



**EXPLANATIONS:** Dr. George Elliott explains Heritage Acton's decision to get involved in attempts to save the old arena from destruction to dozens of people gathered at the old town hall Sunday afternoon.

## Town hall meeting

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tion couldn't save the old arena which a structural engineering report estimated would cost \$665,000. One estimate of \$30,000 to replace the handicap ramp was astonishing, he said. If it was given to a local contractor at that price he would think he had "died and gone to heaven."

Dr. George Elliott and Vic Bristow, both members of Heritage Acton, also spoke briefly reiterating both the need for the old arena and the desirability of saving it from demolition. It was pointed out Heritage Acton had the knowledge and the ability to issue tax reduction receipts for funds donated to save the arena.

Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson, the only politician at the outdoor meeting, outlined the Town's position. She pointed out the Town had hired a professional engineer to appraise the condition of the old arena because they were concerned about the public's safety.

"We are trying to do what is best for the community," Serjeantson said, noting Acton has the newest public buildings in Halton Hills (new arena and fire hall).

The mayor said she supported the initiative to save the arena. "If you can do it... great," she said. "We are try-

ing to make things work for the benefit of the Town."

Several citizens questioned the Town's motives and whether the overall plan for the park would be affected if the arena was left standing. The mayor said the Town was flexible and could accommodate whatever is best for the community.

Tyler said it wasn't necessary to make all the repairs at once, only enough to make it safe for the public. Insurance? He said he knew of an insurance company who would insure the building for \$1,000 to enable repairs to start and double that when it was fit for public use.

Once a committee is formed, he asked, would the Town give them adequate time to develop an alternative to demolition? We'll see what the committee comes up with, the mayor replied.

"Before you tear it down, give us a chance," Tyler pleaded.

One man said the Town really doesn't need to set aside \$130,000 to demolish the old arena.

"I'll just get in touch with my Amish friends in St. Jacobs. They'll tear it down for nothing and clean up to the last nail... and erect it in St. Jacobs," he said.

Mac Sprowl outlined how the fundraising campaign to install artificial ice and the cement block front in 1961

worked despite the naysayers who scoffed at raising \$60,000. He pointed out they raised \$64,000 in about five weeks. He felt it could be done again with the proper organization. Sprowl had already indicated he would "put his money where his mouth is"

Those who have volunteered to sit on the committee included Sprowl, Ab Robinson, Bob Findley, Jason Ash, Dolores Black, Katharine Ceccotti, Dawn Mayer, Doug Anderson, Bruce Cargill, Vic Bristow, Theresa Lockerbie and Dave Watson.

## Wasn't that a party...

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to church Sunday morning and found the "party still going on at 7:30 a.m. They had a stage set up pointing towards town and security guards in black T-shirts all over the place."

He questioned why police had not either shut the party down or prevented it from happening.

Village Constable Bill Riddle said it was late Saturday afternoon before he could confirm the party was happening. By that time the RIDE program was all that could be organized for control measures given the size of the crowd involved.

Martin said police could not confirm rumours invitations to the party were spread by the Internet.

Todd Kri, owner of the farm where the party was held, said he rented the space to Bob Lazic of Kitchener to hold "a birthday party and fundraiser for a family which lost its parents." Personally he was at a wedding and was "totally surprised at the size of the crowd" when he got home late in the evening.

When asked about a rumour the band The Grateful Dead performed at the party he denied it but said "some members of Jerry Garcia's band did perform." A better-informed local restaurateur confirmed Tanner staff understanding that the late Jerry Garcia was the main

performer with The Grateful Dead.

Staff also heard party participants were charged \$20 each at the gate.

Kri said he had not received any complaints about noise but his contract with Lazic made Lazic liable for "any damages or fines" resulting from the event.

Kri, who is known by his neighbours to hold a large party at his farm every August, joked he's "too old for that any more".

"The party probably wasn't supposed to get that big, but if it got that big we'll have to have a talk about donating some of the money (Lazic) raised to a local charity," Kri said.

John Tse of Halton Hills bylaw enforcement department said police called him about the party and he notified both the clerk and the

mayor. The fire chief had already visited the site around 6 p.m. and discussed control with police, Tse said. Their decision was to provide a very visible presence by stopping cars both entering and leaving the event.

During discussion at council Monday Coun. Rick Bonnette questioned whether toilet facilities had been available since lack of them would create a health issue. Staff said public health inspectors could not be contacted to investigate that Saturday.

Since the event was on private property there was no way to prevent it, says bylaw enforcement officer Ron Stein. Unless further investigation reveals an infraction under the noise bylaw or the need for a special event permit, the town won't lay charges.

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**It's a tie vote!**

The Leathertown Festival's 1st annual great Pizza Challenge was a big success! Participants munched pizza samples from Godfather, Queens, Andy's and Pizza Giant with comments such as: "terrific - very nice flavour, pizza was very cheesy (that's very good!) and really good with lots of tasty ingredients."

Obviously all four pizza places make great pizza, but the tasters' choice for favourite was a tie between Queens and Andy's! Congratulations to Cory Campbell of Acton whose Pizza Passport was drawn to win \$100 in Acton BIA Cheques. Net proceeds from the Pizza Challenge were donated to the Acton Citizens' Band, who were ready to perform the last hour of the Festival (a tradition for 7 years) but were rained out.

Many thanks go to the Leathertown Festival committee, a group of hard working volunteers co-ordinated by the Acton BIA: Elly Tuitman, Bev Duval, Jake Kuiken, Brenda Watson, Jason Ash, Tom Cooper, Jamie Qua and Helen Lomax. Thanks also go to all our Festival helpers who we count on for delivery and pick-up of equipment, block co-ordination and general support.

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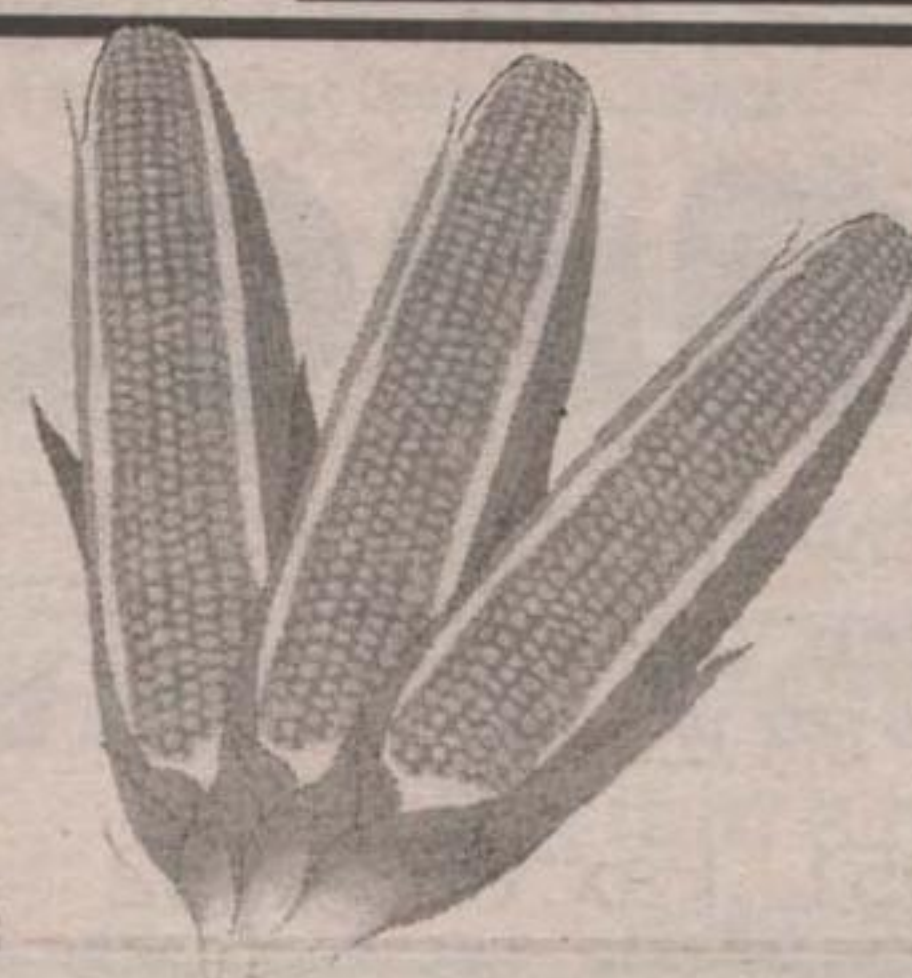
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