

In praise of Acton's new arena

Who said what at the Acton Arena and Community Centre official opening on Sunday:



Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson:

Credited with keeping the project on the front burner and ultimately seeing it approved by members of the last council, Mayor Serjeantson was proud and excited.

"It's a great opportunity for us to celebrate today.

You know if this new facility had gone into Prospect Park [an early favoured location] it just wouldn't have worked as well. I think that the size of the building and the amount of parking here on this eight-acre site is perfect for Acton and Halton Hills.

The natural lighting is wonderful and already the Seniors' Centre is bustling with activity and

I urge everyone to help take care of this building and keep it looking as nice as it does today."



Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette:

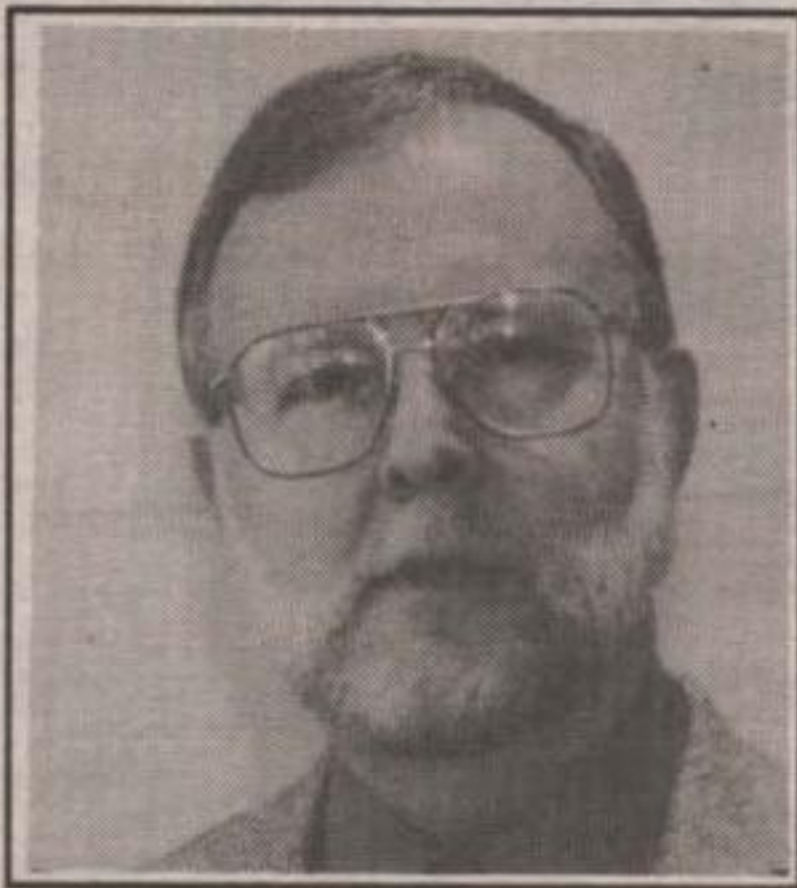
Chair of the Acton Proud Facility Development Committee, Bonnette said it was a long, but rewarding wait.

"A lot of people probably thought that we'd never have this facility, but here we are. As a long-time Acton resident I'm proud that we were all able to work together to build something as nice as this. It was a team effort and a lot of people deserve a lot of thanks for hours and hours of hard work that brought us here today. To see the crowds here today is a very satisfying feeling."

Ranger roughed up

Approximately \$700 damage was done to the door of a Ford Ranger, owned by a Lasby Lane resident, which was left in the Acton Curling Club parking lot on Churchill Road overnight Monday.

Police report the door of the Ford had been kicked and scratched. No witnesses, no suspects.



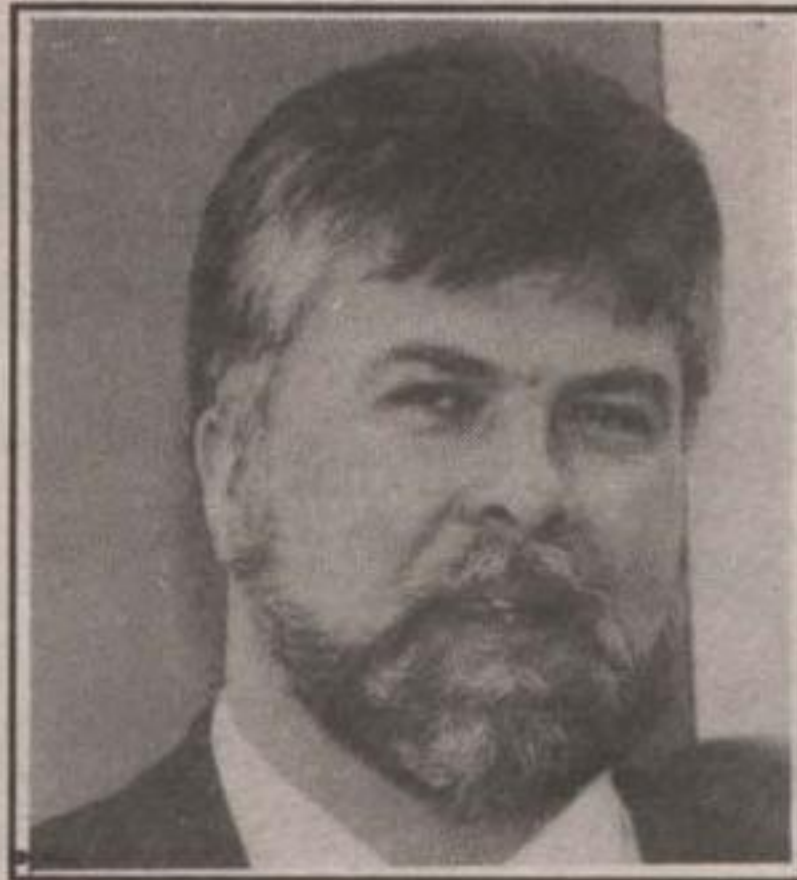
Acton Councillor Norm Elliott:

Described as "Mr. Acton Arena" for his decade-long pursuit of the facility, Elliott said the official opening was almost too good to be true.

"This took over 10 years of hard work on the part of council and particularly the Acton councillors Rick (Bonnette), Gerald (Rennie) and myself. As the builder's representative said today, this was team work."

Paul Stover, Superintendent of Facilities:
"Today is the culmination of a team effort. All of the community organizations, Council, Staff, the builder and the architect. It's wonderful to see everybody here

today in good spirits and looking forward to many years of service in this fine facility. It's one of the best in the area."



Town Facilities Supervisor John Archibald:

"Operationally, this building is great for staff and users. It's really user-friendly and energy-efficient. We have energy-efficient equipment, the most modern equipment we could get for a facility of this size. We (staff) are quite happy.

Overall, the opening has been smooth."

Brenda Schrempf, long-time Acton figure skating supporter, Acton Proud

Committee member and mother of skaters:

"For the figure skaters of Acton to be in this facility is a dream come true. We've put up with a small ice surface that we couldn't even hold high test. Now we can do that and maybe he future will hold some competitions and things. Our girls just love it. This is a phenomenal place and we're all glad to be here."



Acton Councillor Clark Somerville:

"I'm absolutely thrilled to be here and I hope it's s start, a catalyst, to more development in town. How could you not be happy, walking in here?"

15% more to swim

It's still only going to cost a buck to frolic in the Prospect Park wading pool this summer, despite that fact that some other Town aquatic rates are jumping by 15 per cent.

Although council is expected to approve a new rate and fee schedule for recreation and parks on Monday, Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette sank plans for a 10 per cent jump in the admission price at the popular wading pool.

"You have young families with two or three children and it's an inexpensive way to keep the kids occupied on a hot day," Bonnette said, adding that the increase wouldn't "make or break" the Town.

While the proposed rate and fee increases are significant, town staff call them a framework to initiate substantial changes in revenue recovery.

Pool rental fees are up 15 per cent and there are increases from 4 to 15 per cent for Learn to Swim programs.

Councillor Norm Elliott suggested that learning to swim is a life skill and that the Town shouldn't try to make a profit on them.

-THE SMOKE SHOPPE-

56 Mill St. East, Acton Unit A

853-0411

Serving Acton for Over 25 Years

Tobacco, Lotteries, Used Books
(on the United Church parking lot)

What are the three most important things about property assessment? Fairness, fairness and fairness.

During February, property owners will receive a Notice of Property Assessment and an information package in the mail.

Your Notice shows the Current Value Assessment of your property. From now on, property assessments will be kept fair, consistent and up-to-date for everyone. Your municipality will continue to be responsible for setting municipal property tax rates.

Your Notice package will tell you more about the Ontario Fair Assessment System. For example, it will tell you:

- how municipalities must assist low-income senior and disabled homeowners and how they can phase in any tax changes over a period of up to eight years;
- where and when information sessions on the new system will be held in your community.

For more information, call the Assessment Information Line at: **1-800-827-1857**, or call your Regional Assessment Office. Or visit the website at <http://www.gov.on.ca/FIN/english/propeng.htm>



Ontario