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News

Digest

It's official!

Councillors unanimously approved Kathy Gastle as the new Ward 2 representative at the regional council table; she had garnered the most votes in the Ward 2 race in last municipal election. Local Ward 2 councillor Rob Heaton had left the meeting early and didn't vote. He didn't support the changes at the last council meeting, Oct. 30.

At the same time Kevin Kuiack, who placed third in the ward's local race last November, will take Gastle's spot on council. Kuiack attended the meeting, but sat in the public area since his appointment was not made official until the end of the meeting.

Cookbook inside

Look inside today's Halton Hills Weekend for a special 16-page Holiday Recipe Cookbook. It's full of ideas for the holiday season.

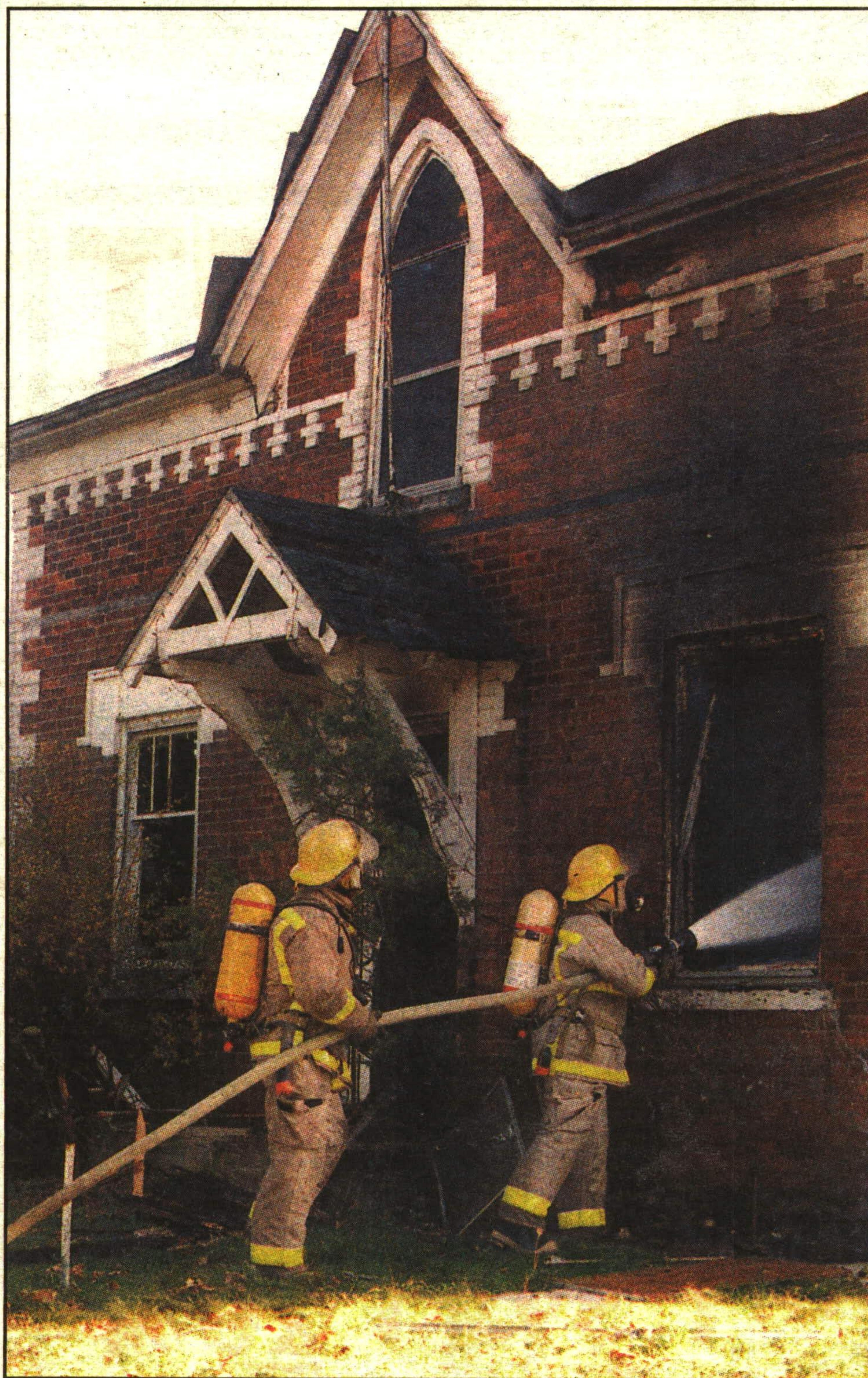


Acton arena update

A full report on the status of the Acton arena will be presented to council on Nov. 20. The funding program for the project was cancelled by Premier Mike Harris and his government. A meeting between town staff, Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson, the region and developers for the site in Acton east will take place Tuesday, Nov. 14. Recreation and Parks director Tom Shepard said he will know the status of the arena better after this meeting.

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Flaming farmhouse

Firefighters arrived at an old farmhouse on Tenth Sideroad Wednesday morning, to find it already engulfed in flames. The house, worth an estimated \$50,000, was destroyed. For details see story on page 2.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Raises being reconsidered

Halton Catholic school board superintendents will have to wait until April for their raises — maybe.

A special board meeting will be held Monday evening where a motion to rescind approval for the controversial raises for five superintendents is expected to be introduced.

After talking with their lawyers Wednesday, the school board decided to reconsider last week's decision.

At an in-camera (private) session last week, the board approved increases ranging from \$4,200-\$8,200 per year for five superintendents. They currently earn between \$82,641 and \$99,788 per year.

But according to board chair Alice Anne LeMay, the raises were approved subject to provisions of the social contract.

On Thursday, she said, "While the raises are not illegal, they are contrary to what our own local social contract states."

Instead, the board will reconsider the issue in spring after the social contract expires on April 1, 1996.

The raises were first brought to light by Milton trustee Joe Deoni, who voted against the increases.

Deoni was so incensed he bought a newspaper ad to inform the public about the in-camera decision. The Milton trustee said he received 63 phone calls of support from across Halton "They're totally upset with what was going on."

The raises were also criticized by Halton Roman Catholic Secondary School Teacher union president Meco Poliziani, president of the Halton Secondary Unit of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association. "If they have the right to raises, so do the teachers," said Meco Poliziani.

In defense of the increase LeMay said the superintendents involved have gone nearly five years without an increase — two voluntarily and three more under the social contract. "They're below some high school principals in salary," she said. "We're trying to put them where they belong according to the salary structure." LeMay said a consultants report conducted three years ago showed the salaries of the Halton superintendents were lower than their counterparts in other regions.

Deoni, who said the raise was approved by a 7-5 vote, said he considers the in-camera discussions private. But once it's approved it's public, he said. "Why cover it up?"

LeMay said the board does not give results of in-camera decisions, but the public can ask questions afterwards.

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