

Seniors vote to move centre to new arena's location

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Is there any other option?

That was the message from re-elected Acton seniors committee president Gerald Rennie, who pleaded with local seniors at their annual general meeting last Wednesday to pass a motion of their desire to relocate to the new Acton arena.

After some initial concerns

about travel to the new community centre-arena complex, which has a completion date of October 1997, the group of 50 seniors cast a majority vote to be given to the Acton arena steering committee, of which Rennie is a member.

"We are well under way to having an arena in 1997," Rennie reported to the group gathered at the seniors' recreation centre at the Community Centre. "The pro-

posed seniors' area at the new arena is 1,500-square feet, will be a separate entity within the (\$4.1-million) complex with its own entrance and run seven days a week, 24 hours a day."

The existing centre operates from 9 am to 4:30 pm when it becomes a public facility.

The Acton seniors committee began a search for a seniors' centre in October 1987. Over the years, a number of sites were explored but for various reasons fell through.

They included the old fire hall at the corner of Willow Street and Bower Avenue (refurbishing costs topped \$485,000); the old Flight-Line building—now Hoops, Pockets and More—with its \$173,000 price tag and the Acton Library,

but staff there have said it will be five to 10 years before its future is decided.

"If we want to have a seniors' centre other than here, I don't see an alternative," Rennie went on, adding the final Town budget approval goes in March.

Pat Giguere, who began with the committee in '87, told Acton seniors all provincial grants and the furniture at the existing centre would be lost if they voted not to move to the new arena.

"You have to be an ongoing centre to get a grant," she said.

After the two-hour meeting, senior Eleanor Thompson said she still wasn't in favour of using the new arena, saying people on the west end of town would have trou-

ble visiting the centre regularly.

"I would hate to see us not move in because people aren't able to get to the centre," added Giguere, who has moved to Beeton (near Tottenham) to be closer to her grandchildren. She recently resigned as Acton seniors treasurer.

"There are people who volunteer for transportation. You just have to call them."

Both seniors Vic Morris and Donna Rowley agree the move would allow Acton seniors to have their own home.

"I think they feel they share this place with everyone in the world," Rowley said.

Rennie described some seniors' transportation reservations as an "unfortunate mind-set."



BEST WISHES, PAT: Pat Giguere, left, shows the clock she was given by Acton seniors at their annual general meeting last Wednesday. That's seniors committee president Gerald Rennie with Pat. Pat recently resigned as committee treasurer, since she has moved to Beeton to be closer to her grandchildren. (Doug Harrison photo)

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Food donations will go to the Acton FoodShare and the Love in Christ Food Bank in Georgetown.

Librarian Eva Carney says the two libraries' goal is to collect 100 items of food to help those in need.



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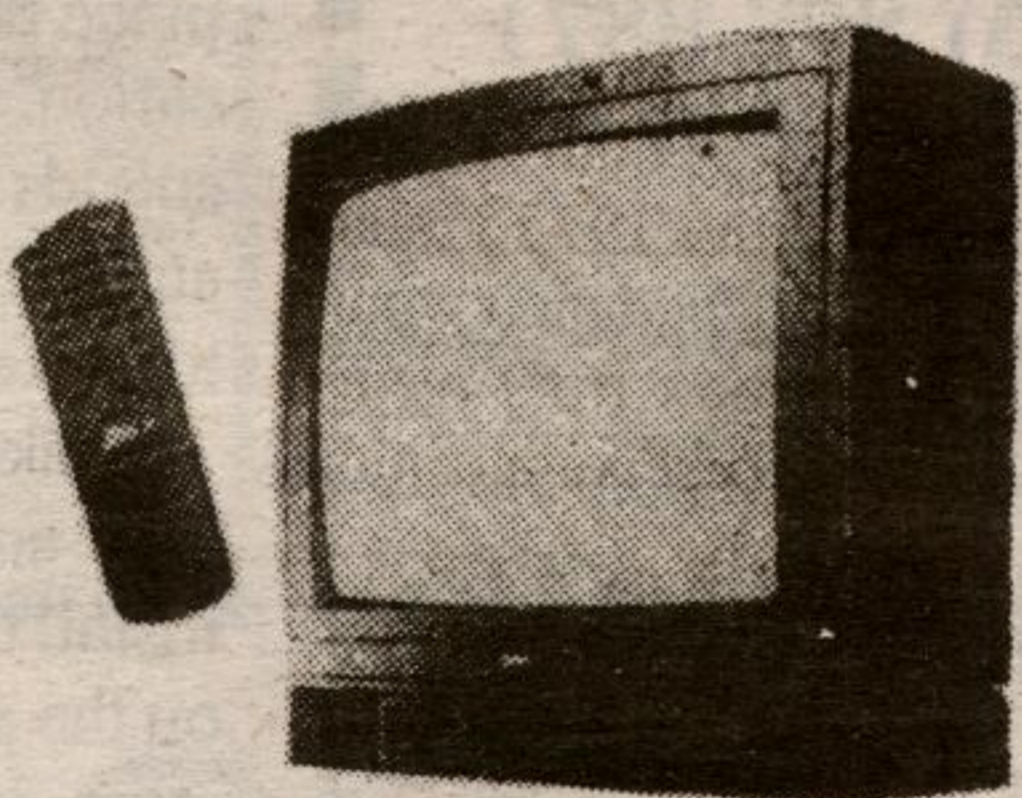
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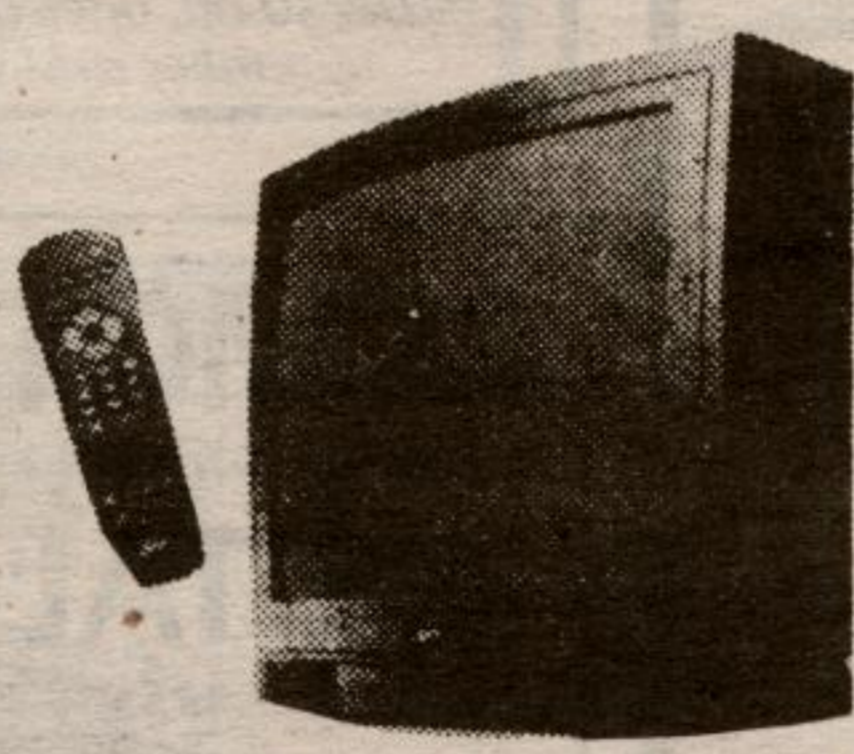


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