

Budget committee tackles capital cuts

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

A group of Sixth Line residents, who live north of Highway 7, convinced budget committee members that their road is so unsafe that \$115,000 initially removed from the capital budget by Town staff, should be added back in this year's spending plan.

Although Treasurer Andy Koopmans cautioned the budget committee that anything if they added anything to the \$4.5 million capital budget they should be prepared to make equal cuts from other projects. That's not what happened at last

week's capital budget meeting.

In an earlier budget report Koopmans said that forecasted capital spending would have to be reduced to avoid over-committing the capital reserve financing fund. The proposed 10-year capital forecast will have to be spread over 15 years and staff had to cut \$700,000 from their preliminary capital spending plans for this year.

At last Thursday's budget meeting councillors put \$115,000 for Sixth Line improvements back in the budget and rejected a request from the mayor for \$42,000 for a sidewalk on Main Street

South in Georgetown. Councillors also, added \$1,200 to provide water to Remembrance Park in Georgetown and cut \$5,000 earmarked to improve the sound system at the Council Chambers.

The proposed capital budget includes 74 individual projects with the lion's share of \$3 million for engineering and public works projects. The proposed \$275,000 reconstruction of Poplar Avenue and Crescent Street was removed from the preliminary budget by staff along with \$17,000 to recondition the deck floor at the Acton Indoor Pool.

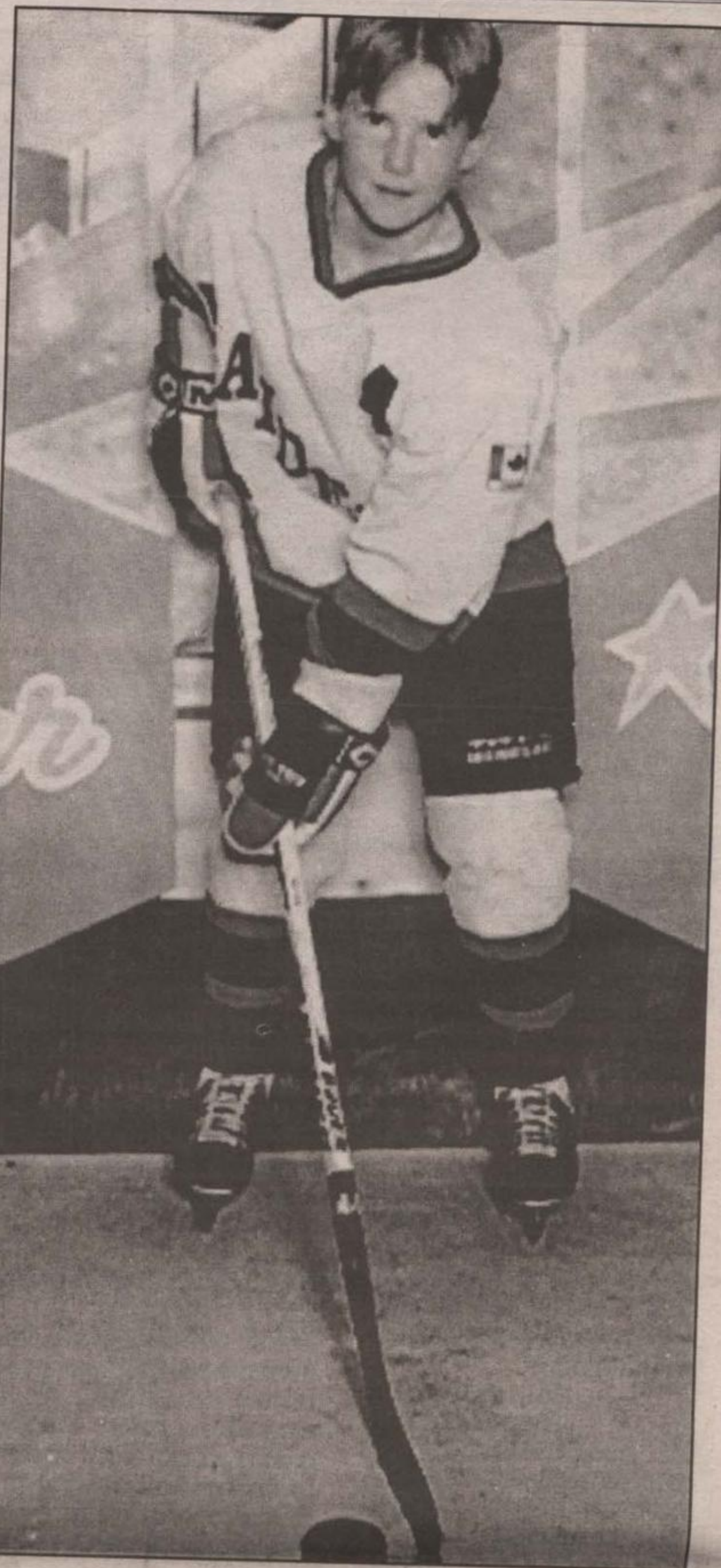
Acton councillor Norm Elliott took his annual run at spending for computer equipment when he questioned a proposed \$100,000 software package, a corpo-

rate project that will be used by four different departments.

"This (computer spending) is really starting to irritate me," Elliott said, arguing that computers are supposed to make staff more efficient, yet there are requests for more staff every year.

Councillors asked staff to come back with more information about the proposed software purchase before a final decision is made.

Budget debates continued Wednesday night. As the operating budget now stands an Acton resident with an average assessment will pay \$28.34 cents more in municipal property taxes this year. The final total tax bill won't be known until the school board and Halton Region strike their budgets.



MARK BOYCOTT

Acton player gets Town award

Receiving a municipal award, as a member of the Provincial Minor Atom championship hockey team is especially sweet for 12-year-old Mark Boycott of Acton - he scored the winning goal in the OMHA final in Richmond Hill.

The team picked up their municipal awards at Monday night's council meeting. They missed last month's awards ceremony because of a game.

Boycott, who has played for the Georgetown Minor AA Raiders for five years,

said he was thrilled to receive his award from the mayor.

"I'm really proud to have achieved this. It really was a team win," Boycott said.

Funding ...

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that means there are no specifics yet from which to work out budgets and programs.

Halton spent \$6,000 per pupil under the previous budget but that included things like transportation costs broken down per pupil.

"From what I see we're all in the same bind," she said, referring to various public boards across the province.

"We're up in some categories and down in others. We need to know specifically what the board is responsible for in each area. A lot of the grant envelopes can't be moved."

The only bright spot Gardiner sees is the fact these figures will be in place for the next three years.

"It's still unclear what our numbers will be, but we know when we finally get those figures, they'll be in place for the next three years."

Gardiner said the Halton public system is also growing with significant increases in north Oakville and north Burlington. "And if they get that pipeline to Milton that will start growing, too."

stop

Heart Disease and Stroke!



ACTON SENIORS' RECREATION CENTRE

By DOT REDEKOP

Our snack box program is going fairly well. It is our fundraiser and a service to the community. It is an honour system but some folks are forgetting to put their money in when they take a snack. A lot of our members put their time into this project.

Betty and Barb have a trip on April 16, Celebration of Spring 1998 at the Centre in the Square in Kitchener. Phone the Centre at 853-

5951 for more information. The travel people are there Monday mornings and Friday afternoons.

Anyone want to play crib, euchre, bid euchre, darts, carpet bowling, crafts? Give the Centre a call for dates and times of events.

Our blinds were put up last week so it is looking a little more pleasant. Soon we should be able to sit on the patio and have our coffee.

See you at the Centre.



Terri Portelli, Pharmacist Manager

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16

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