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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1995

## Still no answers to arena queries

*'Rep wants to know 'Plan B'*

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The Acton Tanner

Skittish councillors sought some answers and comfort from Town staff on Monday night as they questioned the impact of the change in provincial government and servicing negotiations on plans for the new community centre and replacement arena in Acton East.

Director of Recreation and Parks Tom Shepard said that, while the provincial grant program which the Town hoped would provide up to one-third of the arena cost is being discontinued, the money to be allocated still exists.

"I have a little more optimism than I had a week ago. I have spoken with the newly-elected member (MPP-elect Ted Chudleigh) and I've been told that although the existing grant program is on hold, the moneys that were allocated for them are, in fact, still in place," Shepard reported to General Committee members.

"I'm quite positive that there is still going to be a program that money can be allocated from."

After questioning if there were problems with reaching a master serving plan with the three Acton East developers, Acton Councillor Norm Elliott asked Shepard if there were any other areas of con-

cern that could cause delays.

"I'm sure there's a minefield out there somewhere and I'm sure we will walk through it," Shepard said as he explained that meetings are ongoing with the developers to try to reach agreement so servicing for the arena and the housing subdivisions can be done at the same time to save money.

Elliott also noted that it was frustrating to not be involved in the talks and asked that the mayor re-involve a political component in the talks.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette wanted to know if staff had a Plan B, a contingency, if no grant money was available.

The Town has approximately \$800,000 in the 1996 budget for the arena and Treasurer Andy Koopmans said borrowing more money was always an option, although that was not necessarily the option staff would recommend.

Shepard said other options could include fund-raising and downsizing the overall cost by reducing components of the proposed community centre-arena.

At this point staff have suggested the complex will include an ice rink and a seniors' centre.

Shepard said that the change in government and servicing negotiations have not prompted staff to change the proposed time frame for the complex, which includes hiring an architect to design the facility late this summer.

"We're not suggesting that if the grant doesn't come through that we wouldn't get a replacement arena," Shepard said.

"I will have a better comfort level after this next meeting with the developers as to how we're going to try to make things happen in concert."



### JUST HANGIN' AROUND!

Four-year-old Dayna Neville didn't let Sunday's heat wave get her down. We caught Dayna hanging from a rope in a Kingham Road backyard. (Lori Frechette photo)

## United Way meets at 7

The local United Way will hold its annual general meeting and appreciation night tonight (Wednesday) at 7 pm in the library at McKenzie-Smith middle school.

All Acton residents are invited to attend the meeting.

# MULLIGAN'S GRILL

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