

# Fair boss responds to Town exec's arena criticism

## LETTERS

### Prez is 'mystified'

(Editor's Note: This letter was sent Thursday to Tom Shepard, the Town's director of Parks and Recreation. It was then submitted to The Tanner for publication.)

Dear Mr. Shepard,

In reference to your comments to Council in your presentation of May 16 concerning the old arena, I am mystified as to why you suddenly stated your lack of support for the Acton Agricultural Society's efforts to determine the feasibility of taking over this facility.

It was you who approached the Acton Agricultural Society in the summer of 1992 to suggest taking over the arena if the new one was built in another location.

Again, at a meeting in April 1994, with our newly formed Arena Committee, you assured us that the Parks and Recreation department would support a take-over proposal if the Board decided it would be in our best interest.

In October 1994, you received correspondence from us concerning our application for OCA funding to conduct a feasibility study, at which time we advised what we were doing and why.

In November 1994, the Super-

intendent of Facilities, Mr. Paul Stover, attended a meeting on our proposal concerning the study. We discussed all aspects of the project, including the condition of the facility and determined to continue with our funding application.

I am disappointed that your opinion was never relayed to the Board or myself, but that we had to read in the newspaper that our belief in your department's support was, in fact, unfounded.

At all times during our discussions with Mr. Stover, he has been very clear on the deteriorating condition of the facility and has forwarded to us engineering reports and any information he felt beneficial to our decision-making.

We are well aware of the substantial expense involved in upgrading the facility, however, we stand firm in the belief that there is no point in looking at costly improvements if we find there is in-

sufficient demand for usage of the facility on a year-round basis.

The study will determine if our proposal is realistic and can be profitable, and if so, will provide a business and marketing plan, at which time we would again apply for provincial funding for capital improvements.

If the study indicates that our proposal is not workable, it will suggest other alternatives to work around the building that we so desperately need for our fall fair.

We anticipate the study to be completed by October, at which time we will make an informed decision on our direction. I hope that whatever decision the Board of Directors comes to, we can work with the municipality and Council to ensure that the Acton Fall Fair will continue to be "one of the best little fairs in Ontario."

Janis Fread, president  
Acton Agricultural Society

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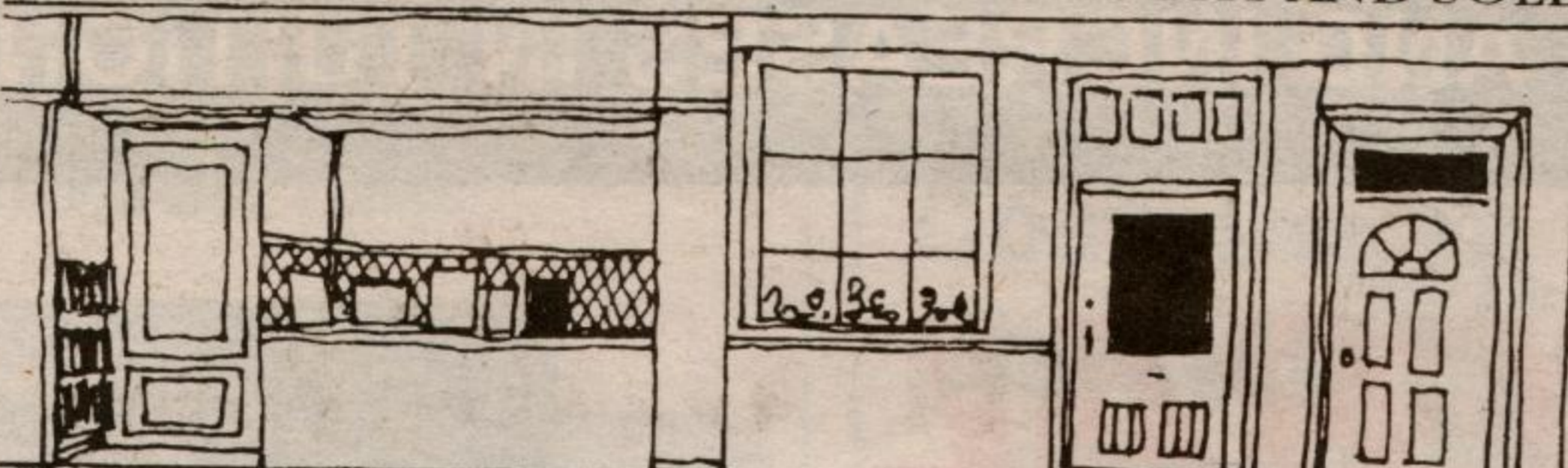
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**Wasn't it a party!**

To the Editor,

Recently, we were the convenors of the Trinity United Church ham dinner, held at the Curling Club. Trinity United is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. As relatively new members of this community we wish to thank the town organizations and people for their assistance in making our dinner such a success.

In particular, we thank:

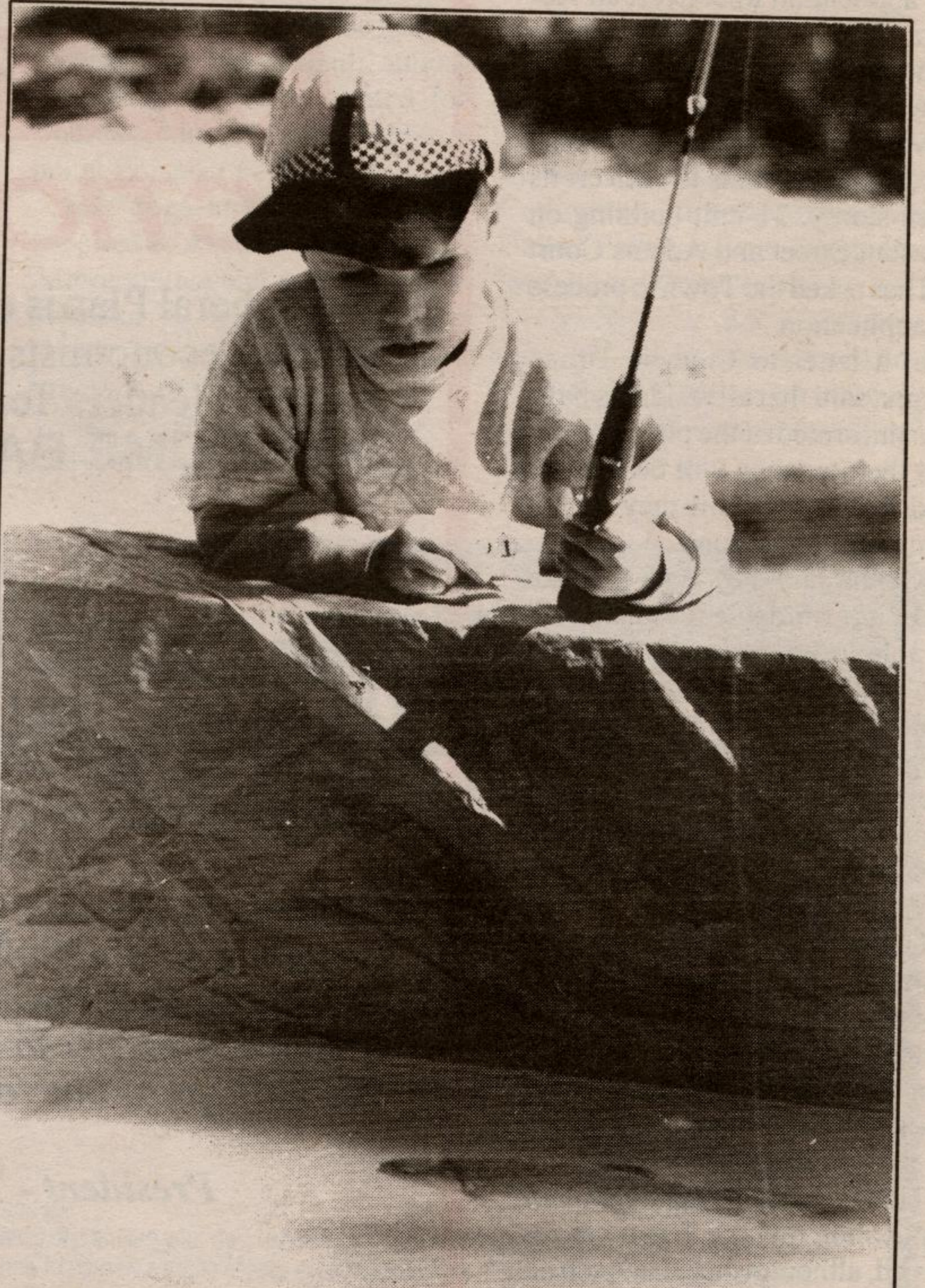
- the 255 people who bought tickets and attended the gala affair
- the Curling Club for their cooperation and support;
- Acton High School for the use of their tables and chairs;
- the Bank of Montreal, Credit Union and Blooms Away for their

help with ticket sales;

- The Acton Tanner and The Georgetown Independent for their support and coverage;
- Foodland came through with an excellent contract for the food, which was of excellent quality;
- Acton IGA for the great cakes decorated for the occasion;
- the Tuitman family for the beautiful plants and flowers;
- members of the Trinity United planning committee, and all of the participants, cooks set up crews, musicians and truck drivers, etc. who made the dinner possible;
- Dave Fishback for his appearance as our guest entertainer.

Please come back next year for another great ham dinner.

Donna and Bill Rowley  
Trinity United Church



**SO CLOSE, YET ...**

A patient Nicholas Rogers, 3, stands over a rainbow trout at the Fish Pond event at the Acton Parent-Child Resource Centre's giant garage sale at the Band Hall last weekend. (Paul Nolan photo)

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