

# Town hopes to raise \$2 million privately for new facilities

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The town plans to keep both the Acton and Georgetown indoor pools in service, and the operating costs of both the Georgetown indoor pool and the new aquatic centre will put the town in the red by about \$181,500 over five years.

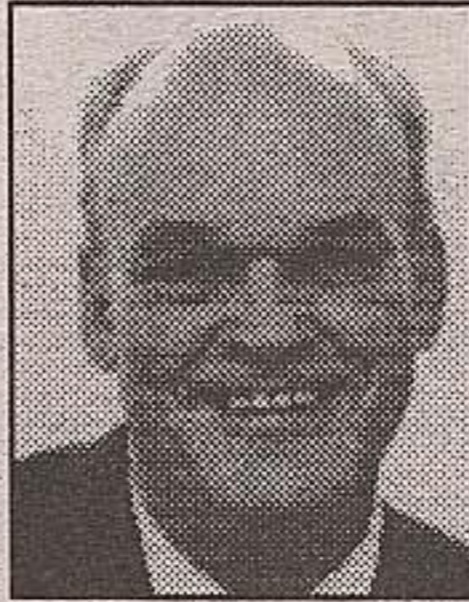
The combined operating loss of the pools and the costs associated with the tax-supported debt (\$1.8 million) will add up to an extra \$24 on homeowners' tax bills over the next three years. DeSousa said his figures

did not take into consideration future assessment growth, and it's possible the \$24 could be lowered.

Many of these numbers are also dependent on the fundraising component—the town hopes to raise \$2 million in the community to help pay for these facilities. If that amount is not raised, the facilities will be downgraded.

"I feel quite confident this goal is something we could get to," said Councillor Jane Fogal, chair of the recreational facility strategy committee.

However, Councillor Ron Chatten asked whether a portion of the town's 1998 budget surplus—\$1.5 million—can be spent on the new recreational facilities. DeSousa, who pointed out there are many other capital projects requiring town money, said that would have to be a council decision.



RON CHATTEN

The indoor recreational cen-

tre will be 33,750 sq. ft. and includes a 25 metre six-lane pool with an additional free-form play pool and a multi-purpose space. This \$6.3 million facility will be located in the Georgetown South Community Park. This location was chosen to make a civic presence felt in the Georgetown South area and to balance the locations of recreational facilities across the town, said Paul Stover, manager of facilities. He added the town, which is expected to grow to about 70,000 people—

the majority under the age of nine—will see most of that growth in Georgetown South.

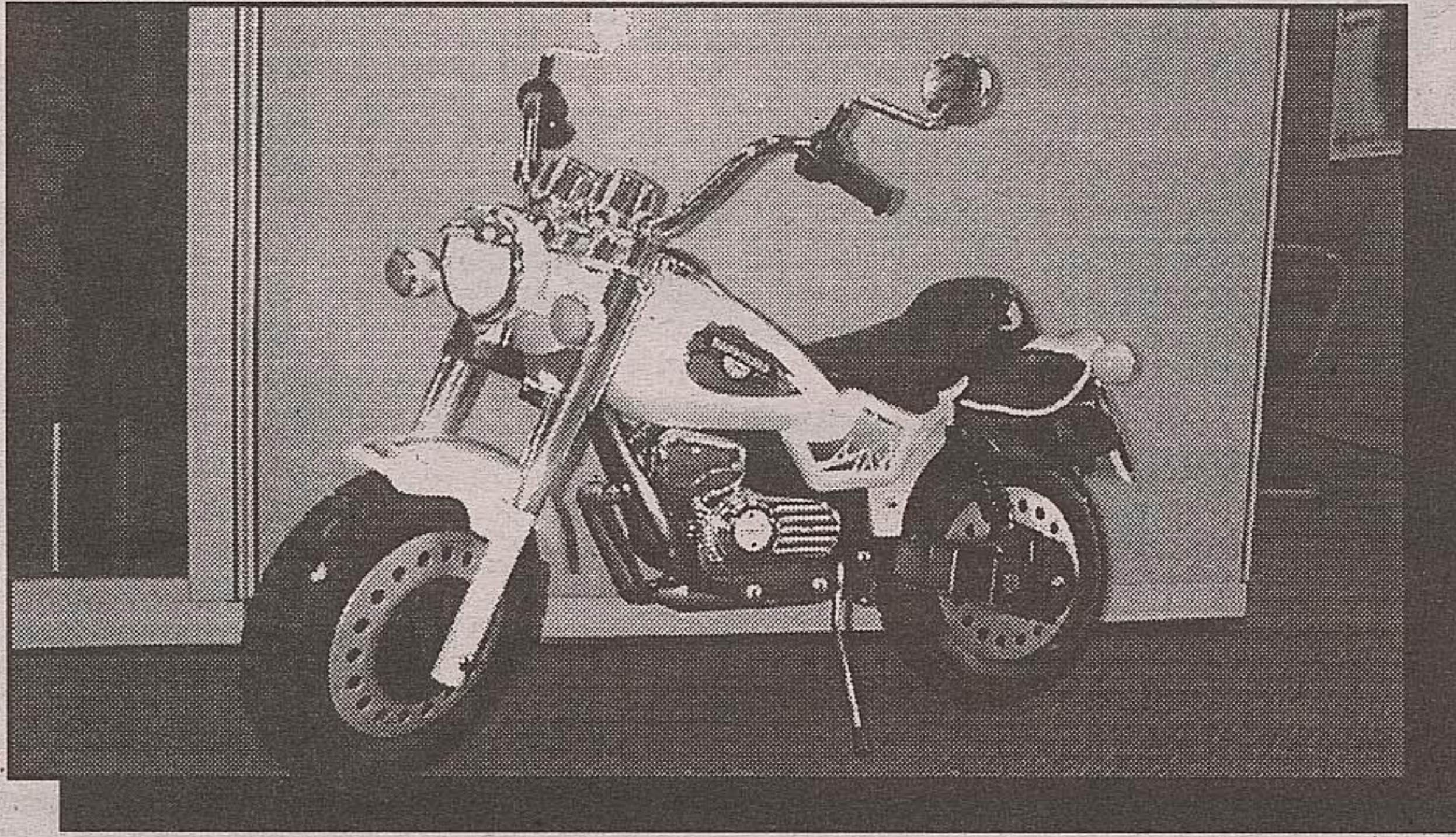
The arena, which will cost \$3.7 million, will include improvements to the existing arena including a new lobby.

If the go-ahead is given at Monday's meeting, the arena is expected to be officially opened by April 2001 and the indoor recreational facility by May 2001. Any delay, said Stover, could force the costs up higher.

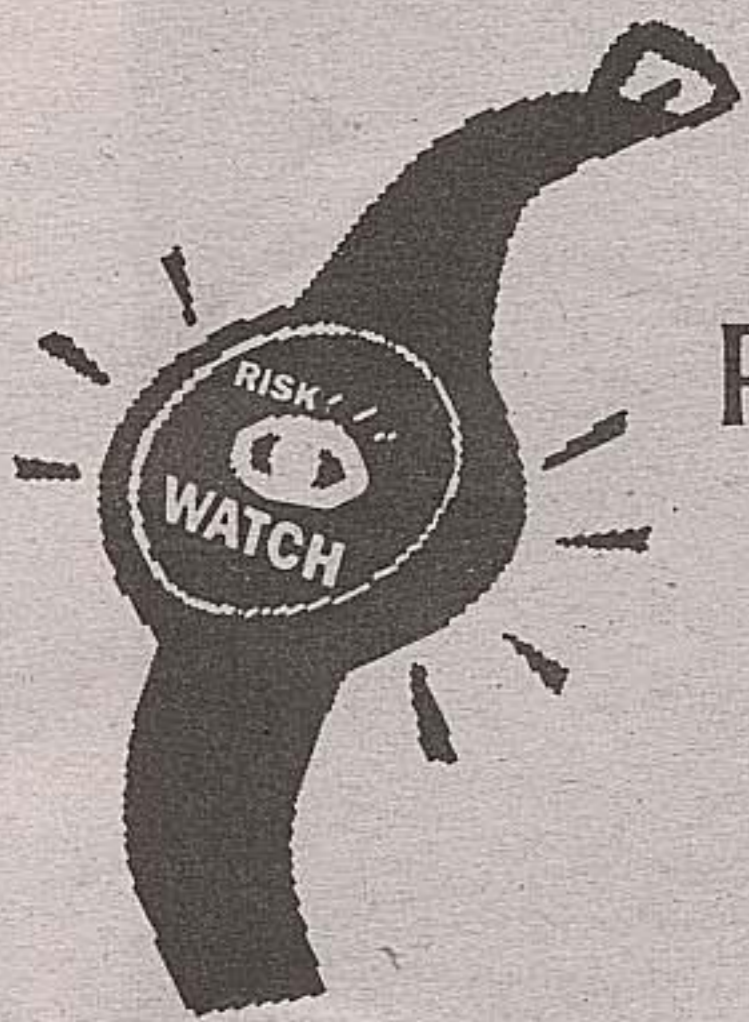
—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

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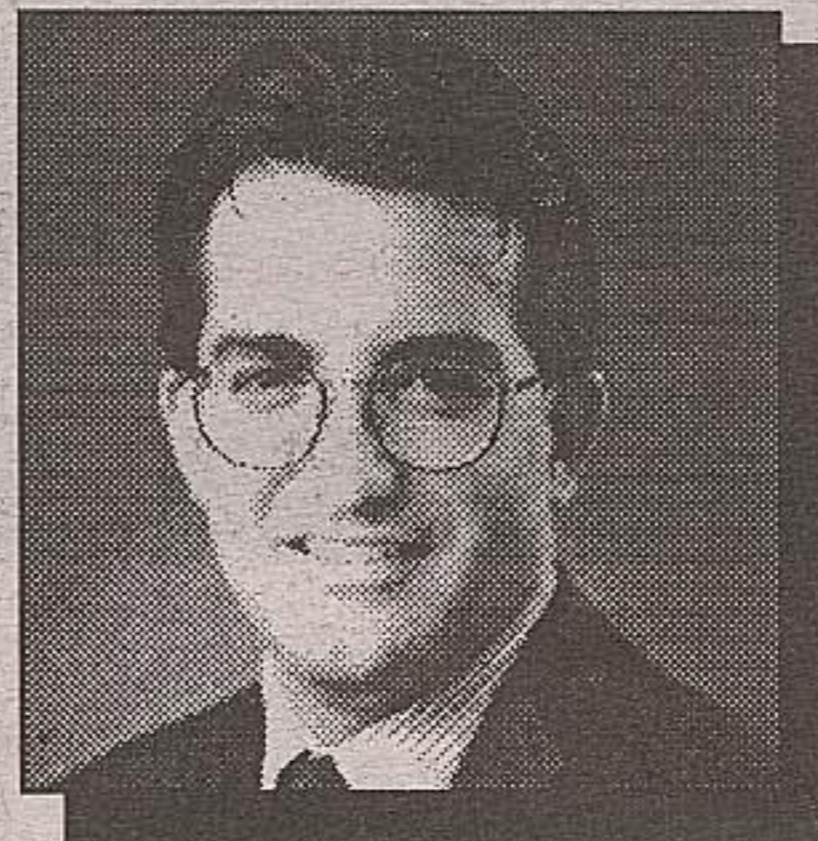
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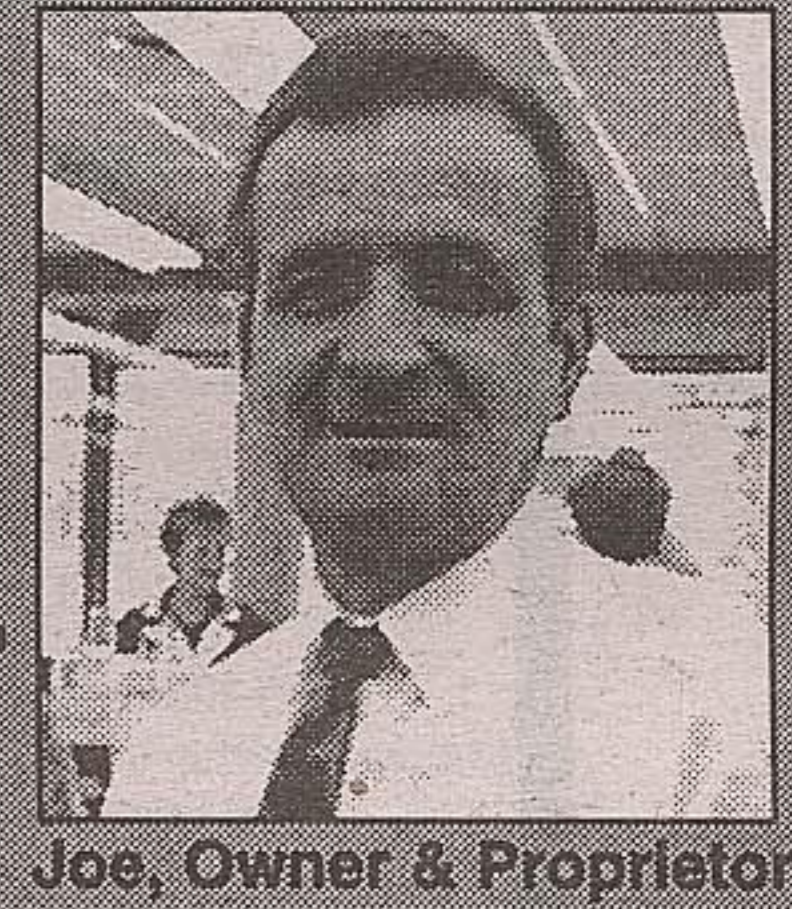
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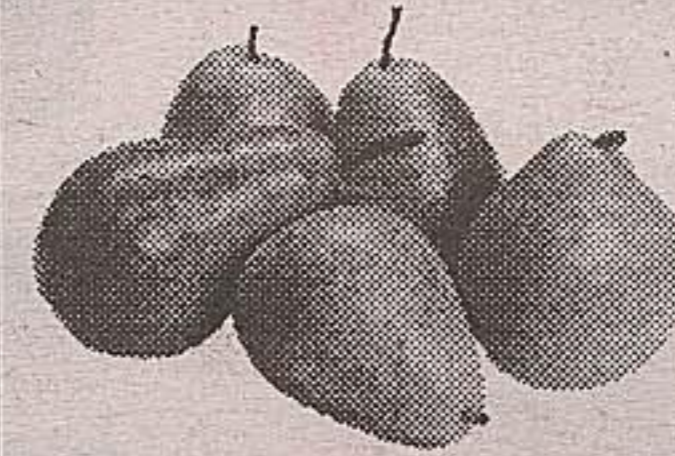
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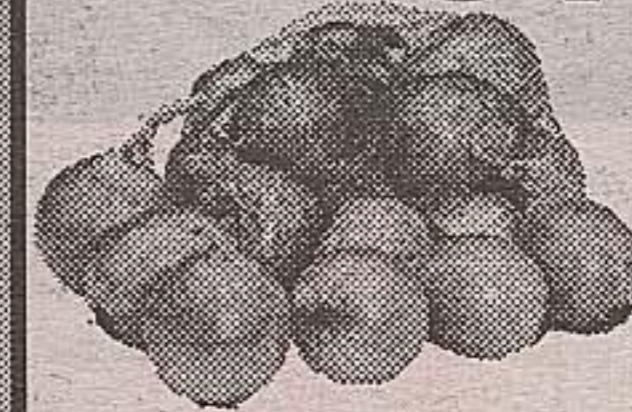


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