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Lawyers study Acton Indoor Pool lease

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner
 Town and Board of Education lawyers are reviewing a controversial lease agreement that will determine the future of the Acton Lions Indoor Pool and six other pools owned by the Halton Board. That lease said the Board would pay all operating costs and allow the Town to use the pool in off-hours for recreational and instructional swim programs, for the pool's life. Faced with a tight budget, the Board cancelled all but one swim program and now will only pay operating costs when its mentally handicapped students use the pool. Although the Board has no plans to "drain and close" the pools, it made it very clear

that as of September, teaching students to swim is not its mandate and will no longer pay to operate the pool, a move the Town's Superintendent of facilities, Paul Stover, called "irresponsible" because it was made after the Town had already finalized its budget. The estimated annual cost to operate the Acton Pool is \$114,000. "The Board said the pool lease is over and it's our responsibility. This is a critical issue because we don't have any money and neither does the Board," Stover said. "The last thing we want to happen is that the pool closes, but since the Board didn't let us know about this in advance, we have just three months to find a solution,"

Stover added. Acton resident and former Lions Club member Art Gordon said the lease was a "stupid deal made when the Town [of Acton] and school board got along." "The community paid for that pool and now the Town should be paying because they haven't put in a dime for more than 20 years," Gordon said Wednesday. "It's all politics now. I think the Town and the Board are trying to bluff each other because nobody has any money." Halton Board Superintendent of Facility Services, Gerry Cullen, said both sides are waiting for their lawyers to come back with legal interpretations of the lease.

Canadian Cancer Society. "I talked to Paul before he died about changing the name of the annual Cancer Society golf tournament to honour him," tournament organizer Jon Hurst explained Friday. "Paul's reaction to having cancer was that we have to keep fighting to find a cure. "He knew it wasn't going to help him, but he wanted to help others. When we told him we wanted to name the

tournament after him so he would be with us year after year, he was pleased. It was one of the positives he had." Over its history, tournament organizers have raised approximately \$200,000 for cancer research, most of it coming from corporate sponsors, including the 120 this year who will pay \$150 to become sponsors. Organizer and golfer John Hoare said his wife Margaret,

who was secretary of the Acton Branch in 1985, was looking for some way to raise money and he offered to set up a tournament. "Here we are - 12 years and \$200,000 later with a very successful charity event," Hoare said Friday. "Blue Springs gives us a good deal on green fees and we have a prize list worth about \$5,000, including a Ford truck for the hole-in-one prize."

Tee up time for Murr Memorial

Before he died of cancer, Acton's Paul Murr - an avid golfer - knew that every spring his friends would play a round in his honour and next week they will tee off to raise money for cancer research. The 12th annual Paul Murr Memorial Golf Tournament will be played Monday at Blue Springs Golf Club and is expected to raise \$30,000 for the Acton Branch of the

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SNOW WHITE!

Robert Little School held its *Fantasia du Printemps* night last Thursday, with two performances of Snow White - one in English and one in French. At left, cast members Melissa Nellis (Prince Charming), Kimberly Roberts (Snow White), Holly Goddard (Wicked Queen) and dwarfs Neal Dawkins (Doc) and Joe Brunelle (Happy). Below, Holly Goddard shows just how wicked a queen she can be, with the help of her magic mirror (Brianna Getty). (Photos by Eve Martin and Frances Niblock)

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