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"ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED"

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 1993



TERRIFIC TEACHER: After 27 years of teaching in Acton — between Robert Little and McKenzie-Smith schools — Ena Gibson, front centre, is retiring and was treated to a farewell party at McKenzie-Smith last Wednesday. Grade 8 students (left to right) Kim Lusty, Marie LeBlanc and Ryan Bell joined Ena's husband Jim in extending their best wishes. Gibson, who worked part-time as a guidance counsellor, primarily taught language and social science over the years. She's looking forward to dividing her retirement hours between Jim, their video business and doing crafts. (Doug Harrison photo)

PC Leadership campaign 'rewarding' for Turner

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

With four days to go until Tory delegates pick a new leader — and Canada's 19th prime minister — leadership candidate Garth Turner says he is "surprised and somewhat disturbed" with the lack of attention to ideas.

The Halton-Peel MP, who announced at the very beginning that his chances of winning were "remote," said the media handled the campaign as a popularity contest.

"The national media focused on personalities first, and secondly, on who is going to win," Turner said in an car phone interview on Monday.

"In the whole process there hasn't been very much discussion about policy. I think that the people in Acton who are not party members probably find that surprising and disturbing as well," Turner said.

Turner said he has paid no attention to any of the polls which have been conducted since the campaign began.

"Three months ago the polls said Kim Campbell was a shoe-in. Now the media has Jean Charest as the front-runner. The only numbers that matter are those from the ballots on Sunday afternoon."

Turner said the campaign has

been rewarding and a learning experience.

"Travelling across Canada was great. I had the opportunity to meet many Canadians and hear what they had to say.

"To go to those five debates alone was worthwhile because we had large audiences in five major cities and that was a chance to discuss the issues. So, there have been lots of positives," Turner said.

Turner said the delegates who support him will be free to vote their own mind at the convention and that he will not tell anyone how to vote after he is out of the running.

It's official: New arena site chosen

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

After five long years of debate and delay, a site for Acton's new arena has finally been selected.

The proposed \$4.1 million dollar facility will be located on a six-acre parcel of land north of Highway 7 and east of Churchill Road on land currently owned by Rinarin Developments.

Subject to Council approval on Monday night, Town staff have been given the green light to begin negotiations to buy the site from Rinarin.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette says it is about time.

"This is no doubt a gigantic step to actually get a site selected."

Noting that there is a freeze on capital spending because of cutbacks in Provincial grants, Bonnette said Council will have to decide what priority to give a new arena.

"Maybe this will be the only capital project that goes ahead. We are having to do a lot of restructuring because of Provincial spending cuts but the arena is one of my top priorities," Bonnette said.

In a report to Councillors, Tom Shepard, director of Recreation and Parks, said the site has many advantages, including visibility from Highway 7, potential access from the highway and a proposed future subdivision road, its prox-

imity to existing schools and to a proposed community park.

The short list of sites included the Rinarin property, land South of Highway 7 and east of Churchill Road and an industrial site on Wallace Street.

Outside the council chambers Shepard said the money to buy the site will not come from tax dollars, but from existing reserve funds, possibly including development charges and lot levies.

Shepard said it remains to be seen if there will be any Provincial money to actually build the 37,500-foot facility.

"With the reduction in transfer payments and elimination of grants, it's unclear if there will be any Provincial moneys to help build the facility," Shepard said.

"Before I could apply for any grants we had to have a site. Now that we have one I can start filling out applications for funding."

Although the arena site will only encompass six acres, Shepard said he will also be talking to Rinarin about an additional 17 acres it owns north of the arena site.

Conceptual plans for that area include major softball and soccer fields, a community park and open space.

Shepard would not estimate how much the site could cost or outline a timetable for the purchase.

Thwaites wins case

A former Acton resident, who is HIV-positive, has won a landmark ruling from the Federal Human Rights Commission.

Simon Thwaites, a nine-year veteran of the Navy, was awarded compensation worth \$152,000. The tribunal ruled that the Navy had applied a blanket policy in

dismissing Thwaites and had failed to assess him properly on an individual basis.

Thwaites, 30, who lived in Acton in the late 1970s and attended Acton High, was dismissed in 1989 after he told his superiors that he was HIV-positive.

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