

NO MORE HOCKEY HERE: The inside rink area of the arena is being stripped of the side boards. Above the rink, a crew is in the process of removing all the roof panels and fasteners...more than 10,000 of them. While below, the front entrance to the old arena was torn down in a matter of hours. Blocks, glass and steel that once housed the seniors centre was being loaded into dumpsters. - Angela Tyler photo



Raising funds not Mac's bag

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner

If members of the Acton Agricultural Society expected their former president Mac Sprowl to raise funds for their new arena, they've got another think coming.

In a telephone interview Monday Sprowl said the society's decision not to fight to maintain the old arena "changes everything".

He is quite disappointed the arena restoration supporters were given no opportunity to raise funds and at least attempt to save the old building. He says the fair board's agreement is "a terrible deal that was cut with the town."

"My original offer on the old town hall steps was to work on a fundraising campaign to restore the old arena," Sprowl said. "I said we could mail out letters to area residents and I offered to pay the postage for that campaign. Someone else offered to do the letter. But with the demolition, that's all gone."

Sprowl said it would be "totally inappropriate" for him to be involved with any future fair board fund raising campaign for a new arena because he's no longer an agricultural society member.

He left the board "more than 20 years ago" and it would just cause "all kinds of problems" were he to undertake the task.

In fact, in the present situation he's not even sure he wants to be involved with the project.

Since the society agreed to raise almost all the money for any new building and fit in with the Town's Master Parks Plan, he predicts the project will be very difficult to accomplish.

He expects it will take a couple of years to get details ready before a fundraising campaign can be undertaken and the momentum generated over the restoration pro-

posal is already gone.

Sprowl noted that Heritage Acton can't be involved with the project even if they wanted to be because their mandate only involves old structures and restoration.

Sprowl speculated the board may have problems fitting in with the Master Park Plan since the design calls for Prospect Park to be a passive park with walks, flowers, rocks and even a new entry just south of the creek.

"I hear they want to take out the track, the cattle ties, probably put the new building in another location," he said. "It's not going to look like the park we know."



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Tax bill uncertainties worry Halton Chambers of Commerce

Chambers of Commerce in Halton Region met recently to address the implications of the recent announcement from Ontario finance minister Ernie Eves regarding the 10 per cent capping of property taxes for businesses across the province.

"The biggest message we want to send to our municipalities, the Region and the Province is that we are very concerned with increases in taxes on local businesses, the tax inequities that exist and this needs to be resolved as soon as possible. The longer this is dragged out the more changes that occur causes serious concern for business owners," the Chambers responded.

Business may not be happy with their tax bill but the greatest apprehension is created when there is uncertainty of what next year's bill will be. We encourage and support the Region, along with the area municipalities coming together at the table

with the Province to determine the best case scenario for Halton businesses. Decisions need to be made, and quickly, the Chambers declared.

We commend the Provincial Government for its fortitude and courage in changing the antiquated property tax system that has been in existence for years. We believe Halton Region has done a good job in implementing some of the various options (tools) suggested by the province.

We recommend an ex-

emption from the 10 per cent cap for the majority of Halton businesses as it would alleviate much confusion and eliminate future tax bill uncertainty, the Chambers declared. The business environment needs stability in order to invest in the future. We also suggest revisiting other options for our hardest hit businesses. As such, extreme inequities still exist. Relief for those businesses needs to be considered.

With due consideration to these issues we urge the Region and the province to formulate a fair solution for all.

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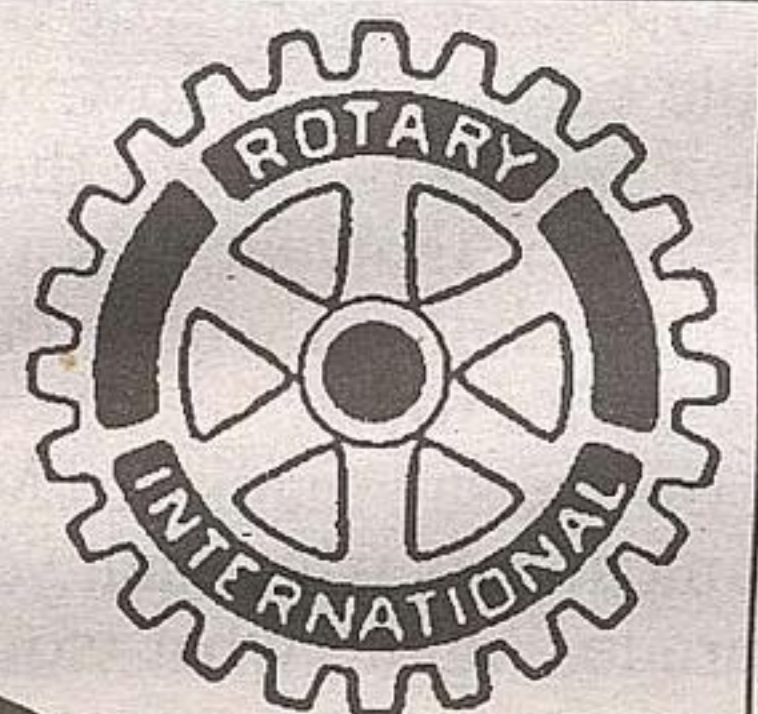
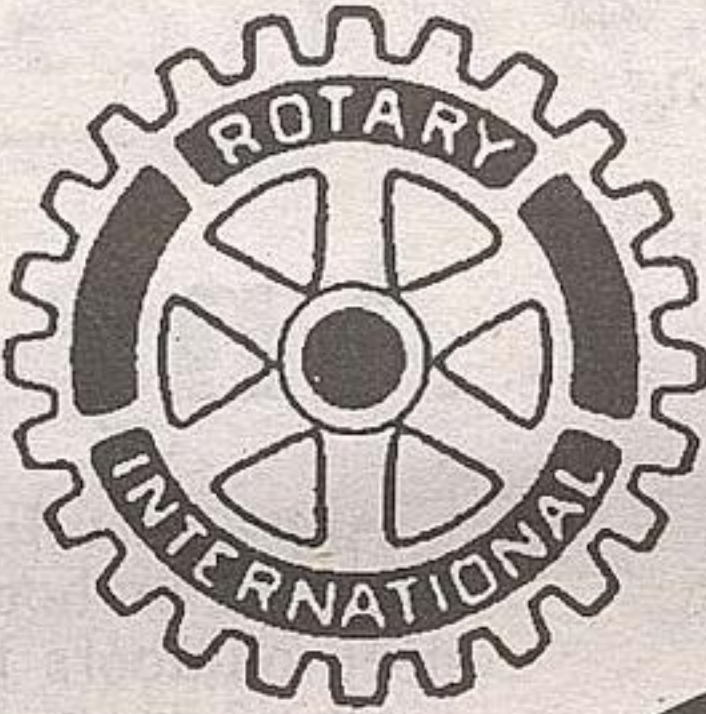
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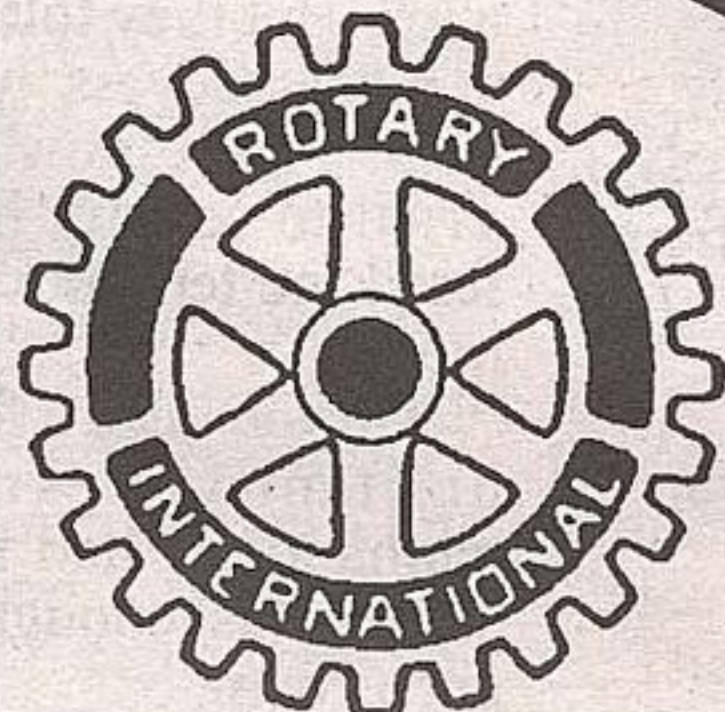
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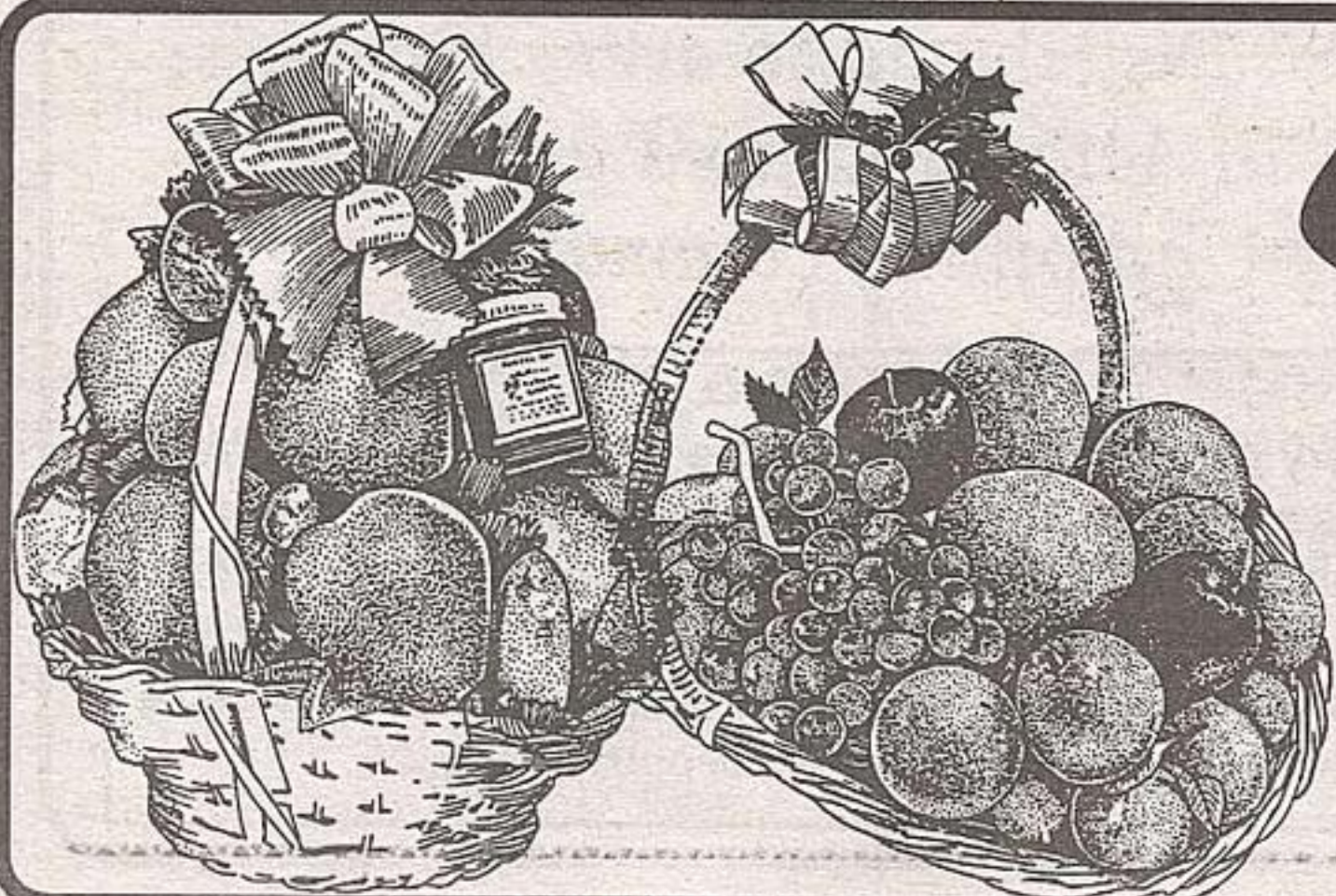
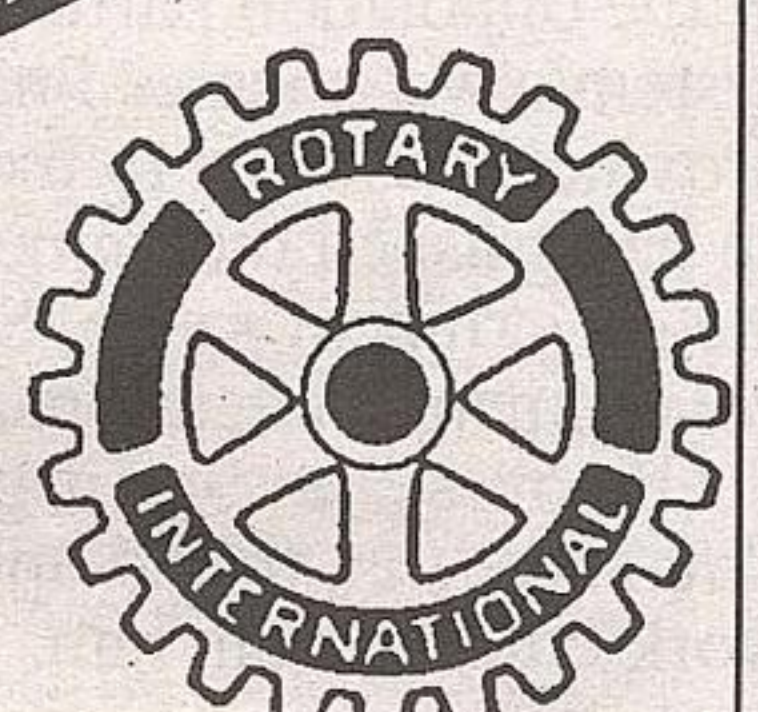


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