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Council chooses architect for Acton arena

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner
Acton's three councillors could not contain their smiles on Monday night as Town Council unanimously approved hiring PBK Architects and Engineers - one of the

largest recreational facilities design firms in North America - to design the \$5.1 million Acton East Arena and Community Centre.
PBK, the unanimous pick of the arena steering committee, was chosen from the short

list of five firms and its overall tender bid was the lowest. PBK, with head offices in Vancouver and a branch office in Burlington, has designed 18 ice surfaces in the past six months and designed over 60 arena facilities.

At Council on Monday night, arena steering committee chair Councillor Norm Elliott, said that he and his fellow Acton councillors had looked forward to the hiring of an architect for the arena for a good 10 years, at least.

"This announcement is not because we fought for it, but because councillors around this table voted for it. I want to stress that fact - this Council voted for [the new arena]," Elliott said.

"In the last two budgets there hasn't been any fuss or muss about the Acton Arena and this Council has been committed to this very huge project," said Councillor Rick Bonnette. "By tomorrow, the first step will be taken in making the dream of the Acton Arena become a reality."

Councillor Gerald Rennie said although it had taken 10 years to get to this point, the timing was perfect because the Town was just finishing paying off the loan used to build the Civic Centre. Paul Stover, the Town's acting Director of Recreation and Parks said that the archi-

tect selection process was "long and exhaustive," but that it led to the best firm being chosen. In an interview before the meeting Stover said the next step is for the architect to meet with the arena user-groups. "The user-groups, who have already met with the arena steering committee, will be asked to come up with a wish and want list to take to the steering committee for consideration," Stover explained. "By late August we hope to have the architect's conceptual drawings and then detailed exterior and interior designs can be done to give to the builders to bid on. "Things are going to start to move by late summer and we are still aiming for a fall of '97 opening," Stover said.



IN-TENTS!

Acton District Girl Guides recently received \$1,357.11 from the Rotary Club of Acton to pay for four new tents for camp-outs. Presenting the cheque in above photo are, back row from left: Rotarians Peter Van Dam, Mac Sprowl, Guenter Haessler, Rob Charrette, Nick Larter and John Lomax. In front are Guide leader Susan Freeland, Brownie Jasmine Hess, Spark Arielle Hess, Guide Tia Hess and Pathfinder Michelle Galda. At left, Guides Stephanie Christie, Kimberley Roberts and Ashley Burnett set up an activity in front of one of the new tents at Camp Edgewood. (Photos by Eve Martin and Karen Wetmore)


High school to start in Grade 7?

BY JOANNE STEVENSON
The Acton Tanner
With tough economic times a reality, the Halton Board of Education is taking a closer look at education, from the ground up. A committee was formed to look at ways to continue to provide quality service at reduced cost. The Renewal Committee presented its report to the Board two weeks ago, and last Wednesday, before an audience of 200 parents from Acton, Brookville, Limehouse, Georgetown, Glen Williams and Stewarttown, it held the first of 16 public meetings informing parents of its recommendations. By far the most contentious issue in the report is the recommendation that schools

be reconfigured - to include Kindergarten to Grade 6 elementary schools and Grade 7 to OAC high schools. "The Grade 7 to OAC model is best for kids," Rankin said. "The older students can have a positive influence on the younger ones, and the continuity of changing school only twice in their careers builds self-esteem." But there were serious concerns from parents in the crowd about placing 12-year-olds in the same school as 18 and 19-year-olds. Exposing these pre-teens to drugs, alcohol and smoking at an earlier age were issues summed up by one parent, who said, "high school students aren't always a positive role model." See COMMITTEE, Page 2

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