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'ACTON'S OWN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER'

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1996

BETWEEN THE COVERS...



Trustee Ethel Gardiner appears in Milton court on conflict of interest charges

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Acton woman is published in Reader's Digest for her humorous story on pony shows

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Not enough staff a main reason for Town bylaw infractions to become piled up

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No sale to the rumour the Canadian Fire building had been sold

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Enjoy the Rockwood and Area Studio Tour Oct. 19 and 20!

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Robert Little Public School's 8-year-old girls cross country team wins first place at the North Halton championships

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Construction delay for new arena

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

The foundation for the new Acton Arena and Community Centre will not be dug this fall as planned because of an unforeseen and unavoidable delay involving the developer, who sold the arena site to the Town and a private abutting landowner.

"There is a matter that needs to be resolved with a private landowner in the area and Rinata (the developer)," arena committee chair, Acton Councillor Norm Elliott explained recently.

That issue must be resolved before the Town can proceed with servicing into

the property, leaving the Town at the mercy of what Elliott described as "outside influences."

"The litigation doesn't involve the Town but we've got to get the servicing across Rinata's land and the situation with the abutting land owner and Rinata involves the land that we need to cross, and that is what's holding us up," Elliott said.

Elliott also said the committee has had to make some minor adjustments on the facility design, reducing costs by removing a few "frills" on the exterior of the building, including an outdoor balcony on the building's west side.

He added there was some "disappointment and frustration" among arena committee members that they can't go with their game plan of tendering for the foundation this fall and getting that work underway before it snows.

The single tender route may have one benefit, in that it might be cheaper, even though it will mean losing several months of construction time. Elliott said they hope to do some work on the site this fall, noting that fundraising to pay for arena upgrades will be easier to do once there's some evidence of activity on the site.

"As long as there's just a

sign out there a lot of people are still saying, 'Well, I'll believe it when I see a shovel in the ground,' so there may be some site work done this fall in the way of grading," Elliott said.

Asked if a shovel in the ground would be a psychological benefit to those who have been waiting almost a decade for this arena, Elliott laughed, "it would certainly help me."

The tight time frame still includes starting the 1997 ice season in the new facility.

"At this point we don't have any reason to believe that's not possible and there will be a cost savings if we

don't have to start up the Prospect Park arena next October," Elliott said.

Interest in old fire hall

A dinner theatre, a Town meeting place and a facility for dances and parties are just a few of Heritage Acton's plans for the old Fire Hall on Bower Street.

The preservationist group recently offered \$2 for the Town-owned building, attached to the old Town Hall on Willow Street, and Councillors were interested enough to ask for more details.

"The Town sold us the Town Hall for \$1, so with inflation we figure that \$2 is a good price for the old Fire Hall," spokesman Dr. George Elliott half-jokingly explained recently, stressing it's a great deal for the Town.

"The Town would acquire a recreational facility at no cost and the building would be controlled and maintained by Heritage Acton and would be available to all groups in Acton," he said, noting Heritage Acton has a track record of "getting things done."

The building - deemed surplus by the Town - is currently on the market for \$160,000 and although there have been several inquiries, no offers have been made.

Elliott reminded Council that Heritage Acton had saved the old Town Hall from demolition in 1977, and now wants to incorporate the old Fire Hall into the Town Hall and use the space for what it was designed for in 1881, a community meeting area.



PYJAMA PARTY!

No, the Acton Seniors weren't having a slumber party at the resource centre. Instead, Anna Arnold, Olga Thompson, Councillor Gerald Rennie, Lily Dee and Shirley McKeown were modelling clothes from Geri Fashions of London at the fall fashion show held last Wednesday. (Karen Wetmore photo)

The Historical Halloween Hunt

A Contest sponsored by the Acton BIA and The Acton Tanner

Test your knowledge of some of Acton's ghoulish past. Entry forms can be picked up at the Acton Tanner, Power Entertainment, Acton Pharmacy, Freezer Frenzy, Country Reflections, Acton

Musicland, The Holland Shop and Wetherby's.

Contest deadline is October 30th with winners announced Halloween Night. Lots of prizes donated by Acton merchants. Come & join the fun!

