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"ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED"

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1994

Skating Carnival wows big crowds

Oh, how time flies.

After four weeks of preparing for the 1994 Acton Figure Skating Club Carnival production *Hands of Time*, the three weekend shows were over as quickly as the last 30 years that were being celebrated.

But not many people missed the AFSC's 30th anniversary spectacular on Friday night and Saturday.

Winnie Vancek, president of the AFSC, said about 500 people filled the Community Centre on opening night and almost that many Saturday evening. However, Saturday's matinee performance attracted a standing-room-only audience of between 550 and 650.

"We were still turning people away at 2:30 pm and 2:45 pm," said Vancek of the 2 pm show that "always is the most popular because it attracts a number of grandparents from all over."

The weekend event will cost the AFSC between \$10,000 and \$15,000 and any extra monies (al-

though the Carnival hasn't made money for several years) will be split between the club and the professional staff for their hard work.

"It was really nostalgic for a lot of people, including the parents themselves who were skaters years ago," Vancek stated. "People said they couldn't believe the calibre of skaters for a town this size."

Hands of Time also marked the end for Vancek as president following a two-year term. Current vice-president Barb Metelka will assume the reigns in early April.

"It's time to let someone else take over. I put part of my life on hold and that of my children's, and now I'll put them ahead of everything," Vancek explained.

Four weeks and over 60 hours of on-ice work went into *Hands of Time*. But if it wasn't for the dedicated people working in the dressing room and making costumes, there wouldn't have been a show.

"We certainly had special volunteers and they were recognized verbally throughout the performances by Wade Vickery, a former skater who did a terrific job with the commentary," Vancek said.

The Carnival reiterated one point to Vancek and many others — the need for a new arena.

"People were parking blocks away to get parking. It has to be top priority now," insisted Vancek, who adds two of Acton's three councillors were in attendance on the weekend "and they know how important a new arena is to us. If we don't have one, think of all the skaters that will be lost."

Reed opposes Allmond bill

MP Julian Reed has expressed his opposition to a private members' bill introduced by Warren Allmond that would reduce life sentences from 25 to 15 years.

In a press release dated March 25, Reed said that he favours elimination of the clause, which is known as the "faint hope clause," which would allow people convicted of heinous murder to appeal their sentences after 15 years.

"Life should mean life," declared Reed. "The possibility of such a sentence should always be available to the courts. The victims of premeditated first-degree murder had their rights taken away from them. Murderers, or those who plan murder, should understand the consequences."



NOW THAT'S TEAMWORK!

Acton trustee and Halton Board of Education chair Dave Whiting took time out of his busy schedule on Friday to help M.Z. Bennett students Joe Douglas, 7, and Karly MacPherson, 6, celebrate the school's Reading Celebration Day. (Doug Harrison photo)

Group tries again for YMCA site

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

A non-profit housing group has been put to the test for the fourth time in its bid to obtain the Acton YMCA building as a home for seniors and teen mothers.

"It's like an exam. You have to pass to get the money," says Pastor Tom Cullen of Acton Baptist Church, who serves as chair of Koinonia (Greek for "fellowship") Non-Profit Homes Inc.

Cullen and his six members recently submitted their fourth application to the Ministry of Housing (MOH) for money to build 12 units in the longtime-vacant YMCA building on Mill Street.

He says Koinonia will soon have an interview with the MOH in

Burlington to discuss their knowledge of housing.

"They (MOH) see us as motivated," says Cullen, who adds the Acton group would receive \$1.5 million if their application was accepted. "They passed us over our first time, but would have even if our application was perfect, because it was our first time."

"I feel good about this one. It's needed. Twelve units is small, but it would help in keeping the downtown core alive and that concerns us as citizens and as members of the church."

Cullen's confidence in the latest application is buoyed by the fact that Koinonia meets the MOH's requirements of rehabilitation: it's in a downtown loca-

tion, it meets the intensification requirement (intensifying what already exists in the YMCA) and offers an inter-generation mix.

"I get generated by the group's enthusiasm and determination. If they turn me down, I'll turn around and apply again. The more you do it the more you realize it's a good project," Cullen states.

Group member Eileen Dix wonders why it has taken so long for approval from MOH, but feels the local group has learned a lot, like what is involved in providing sound housing.

"But it is frustrating," she says, "because you do have to second-guess the government. You don't know what to ask for (in your application) each time."

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