

# No urge to merge: Town Prospect arena dead?

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cillor Rick Bonnette said he was in no hurry to have any discussions with Milton.

"As far as merging or amalgamating with Milton, nobody is pushing and I don't

believe that we should leading any discussion with it and I think we should keep ourselves as Halton Hills and we don't want to lose any more of our identity," Bonnette said.

Ward 2 (including rural Acton) Councillor Kevin Kuiack said that they already share a Catholic school and fire services with Milton and that many town residents feel more of a link with Milton than Halton Hills.

"If we decided to set up a partnership we possibly could have a stronger voice... and could get of the funding directed up to the north," Kuiack said, arguing that Acton and Georgetown did not lose their separate identities when they were amalgamated into Halton Hills in 1974.

Acton councillor Norm Elliott said what he fears the most is that Halton Hills might lose the identity it has developed over the years.

"I think that for us to get spooked into some kind of negotiation of the future of our town with another community is totally premature," Elliott said, adding the destinies of Halton Hills and Milton are diverging, not growing closer together.

"Unless we are legislated into some kind of compulsory merger with another municipality I think we leave well enough alone," Elliott said.

Mayor Serjeantson said that she was glad everyone had a chance to comment on the issue in front of the press and public.

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in a new building.

## Report uncovers some surprises

Varanelli said that he was surprised by some of the items listed on the report, including that fact that the water had been turned off by the Region because of leaks in the water main. Water is essential to both fire fighting and public use of the wash-room facilities in the building and carnival workers use the showers and washroom facilities. Varanelli also questioned why the Fair Board

had not been told that the electrical transformer had failed, and been removed from the facility.

"Again, I'm just wondering why when this happened, why wasn't it just communicated to us as a problem or something we should be at least aware of," Varanelli said.

Another unknown is whether the fire department will allow use of the building on fair weekend even though a valve in the sprinkler system is broken.

## 'Building is dead'

The Town's Manager of

Facilities, Paul Stover said they are trying to determine how much it would cost to fix the sprinkler system, electrical transformer and water main valve, and more importantly, who would pay for the repairs.

Stover said that he wasn't surprised by the report because the Town had "band aided" repairs for many years, knowing that the facility would be closed. Stover also said that staff weren't "widely aware" of a number of items listed on the report, but asked the engineer to list everything, not just structural items, that need to be fixed before the building could be used by the public.

"The building is dead," Stover said, adding that the engineer is also worried that high winds could cause more damage to the roof, which is already leaking heavily in a number of areas.

"We just tried and tried and tried to let them (the Society) know it's not safe and can't be used in its present condition. That's clearly stated," Stover said, adding that the Town was in an awkward situation.

"They (the Fair Board) have not really come back with a business plan, or potential uses even, other than the fair, so it's going to be a debate whether its of value to put this kind of money into the building."

Stover said that the next step would be to it down with the Fair Board to discuss the engineer's report and then he will prepare a report for council.

A partial list of necessary repairs to the arena and community centre building includes:


- \$390,000 for roof repairs
- \$30,000 to replace steel joists
- \$50,000 for masonry wall repairs
- \$60,000 to upgrade wiring
- \$30,000 to repair the sprinkler system
- \$30,000 to replace the handicapped ramp.



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