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"ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED"

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1994

## Politicians still prefer Acton East arena

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

Acton councillors Norm Elliott, Rick Bonnette and Gerald Rennie are unanimous in their preference to move the Acton arena away from the downtown area.

"We're not 100 per cent ruling out Acton North, but our choice is Acton East," says Bonnette, speaking on behalf of Elliott and Rennie. "I'm confident we'll see development in Acton and it's going to be in Acton East."

All three councillors are thinking 15 to 20 years in the future on this project and believe the east end of Acton (north of Hwy. 7 and east of Churchill Road) is the right location for the new facility, which will cost \$4.1 million and span 37,500 square feet.

"The Acton East site is the most practical for the future. It's outside the residential area, it's a high profile area and easily accessible," says Elliott.

"There are many, many problems in the (Acton North) area," adds Elliott, citing the poor road conditions of Wallace Street and its lack of visibility from a main street or highway. "Acton North is not the answer to our problem. Do we want our new arena to be on a back road — out of sight and out of mind?"

He adds the Acton North site, which covers about seven to eight acres, would become quite congested with the planned arena-community centre, as it will be larger and require more parking space than the existing building in Prospect Park.

And with the Acton North area due for re-zoning, current resi-

dents of McDonald Boulevard and Wallace Street may not be thrilled with the increased traffic that would accompany an arena complex.

"Everyone going to the arena would travel down Wallace Street," states Elliott, who reinforces the fact there may not be sufficient land on the Acton North site.

Elliott says the new arena would include "a community room that seniors may use, and there is the possibility of building an indoor running track."

Councillor Bonnette says an arena in Acton East will be built before the proposed housing development, so potential buyers in the area will know what they're getting. "I think we've made the right decision."

The Town has set aside \$200,000 in its 1994 budget to purchase land for an arena. Elliott points out the Acton councillors are trying to direct Town staff to complete a deal with the land owners, Rinarin Developments. Hopefully, it can be done in a month or so, he says.

According to Elliott, the arena complex does not qualify for the infrastructure grant offered by the federal and provincial governments. Potential infrastructure projects are to be 85 per cent complete by March of 1996. Elliott believes that's not likely to happen in Acton East.

"If we get a satisfying result from the Ontario Municipal Board hearings in the summer, we have to be optimistic about getting things started in 1995. That's what I'm hoping for," Elliott comments.



### M-M-M GOOD!

St. Joseph's Separate School students spent Friday making nine different recipes from various cultural groups in Canada for their multi-cultural festival. Here, Grade 6 student David Albano, 11, uses chopsticks to eat Bruschetta Ham from Italy, Tempura (Japan), Perogi (Ukraine) and Greek Salad. (Doug Harrison photo)

## Acton man 'looked out for everyone'

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

William John Ripley "was an easy-going gentleman who looked out for everyone."

It's just one of the many ways Oland Tucker, superintendent at the apartment in which Mr. Ripley lived, will remember a good friend and one of his best tenants.

Mr. Ripley, 91, died Friday morning after his 1980 light blue Ford Grenada left the road and hit some rocks. He was travelling north on the Sixth Line in Milton at approximately 8 am.

Mr. Ripley, who was alone in the car, was pronounced dead at the scene. Acting Sergeant Doug MacIntosh, of the Halton Region Traffic Bureau, said Monday that Mr. Ripley wasn't wearing a seat belt and that he died of massive internal injuries.

No other vehicles were involved in the accident.

"He was an obliging gentleman who tried to do right for everybody," said Tucker on Friday, adding he often took Mr. Ripley to his doctor in Milton and ran errands for him to the drug store.

"He didn't disturb anybody."

Mr. Ripley lived on the second floor for more than seven years and often kept to himself, other than giving his paper to a neighbour and exchanging hellos to passing tenants, Tucker said.

"He was a good neighbour. I used to take him maple syrup, fish and cookies. Just neighbourly things. He was always friendly to me," says Archie Papillion, 90.

"With him, a spade was a spade," Tucker explained. "I looked forward to seeing him every day and I'm going to miss that."

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