



Several dozen Acton residents attended Monday night's Halton Hills council meeting to show their support for keeping the old Acton Arena from being demolished. However, council voted 6-5 to tear the old arena down.

Photo by Ted Brown

## Council vote spells end for Acton Arena

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public's safety and to be fiscally responsible were developed simply to push the town's agenda.

Varanelli once again requested the building be turned over to the AAS for use as a non-profit community centre, along with the \$137,000 budgeted for demolition.

Varanelli said the AAS preferred the older arena to the possibility of a new shed-like structure that could be built to replace it. The restoration of the old arena would bring better value, he said, adding he was confident that the \$300,000 needed to be raised in the community for its restoration could be achieved.

Elliott was willing to give the group that chance.

"Let's not picture the worst-case scenario (roof collapse and people getting killed)," he urged his fellow councillors. He said the group should be given time to establish whether money can be raised in the community. "If they aren't given the chance, nobody will

ever know."

"All we're asking is that the town put up \$10,000 (for fencing the building) and that may have the potential of getting a facility in town worth well over half a million dollars. That's not a bad gamble and I'm willing to take that gamble," said Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette.

Councillor Jane Fogal, in opposing the deferral bid, said the Acton groups did not present a convincing business plan while Councillor Kevin Kuiack suggested the building's restoration may eventually take revenues away from the newer \$5.4 million Acton Arena.

Demolition of the old arena will likely begin before the end of the year, said Paul Stover, manager of facilities. Currently the elimination of hazardous substances in the building is being dealt with. Demolition will not start before the Acton Santa Claus Parade on Nov. 21 which is using the parking lot as its endpoint, he said.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

Demolition of the old Acton Arena will likely begin before the end of the year said town manager of facilities Paul Stover.



## Fright night approaches

Halloween is just around the corner and Kaitlynn McNiven, 7, and her brother Jesse 3, have been keeping tabs on the scary characters around their parents' place on Trafalgar Road, south of Regional Road 43, where they've been selling pumpkins and hosting a corn maze behind their home.

Photo by Ted Brown

## What You Said

'What are you going out trick or treating as this Halloween and why did you pick that costume (asked at Harrison Public School)?'



Chelsea Vaters, Grade 2

"Dorothy from the movie *The Wizard of Oz*. I chose to be her because she looked the best. I liked her dress and her little dog."



Lindsay Jefferies, Grade 2

"An angel. I like angels a lot. I like their wings."



Brian Smith, Grade 5

"I'm going as the murderer from the movie *Scream*, because I like action movies and scary movies. I hope to scare a lot of people with my costume."



Tristen McCausland, Grade 4

"I'm going as a vampire, because I like vampires a lot. I like them because they can turn into bats. And I like their fangs."



Corey Deschamps, Grade 3

"An alien, because they can glow in the dark. My costume is purple and it has a hood. I hope I'll scare a lot of people with my costume."

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