

# Fair Board confident arena can be saved

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

There is "renewed confidence" among members of the Acton Agricultural Society that this weekend's fall fair will not be the last one to use the old Acton arena for events and Homecraft displays.

While the Society decided it alone could not try to save the old arena - its consultant called it a "financial albatross" - Varanelli said they might be able to make a go of it in a combined effort with Heritage Acton which

is working to save the building from demolition.

"With this additional support from Heritage Acton in terms of people and expertise it has given us renewed confidence of maybe being able to do something here that we couldn't have done on our own, including the large task of obtaining donations," a crucial part of any plan Varanelli said in a recent interview.

Varanelli said the Town has ignored a letter from the Society requesting that it promise, in writing, to act in good faith in ensur-

ing the Society has a facility for next year. The Society threatened to use a 1974 agreement with the Town promising it use of the Prospect Park buildings for as long as there is a fair to block demolition.

"I don't think it (the letter) is going to do us any good. There's been no response and they're going ahead with the demolition so for all purposes the letters been ignored, hasn't it?" Varanelli said.

"Our last kick at the cat, so to speak, is at next month's council meetings when we'll present our letter of intent - a quasi business

plan proposal to save the arena," Varanelli said.

Acting Recreation and Parks director Paul Stover said Town's consultant is currently working on the specifications for the tender documents.

"Hopefully they'll be sent out to bidders in a week or so. Once we know when they're going to be finished to go out we'll be able to establish a return date and dates for site meetings," Stover said on Friday, adding that they hope to have the demolition tenders approved at the October 26 council meeting.

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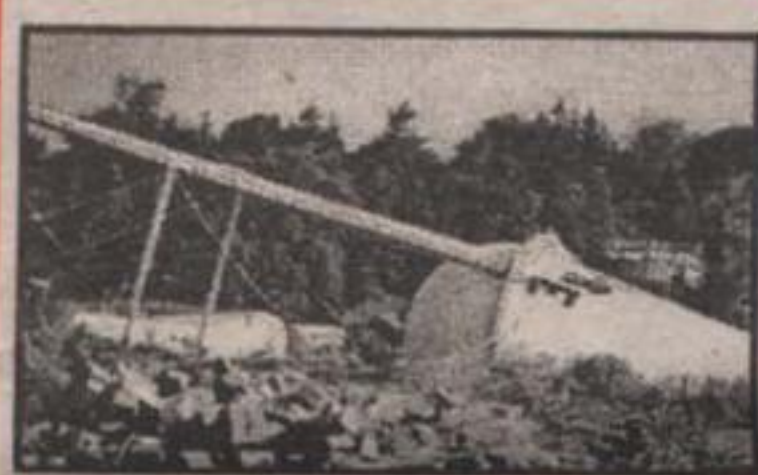
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## What's Inside



An Acton landmark for decades, the water tower at the old Beardmore tannery came down last week. See the photo sequence by Angela Tyler on Page 3.



Lumberjack? See Grapevine on Page 5 for a peek at one of the Acton Fall Fair's unique programs.



Tyler McNiven makes a super save to help his team win the Under-9 soccer championship Saturday. See all the results on our Sports pages.

# Tax bills prompt flood of calls

## New street names on agenda

After rejecting a royal theme - Princess Diana Drive, Prince William Drive, and Prince Harry Court - for names of new streets in a Georgetown development, Town politicians struck a new sub-committee to deal with the contentious naming issue.

Last month councillors balked at using only historical names for a proposed rural estate subdivision at Crewson's Corners and last week they sent the proposed royal names back to staff for further study.

Normally the Esqueing Historical Society has submitted proposed street names to staff which made recommendations to council but now councillors want more input, earlier in the process.

See **STREET**, Page 19



**UNDER - 9 BOYS' CUP CHAMPIONS:** of the Acton Soccer League Ron's Burner Service team members include : Justin Mota, Matt Ramsey, Ian Reid, Kevin Vickery, Dustin Pincivero, Ales Brake, Tyler McNiven, Josh Ceccotti, Thomas Glassford, Evan Colvin, Brynley Peregrine, Jeff Somerville, William Acri, Jacob Loewen and Dave Colvin (coach). Missing: assistant coach Scott Somerville. More photos on Page 14. - Ellen Piehl photo

## From mad to muddled

From mad to muddled, from concerned to confused, taxpayers began a flood of phone calls to the Civic Centre finance department on Monday as the Town's final tax bills for 1998 began arriving in local mailboxes.

Town treasurer Andy Koopmans said almost all of the approximately 100 taxpayers who called wanted to know why their tax bill had changed so much.

"We list the things that could affect their bill and direct people with assessment concerns to the province," Koopmans said on Monday.

"A lot of them (taxpayers) are concerned or confused and a lot of them are not happy, but they're resigned at the end of the call after we explain that their tax increase is due to a shift in the tax burden to residential properties and not because council okay a huge budget increase."

Provincial reassessment means that 58 per cent of urban Acton residential property owners will pay more in taxes. Over half of Acton's commercial properties will also pay more because of reassessment and 42 per cent will pay less.

Cumulative impacts of the Town's budget, reassessment and provincial downloading result in a 4.27 per cent tax increase for residential properties in Acton and a 4.70 per cent increase for residential properties in the rural area.

# Ask legislation to end strike

The Halton District Catholic School Board has joined six other boards to ask Ontario's education minister to legislate an end to the teachers' strikes. The seven boards - Hamilton-Wentworth, Toronto, Dufferin-Peel, Durham, York and Simcoe-Muskoka - say they won't get settlements without intervention.

Halton's 340 Catholic high school

teachers have been picketing during the extra daily class they are required to teach and are refusing all extra-curricular activities. On Tuesday teachers staged information pickets at the board offices and planned to protest at Tuesday's board meeting.

Halton Catholic elementary teachers meet with their board Monday and both sides say they're willing to negotiate.

No word when Halton public high school teachers will join rotating walkouts. School boards will get at least 24 hours notice before a walkout so parents and students can make other plans. The union and the board resumed negotiations on Tuesday.

Elementary teachers held a strike vote yesterday (Wednesday) and today with negotiations slated to resume Oct. 8.

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