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"ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED"

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1992



**BOWLING CHAMPS:** The Acton Peewee Boys placed third last week at the Orangeville Invitational Bowling Tournament. Front row are Holly Petkoff, who had high singles for the girls, and Kyle Harding. Back row, left to right, are Doug Williams (coach), Adam Cripps, Jason Charland and Brian Carlson. Andrew McCawley was absent when the photo was taken. (Mike Albano photo)

## Plans proceed for Acton arena

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

Seemingly dormant plans for the proposed \$4.1 million Acton arena were jump-started by Halton Hills General Committee Monday night.

An appeal by Acton arena user group chairman Gord Chapman prompted Councillors to direct staff to begin finding out what the arena users want and also led to the first public comment that the Park site is no longer in the running.

Town staff have yet to make a site recommendation to Council. The official short-list of possible locations included Acton east, land north of Highway 7 and east of Churchill Road, an industrial site on Wallace Street north of McDonald Boulevard, and until Monday night, the existing Prospect Park arena site.

"Notwithstanding the difficulty in the site selection process, we could be carrying on with some of the other legwork so we can be prepared when the arena site is chosen," Chapman told the committee.

"This is legwork that would be useful regardless of what ultimately happens this year. I would like to see an architect selected and preliminary design work started. The reason why I think it can be done is because from our point of view Prospect Park is not a realistic option and it's the only site that would have design constraints. We see no reason why we can't be proceeding with the general designs by getting

input from the user groups and resolving what issues we can," Chapman explained.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette said although no site had been chosen that "There is no political will on Council to rebuild in Prospect Park. I don't think I'm saying anything that people don't already know."

Acton Councillor Norm Elliott suggested that an architect should not be hired until a site is selected. "People have been expecting that there would be some decision on a site by now and discussions are ongoing on a weekly basis but don't forget that the arena project has not yet been approved as a capital item in the 1992-93 budget," Elliott said.

"I see no reason though that the public consultation process can't begin and the preliminary design discussion can occur. Is there any problem with a preliminary fact-finding, brain-storming meeting?"

Town administrator Dan Costea said it would not be feasible to begin actual design work but that in the new year staff will set up meetings with the user groups.

Following the meeting Chapman said he was pleased that the user groups would have input in the arena design.

"I think it would be a useful exercise to see what the recreation department has in mind and for us to look at other arenas and investigate what we need."

## MVA on hold for one year

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

Halton politicians are expected to discuss today (Wednesday) the makeup and role of a new citizen's committee that will study the controversial issue of implementing region-wide market value assessment (MVA).

Halton Council reached a last minute compromise on the timing of a controversial tax reform plan following a mind-numbing marathon public meeting last Wednesday night in Oakville.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette, who spearheaded the move to reconsider the proposed MVA property tax plan, called the compromise a "people's victory" but said in an interview Sunday that the whole debate left a bad taste in his mouth.

"I'm very disappointed that no councillor from Milton or



MAC SPROWL

Burlington would change their vote in the face of 62 delegations that came to Council. I think that showed a lot of arrogance on their part when their own Chambers of Commerce and merchants and citizens came to Council and pleaded for them to reconsider the whole thing," Bonnette said.

After a lot of procedural

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## United Way short of goal

"Not optimistic, but hopeful."

That was Bob Malcolmson's answer when asked if the United Way of Halton Hills' annual fund raising drive will be a success.

At a press conference on Monday Malcolmson announced the campaign is short \$20,000.

"Our target of \$200,000 was a 2.5 per cent increase over the \$195,000 we raised last year. The industrial campaign is on target but the commercial campaign is short by about \$10,000," Malcolmson said.

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