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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 1994

Talks begin for new arena site

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
 The Acton Tanner

With no debate and little fanfare, Halton Hills general committee members took the first concrete step toward a new arena for Acton.

Subject to Council's approval next Monday, Town staff have been authorized to begin negotiations with Monmar Developments Inc. for eight acres of land for the new \$4.1 million arena-community centre, north of Hwy. 7, east of Churchill Road.

Although no dollar amount was mentioned, Council has allocated \$200,000 in the budget for land.

The three Acton Councillors breathed a sigh of relief as the vote was taken, with Acton Councillor Gerald Rennie calling it a "very solid advance forward."

"We've actually taken the first concrete step toward establishing the new arena in Acton," Rennie said following the meeting on Monday night.

"There's been talk up to now — it's been a hope and expectation but now we think it is a fact," Rennie explained.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette said getting the project this far has been very frustrating.

"We've been working on this for six or seven years. There was a lot of debate about where the arena should be located and this is the first big step," Bonnette said.

"There will be many more steps but this is a major development towards replacing the old arena."

Acton Councillor Norm Elliott said he was thrilled to finally be at the point of actually working out a purchase deal.

"Finally some positive action has been taken — the public can finally start to believe that this is going to happen," Elliott said.

"People won't be able to say 'no location, no arena' any longer."

Town Recreation and Parks director Tom Shepard said now he can get down to working on a deal.

"We asked the Councillors to give us permission to negotiate an option to purchase in case the water studies now being done determine that Acton can't grow to 10,000 people," Shepard said following Monday night's General Committee meeting.

"The option also allows us the flexibility that if we can only grow to say 9,000 and not 10,000 then maybe we could use the same site or maybe we could move the arena to another site," Shepard explained.

The new arena will replace the aging structure at Prospect Park.

Death of the dump?

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
 The Acton Tanner

Plans for a massive landfill in part of the Acton Quarry could be killed today (Wednesday) by Provincial politicians at Queen's Park.

A Private Member's Bill to protect the Niagara Escarpment is on the order paper and expected to receive third reading, much to the relief of local politicians and environmentalists.

Halton North MPP Noel Duignan's Bill 62 would prohibit all new landfill sites on the escarpment, effectively ending Recla-

See DUMP, Page 2



TIMELY REMINDER!

Acton High student council members are sending out a message to travellers before they embark on their summer holidays. From left: Amanda Thompson, AHS principal Joyce Bradley, staff advisor Dorothy Platner, president Stephanie Jones, Cheryl Cullingham, Sara Wilson, Matt George, Yvonne Hendry, Dave Wray, Russell Voutour and Jennifer Jensen. AHS raised \$300 for the sign through various fund-raisers this year, while the Town put up the remaining \$312. Story, Page 8. (Doug Harrison photo)

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