Street.

Town engineer Bob Austin

reported that the traffic and accident counts on McDonald do not warrant a stop sign and cautioned that in some cases stop signs in fact cause motorists to go even faster to make up time lost for stopping. Austin told general committee members Monday night that worse than the speeding, motorists are swerving out of their lanes at the curves on McDonald at Division and Acton Boulevard.

To combat that problem Town staff will paint yellow dividing lines on McDonald at the curves. Next Monday Council is also expected to ban parking on the north

side of McDonald near Division and Acton Boulevard. In addition Halton police will be asked to continue operating periodic radar traps.

Acton Councillor Norm Elliott questioned the legitimacy of the police reports that showed only four motorists had been ticketed for speeding, noting that most people slow down when they see a marked police cruiser.

Staff report the no parking signs will be up within weeks and the roadway divider lines will be painted before the end of November.

Consultant hired for \$80,000 Town master parks plan

The blueprint for recreational programs in Acton and Georgetown will be designed by a consulting firm hired by Town Council.

The firm, Institute of Environmental Research Inc., beat out 5 other applicants to evaluate what both towns will need in long-term recreational land cultural services.

The firm will be paid \$80,000, half paid by the province to assess current and future needs.

"It's nice to have a direction to work toward with goals and objectives," said Parks and Recreation boss Tom Shepard. "This study will point them out. Certainly it will detail environmental

issues that we haven't had to deal with in the past along with shortage of land and aging facilities."

As part of the year-long study Council, citizens, recreation users and other levels of government will be asked what they think the Town recreational and cultural needs are for the future.

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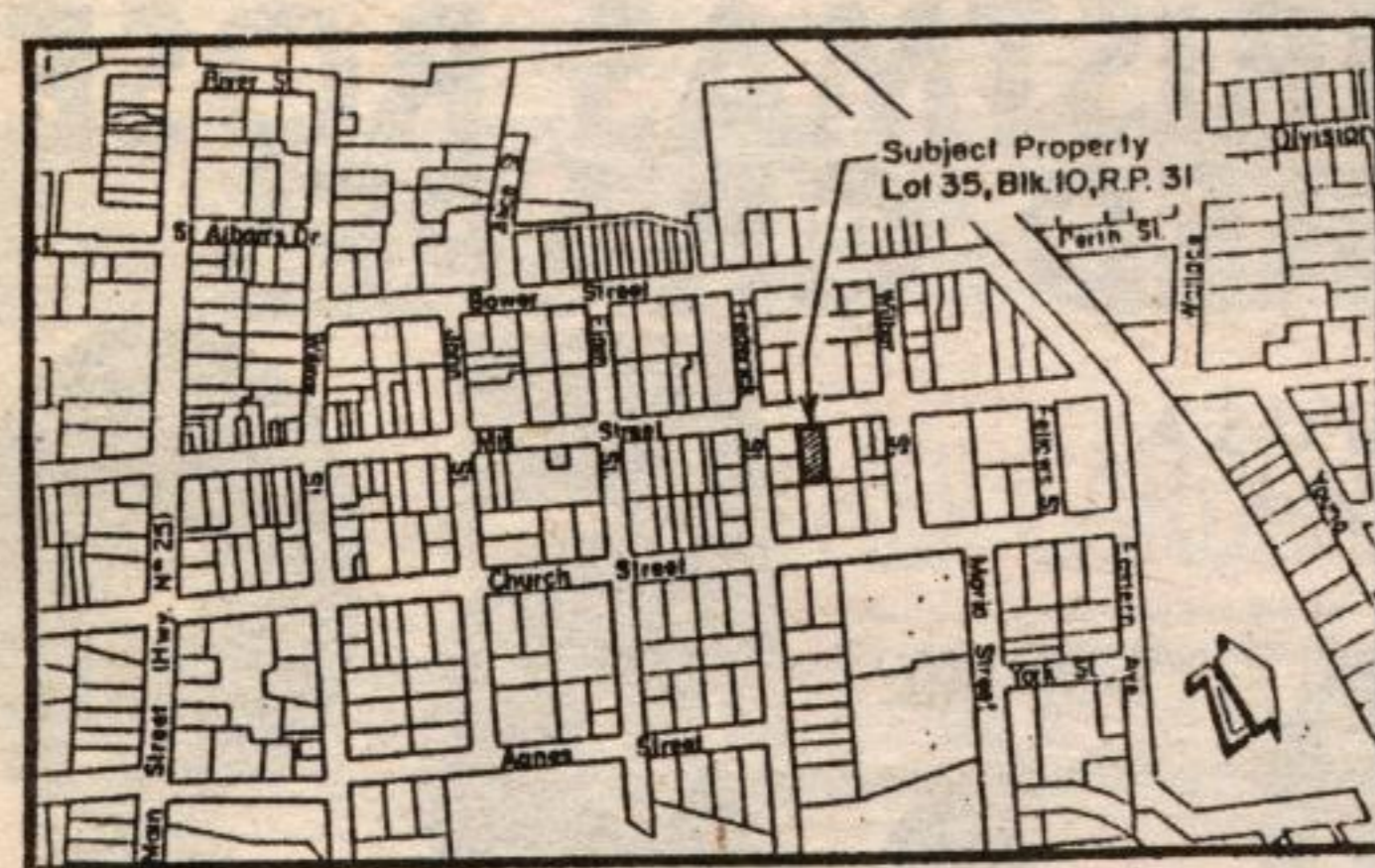
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING Ward 1, Mill Street East

Council for the town of Halton Hills will conduct a Public Meeting to examine and discuss proposed amendments to the Halton Hills Official Plan and Zoning By-law 1358 to permit the conversion of an existing residence to a retail store to be operated by the Salvation Army.

Subject property is at 110 Mill Street East in Acton. The property is situated on the south side of Mill Street East between Frederick and Wilbur Streets, with the property being described as Lot 35, Block 10, Registered Plan 31, Town of Halton Hills (Acton).

Further information is available in the Planning Department

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Council Chamber, Halton Hills Civic Centre
1 Halton Hills Drive, Georgetown

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