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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 1995

## Anger erupts over arena

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The Acton Tanner

Janis Fread, president of the Acton Agricultural Society is "very, very disappointed" to learn the Town's director of Recreation and Parks is critical of the Society's attempts to determine what the old Acton arena might be used for once a new facility is built.

At a recent briefing on the new arena and community centre Tom Shepard said that the Ag Society's plans were "pie in the sky."

"Unfortunately, this is typical Tom Shepard," Fread fumed in an interview last Wednesday.

"Tom Shepard was the one that came to us in the beginning and said that since a new arena was going to be built, we might look at taking the old one over. Now, he appears to have completely reversed his earlier statement."

The Society is conducting a community survey to determine what, if anything, the 70-year-old arena could be used for.

Suggestions include using it for small trade shows to promote local businesses, a regular weekly

auction and indoor soccer.

"There is some thought that we might be in competition with the new arena," Fread said.

"But, I think if we could work with the Town we could provide two really vibrant facilities and really be hopping.

"It may be pie in the sky, but I don't see why we have to be at logger-heads with the Town."

Fread was also surprised with Shepard's comment that the old arena's water allocation would be transferred to the new facility.

In an interview on Thursday Shepard said the professor who interviewed him for the survey indicated that the possibility of keeping an ice surface in the old arena was being discussed.

"They (the Agricultural Society) got a little over-enthusiastic in their survey of what to do with the old arena," Shepard said.

"One of the things they were looking at was the continuation of trying to provide ice, which was way beyond what their mandate ever was supposed to be."

Shepard said that although the water allocation would be shifted to the new Acton East facility, the water lines to the old arena would not be cut off, but that there would not be enough water to make ice.

Shepard said he did not want to prejudice the Agricultural Society's survey but stressed that the old arena is in very bad shape and that the Society should take a look at their own building in the Park and what function it provides.

"It might be better off blowing up both buildings and trying to build something that is smaller and a little more aesthetically pleasing and more conducive to community use," Shepard said.

See Page 10 Letter for more



## SKIPPING SCHOOL!

These Acton High students jumped rope for part of MOGA (Most Outrageous Group Activity) Madness Day at the school last Wednesday. Other activities included forming an "A for Acton" and a tug-of-war. From left: Janey McCallum, 17; Andrea Spoehr, 16; and 17-year-old Tammy Newman. (Doug Harrison photo)

## Campbell takes Murr

Paul Campbell was crowned 1995 champion of the Paul Murr Memorial Golf Tournament at Blue Springs Golf Club on Monday.

Campbell, a Georgetown resident and club member, shot a 71 to finish in front of Actonites Doug Bishop and Ted Ellis.

The 11th annual charity tournament was one of the most successful ever, according to organizers.

See Page 23 for more results.

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