

Plea to save arena delivered

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tee investigating municipal needs and that Acton's new arena and community centre was a major project.

Several councillors noted the Town could still end up having to pay to have the building demolished if it re-directed the demolition money and the group's plans for the facility failed.

Varanelli said there's an element of risk in every plan and asked the Town to take that risk.

"As a Fair Board we're

risking all of our building reserve that's been accumulated over the past 20 years. We've got Heritage Acton on the line as far as saying this is a doable proposition and we can find user groups to use this building and the community themselves have said they will support it," Varanelli said, adding that the project won't go ahead without Town money.

Varanelli also said they have an engineer's report indicating that the roof, which the Town says could collapse

under a heavy snow load, could be shored up with scaffolding to make it safe.

Heritage Acton member Mac Sprowl presented council with a 1,701-name petition supporting the restoration plan and said that they have a number of "fairly substantial" pledges for quite a few thousand dollars towards the project.

Varanelli said the groundswell of financial support led the Fair Board to conclude the project is viable.

Acton Councillor Norm

Elliott pointed out that roof repair costs could be staggered over the years. Councillor Rick Bonnette asked that Heritage Acton's report be attached to the demolition cost information at the next council meeting.

THE NEW TANNER
Hometown news that people read!

Approve seven unit YMCA redevelopment

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

The owner of the former YMCA building on Mill Street doesn't have to include any amenity or recreation space for prospective tenants of the seven rental apartments approved by Council on Monday as part of a rezoning application.

Provision of amenity space was a contentious issue as councillors grappled with a Town planning policy that says they "shall" require amenity space in downtown redevelopments. A proposal to use one of seven proposed parking spaces behind the building for park benches or a children's play area were rejected by a most councillors who visited the property on Thursday.

Since the Town required that each unit have a parking space, and proposals to rent a parking space off site in a near-by municipal lot were rejected, that would have meant only six apartments could have been built. The agent for owner Dianne Biggs, Mel Code, earlier told councillors that all seven units had to be built to make the project economically viable.

Suggestions that an amenity area be required inside the building were also rejected by a majority of

councillors at Monday's meeting, despite staff's contention that council should not ignore the needs of potential renters.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette noted that other communities including Guelph and Kitchener don't require amenity space for downtown redevelopment projects and said he wasn't sold on requiring it for this plan which would result in the rejuvenation of a building that's been virtually abandoned since 1988.

Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson, who said she admired owner Dianne Biggs' courage

for taking on a project that will benefit the community, was willing to compromise the Town rules for amenity space in apartment buildings.

"In the spirit of getting something approved in the downtown Acton area I really believe that we are making a good decision by supporting seven units and making sure that this building is redeveloped," Serjeantson said.

While Acton Councillor Norm Elliott ultimately voted in favour of the seven units without an amenity area he earlier had argued that there was no perfect solution to the amenity issue and suggested it would be the lesser of two evils to have an amenity area within the building.

Police appeal for help

Continued from Page 1

with biker gangs as reported earlier and had no known ties to drugs or organized crime.

The letter in the package bomb was signed but police aren't sure the person who signed it exists. The killer said he and his partners were opening a business called Acton Home Products and asked for Greavette's help in rebuilding some equipment.

The killer said Greavette might not remember him and offers the names of two men that they both know. A postscript notes that Greavette had been hard to find, wishes him a Merry Christmas and concludes, "may you never have to buy another flashlight."

Anyone with information is asked to call Crimestoppers or 1-877-252-0122.

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Start training kids early about street dangers

The next few columns will be in relation to teaching your children some "Street Smarts".

Making your children "street smart" - readying them to look out for themselves - is a gradual process. You can't wait until the night before they start to school and then tell them everything they need to look out for. Too many "be carefuls" administered at the same time may arouse an unhealthy fear instead of the healthy sense of precaution you want them to have. The line between the two is very fine.

Start early. Begin to instill a sense of awareness as soon as you start taking your children out on the street. Not jaywalking is not enough unless you explain why your don't. Point out possible problems. Wait for the green light at the "walk" sign, even when there's no traffic in sight, and explain why. It's worth the extra 15 seconds to teach your child about safety. Where there is no sidewalk, they should know to walk on the shoulder of the road, facing oncoming traffic.

More next week.

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