

# Shepard optimistic about Acton arena grants

By LISA TALLYN  
Staff writer

The provincial grant program intended to help fund the new Acton Community Centre is on hold, but the town's director of Recreation and Parks is still optimistic grant money can be obtained.

At the committee meeting Monday night Tom Shepard, director of Recreation and Parks, said newly elected MP for Halton North, Ted Chudleigh, recently confirmed the jobsOntario Community Action (jOCA) funding is on hold for now.

It was hoped jOCA would cover up to one-third of the cost of the new community centre, about \$1.2 million.

"He said monies for that project (the

arena) are still in place," said Shepard. He added Chudleigh was quite positive there is still going to be a capital projects program.

Tuesday Chudleigh confirmed he understands "capital budget for community infrastructure is in place and will remain so."

"jobsOntario will be canceled and probably renamed. I told Mr. Shepard they should probably apply for it (grant money) as quickly as possible," said Chudleigh, who officially takes office Monday.

Councillor Norm Elliott said he wanted to ensure there was no delay in the completion of the project.

Shepard said a recent meeting with Acton East developers went well and another meeting where the developers will discuss their plans and time frames is set for mid-July.

Director of Planning Bruce MacLean added he is not aware of any problems regarding developer participation in funding improvements required at the sewage treatment plant.

Shepard said his department is not prepared to suggest there will be a change in the proposed timetable for the arena with a grand opening target date of August '97.

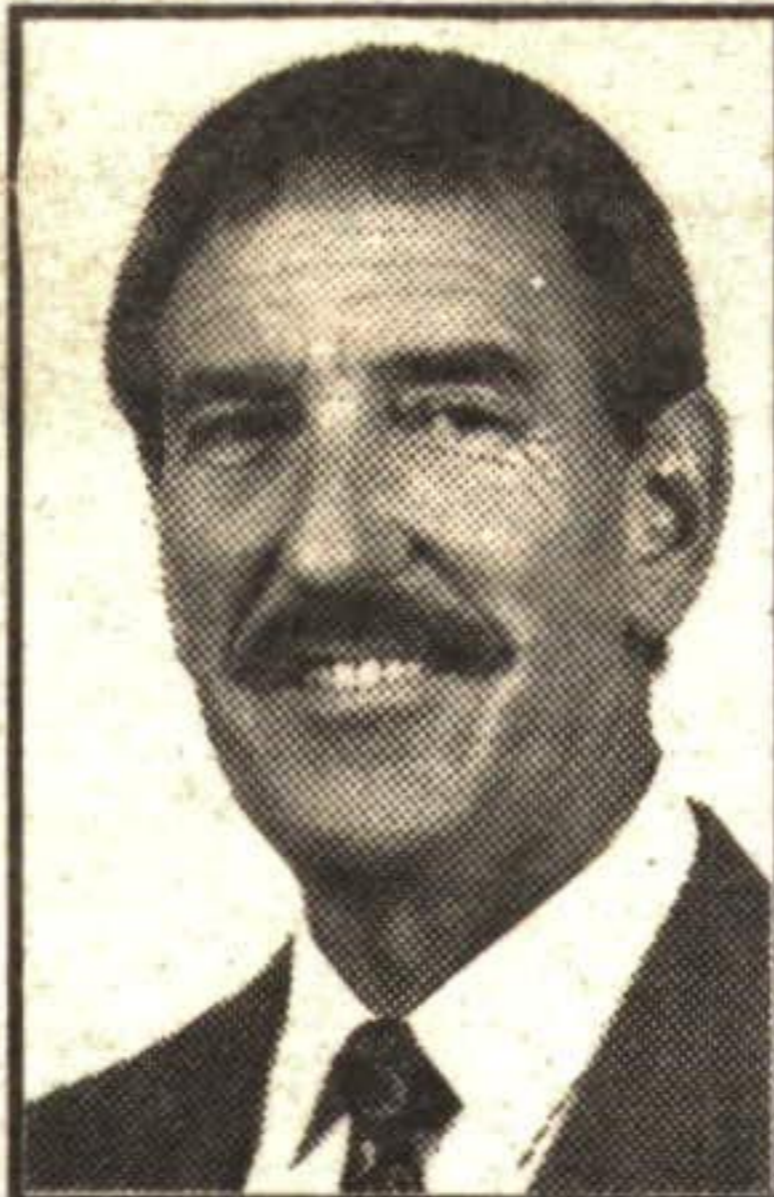
Councillor Rick Bonnette asked if town

staff had a Plan B in case grant money wasn't available.

Town treasurer Andy Koopmans said staff is not yet looking at other funding sources but increased debenture financing or fundraising could be considered. Shepard said the project could be "revisited" (a second look for possible revisions) in an effort to cut costs.

Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson asked if the community centre could be built before the rest of Acton east and the services are in place.

Shepard said wells on the site would not meet fire suppression guidelines and the tile bed required for a septic system would be so big it would eliminate much of the parking.



TOM SHEPARD

HALTON HILLS

# WEEKEND

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## News

### Digest

#### Four injured

Three girls, ages 8, 9, and 12, and the 19-year-old driver of a station wagon were treated and released from Georgetown Hospital following a collision on June 16 at Maple Ave. and Main St. in Georgetown, police said.

A station wagon collided with a 1987 Nissan driven by a 21-year-old male driver. The station wagon driver was charged with a making an unsafe turn.

#### Award of distinction

Mary-Lou Brock of Georgetown has been awarded a five-year award of distinction for her volunteer work with the Guelph Chamber Music Society.

The Volunteer Service Award was among 134 awarded to Guelph area volunteers in May, by the Ministry of Citizenship and Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation.

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## Health and safety lesson



Laura Casey, 10 of St. Francis of Assisi School wasn't really in need of an operating table or registered nurse Cora Benito, but she and her friends learned about operating rooms and other health and safety related services as students from both Park School and St. Francis took part in a seminar at Georgetown and District

Memorial Hospital on Tuesday. The kids enjoyed hands-on exercises, which included displays from the x-ray, speech therapy, physiotherapy departments and the emergency services like fire, police and ambulance.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

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