

## Concern over Acton sports fields

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

Acton sports groups voiced concerns about the number and condition of sports fields at a public meeting last Tuesday night at Acton High School.

Other Acton and area groups also called for lower rental fees and more open space parkland at the meeting, hosted by IER Planning, Research and Management Services, a consultant group hired by the Town.

IER is drafting a blueprint for recreation and leisure services and is doing an intensive public consultation process to ask people what they want in the way of long-term services and facilities for the Arts, for culture and recreation.

The meeting, and an earlier session with the individual sports and leisure groups, were part of the Active Living project that will provide the vision and direction for the recreation and parks department over the next 20 years.

Consultant Jill Whitelaw said there was a common theme from the Acton sports groups.

"The Acton groups are concerned that there aren't enough fields and facilities for the current population, never mind any additional growth. There are real concerns about maintenance at some

of the fields, especially the facilities at the schools. We've given each of the groups a questionnaire to get specific details of their concerns, wants and needs."

Whitelaw said people have also asked for more bicycle paths, better scheduling for swim classes and the need for more communication between the Town and various culture and sports groups.

Consultant Jim Morgenstern said Acton residents have a golden opportunity to be part of the planning.

"We're trying to use what are clearly scarce resources in the best way we can. There are competing interests in Acton and this plan will try to balance them," Morgenstern explained last Tuesday.

"There are groups in Acton that are just interested in seeing more ball diamonds because that is what they do. There are groups strongly focused around art and cultural activities and we will have people who are just interested in seeing the passive parkland developed further, maybe with trail systems.

"Somehow we have to put all those things together and strike a balance that meets the broadest range of interests in the community in a way we can afford to do it."

The public consultation program also includes a random community survey, focus group session, key informant interviews and meeting with voluntary organizations in Acton.

## Field maintenance main concern for Soccer club

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The poor condition of Acton's playing fields tops the list of concerns of the Acton Soccer Club.

That club, and all other local sports and leisure groups, have been invited to help work on the draft for a master recreation and parks plan.

A consultant, hired by Town Council is currently interviewing officials with local clubs to hear what they have to say.

Following a public meeting Paul Chumley, newly-elected president of the club, outlined their concerns.

"Our immediate concern is the work that has to be done on field maintenance. We have a lot of volunteers who help with the playing fields, but we need more help from the Town to bring the fields up to a

more standard level, because they are sub-standard. We also need one pitch with lighting," Chumley said.

Chumley welcomes the chance to be a part of future recreation and leisure planning, and hopes the process brings the Town and the Board of Education together to deal with some of the problems.

"The bulk of our games are played on school property and the fields are in bad condition during the school term. The board must take responsibility for some of the field maintenance. I think it's time the Town and the Board got their act together to get rid of things like potholes on the fields that are causing injuries for our young players," Chumley said.

## Acton IGA chosen as Business of the Year

Acton IGA has been selected as the Chamber of Commerce 1992 Business of the Year. The announcement was made by Chamber president Bob Malcolmson on Tuesday. This long-established Main Street business will be honoured at an Award Dinner on Wednesday, Feb. 24.

Owner Dave Manes started in the business as a carry-out and delivery boy for Acton grocer Jim Ledger in February 1955. He later moved into the produce department and, after training by Jim Higgins, became store manager at just 19 years of age. He bought the store in March 1963.

Over the next two decades the store was remodeled five times and a large extension was added in 1985. The existing 13,000 square foot store was unveiled in February 1988.

In 1983 Dave's eldest son Michael joined the team after receiving an honours degree in Business. In 1991 he became a partner.

The Acton IGA team also includes Dave's son-in-law Kelly McArthur as manager of the Acton store. Marnie, Dave's wife helps in the office.

The store has several long-time employees. Charlie Auger has worked there for 27 years and Jane Taillefer for 22 years. Acton IGA employs about 70 local residents on a full or part-time basis.

The family business has expanded with the recent purchase of Milton IGA, which Mike is managing while his uncle John takes care of produce.

Acton IGA has always been especially generous in its support of the community. This year alone the store purchased a 30-inch television and VCR for Robert Little School and library tables and chairs and computers for M.Z. Bennett School.

In the process of raising thousands of dollars for the new seniors' building in Acton, the store also supplies bread and milk at no cost for the new Dine and Dash program.

The store provides the candy for the Acton Santa Claus parade. This year, Acton IGA paid for the parade to be shown on Cable 4 and raised funds for the Acton Food Bank and Acton Social Services and Information Centre through sponsorship of Santa Claus pictures.

Some of the other valuable civic contributions and sponsorships include the Acton Fall Fair, baby contests, refreshments for participants of the Terry Fox Run, the Wheels for Matthew fund-raiser, Welcome Wagon, an annual donation of \$750 to the Acton Cancer Society Golf Tournament, other charity golf tournaments, youth and adult sports leagues, the Food Bank and other charities.

as we grow ...

All winter clothing  
40% OFF

Consignment Clothing  
50% OFF

161 Main St. 876-3311  
Milton

**GOOD HEALTH?  
MORE CONFIDENCE?  
HIGHER SELF-ESTEEM?  
CLOTHES THAT FIT?**

If these goals are important to you call us today and get started. The Beverly Hills Weight Loss program is medically screened for safe easy weight loss. Eat regular foods on our nutritionally balanced diets.

**SPECIAL  
8 Weeks Weight Loss  
only \$88<sup>00</sup>**

New members, full program. Excludes products & enrollment fee.

**BEVERLY HILLS™**

*Weight Loss Clinics*

208 St. Andrew St. W. 23 Wellington St. E.  
**FERGUS 787-2390 GUELPH 837-1177**



## Acton Minor Ball wants more diamonds

A lack of adequate playing fields, and the poor condition of the existing ones, are the major concerns of the Acton Minor Ball Association, which represents 240 softball and hardball players in Acton and the surrounding area.

Association president Jennifer Wells detailed their concerns last Tuesday night, at a public meeting dealing with the Town's master parks plan.

"What I would like to see is a hardball diamond put in. After age 15, Acton kids can't play in Town because we don't have the required raised pitcher's mound," Wells explained.

"I think if we built a hardball diamond we would get a lot of the Acton kids who now leave town to play, coming back."

Minor ballplayers use five diamonds in town, three of them in Prospect Park, one at Robert Little School and one at Elizabeth Park.

"We are not the only ones that

use these facilities. There are also men's and ladies' leagues as well. We can only use Elizabeth Park for T-ball because it isn't big enough. The Robert Little field is small too, so we can only play the younger kids there."

Unlike the local soccer clubs, Wells had no examples of player injuries because of poor field conditions, but said some diamonds do have potholes and washed-out mounds.

Wells also said the ball association did not have the same concerns about maintenance on facilities, owned by the Halton Board of Education.

"We find that the one school property we use, Robert Little, is usually in better shape than the other Town parks. Little is mowed more often and the diamond is in better shape."

Wells said she welcomed the chance to have a say in the parks and recreation plan of the future.

**TUCKER JOHNSON LTD.**

659 Wellington St. W., Guelph  
(Half km. west of Hanlon on Hwy. 24)

**"FACTORY AUTHORIZED  
VOLKSWAGEN SALES & LEASING"**

**824-9150**

An "I Care" Service Award Winner