

## Elliott: Why stir things up now?

From Front Page

payment problem would be for the Band to sell the building and property to the Town for \$1 and affiliate the Band with the Recreation and Parks Department. Then it would get an annual operating budget and not have to come to Council for grants each year.

But the Citizens' Band is leery of affiliating with the Town.

"If we become affiliated, then who runs the building and who decides what happens in the band hall?" wondered Band Director George Elliott on Thursday.

"We have run it effectively and we would prefer to keep things the way they are, but if the Town

charges us taxes, we have no money to pay them."

In outlining the history of the 29-year-old band hall, Elliott, one of two Band trustees, said that there was a verbal agreement with the old Acton Council.

"The deal was if the band should ever fold, the property would revert to the Town and they would become sole owners. That was the Town's protection. In return, they didn't charge us any taxes," Elliott explained.

"Back in the days when Acton was Acton, you could make a gentleman's agreement with Town Council. There was always a Council representative on the Band

executive who knew exactly what was going on, but that was dropped when we turned into Halton Hills."

Elliott said the Band can't survive without some kind of funding along with the rent it receives from Acton Support Services and Information Centre, which operates a Parent and Child Resource Centre in the hall three days a week.

"Everything has gone along fine for the past 30 years. Why does it have to be all stirred up now?" Elliott questioned.

Band President Carine Pelka outlined the Band's history for Council.

"The Band has been operating in Acton since 1872 and its 123 year history is just five years short of the Confederation of Canada," Pelka said.

"Its legacy has been passed on from one generation to another, providing a community service and spirit that is rich in tradition."

With 78 members the Band is the largest ever. It took part in 23 concerts and parades last year.

"The Band recognizes that Council must be fiscally responsible and we are sympathetic to your dilemma of allocating funds. However, we can assure you of a solid return on your investment," Pelka said.

No date has been set to discuss the band's grant request.

## Arena timetable set

From Front Page

"This is just the start. I'm pleased the commitment has been made, but I recognize there are still some hurdles to overcome in the next month or two," Chapman said in an interview on Sunday.

"I know the Town is committed and the signatures are on the agreement, but the agreement is contingent on the housing developments being able to go. We can't assume that it's going to go for sure. But it's an awful lot closer, and that's

good news," Chapman said.

Town staff outlined the following timetable for the new arena:

**May-June 1995:** final clearance and OMB development approval;

**September 1995:** hire architect, consult with community groups;

**December 1995:** Council approves final arena design;

**June 1996:** Tender call;

**Fall 1996:** Construction begins;

**June-July 1997:** Construction complete;

**Fall 1997:** Arena opens.

You are invited to attend  
an informal reception  
in honour of  
Mr. Russell T. Miller

in celebration of  
his years of  
dedicated service  
as Mayor  
from  
1984 to 1994

Thursday, February 9, 1995  
4:30 to 6:30 pm

Lower Atrium Area  
Civic Centre  
1 Halton Hills Drive  
Georgetown

Please drop by and extend your best wishes to Russ and Gerry.  
A brief presentation will be made at 5:15 pm.

## NEWS SHORTS

### New playgrounds OK'd

Included in the Town's capital budget - as debate concluded last week - was \$102,250 for creative playground equipment at two Acton parks and at one school.

Councillors approved \$30,000 to remove play equipment at Prospect Park and replace it with a creative play structure.

The aging wooden climber at Robert Little school will be removed and \$25,000 worth of new equipment will be installed. Play equipment, landscaping, park benches and a lighted walkway at a parkette on Birchway Place in the new Legion development was approved, to the tune of \$47,250.

### Head-on crash injures two

Two Acton residents were taken to hospital with minor injuries after a head-on car crash on Saturday afternoon at the Churchill Road-Queen Street traffic lights.

Police report that the collision occurred after a town-wide hydro failure caused the intersection's traffic lights to shut off.

Halton Hills Hydro operations manager Kurt Durski explained Monday that the outage was caused by a broken insulator on a 44-kilovolt hydro feeder coming into town.

The power failure meant that Village Constable Bill Riddle had to direct traffic at the busy Main-Mill intersection from 1:30 to 4:10 on Saturday afternoon.

### Car speakers stolen

Thieves broke into a car parked on Main Street South and stole a speaker box and two speakers overnight Thursday.

Police say the '89 Ford Mustang had its passenger window smashed during the theft. Damage is estimated at \$500.

### Car fire on Longfield

A car fire on Longfield Road caused some \$8,000 damage just after midnight Sunday morning.

The Halton Hills Fire Department suspects the blaze was caused by a mechanical-electrical failure.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"If we become affiliated, then who runs the building and who decides what happens in the band hall?"

— George Elliott, Acton Citizens' Band director, Page 2

### DID YOU KNOW?

There are more chickens than people in the world.



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