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Blanketing Canada

Diane Crawford of Georgetown Yarns and Crafts displays some of the squares and
mittens that are being created
for the Let's Blanket Canada
and the Mitten Christmas Tree
program in which volunteers
knit squares or mittens to be
donated to needy families in
north Halton. Last year volunteers gave out a total of 150
pairs of mittens, hats and
scarves. For more information
how you can help, contact
Crawford at 877-1521.

Photo by Ted Brown



Arena parking won't pose problems

Tack of parking is not expected to be a major issue when a second ice pad is added at Alcott Arena.

There's already capacity for 265 regular spaces and four handicapped spots, and during the first phase of construction another 50 spots will be added, says Recreation and Parks director Bryan Shynal. There will be some adjustments to the traffic circulation pattern with respect to the entrances/exits and the addition of a traffic island.

Shynal says since the Alcott Arena property is zoned industrial and that zoning doesn't provide any parking requirements, the town had to use practical rationale when deciding how much parking will be needed.

"We think that we are managing the issue in design, expansion and programming the facilities so that parking won't be a problem either to our own users or to properties around us," he said.

Brian's Food Basic owner Brian Bahn says while there's always spaces available in his lot, it does become crowded when there's major events such as Raiders games or tournaments going on at the arena. Initially he was worried additional parking wouldn't be added in the first phase, and voiced that concern to the mayor and town staff. However, he wonders whether the additional 50 will be enough. If the town doubles the ice surface, would that not double the number of people, he asked.

He pointed out while there may be 265 spaces now, the lot is unlined and with drivers' parking habits that often translates into

only about 200 spaces.

A few customers of the adjacent TD Bank Financial Group have also voiced concerns about the parking problems and the potential for more with an arena addition, said its manager Bryan Rothery.

But, for the most part, he said there's not often a conflict of timing between customer parking and arena overflow needs and he doesn't anticipate it will become an issue.

Georgetown Marketplace manager Herminia Henderson agrees it's not a current concern as most major events at the arena are held after mall hours, and the mall has no objection to people parking in mall lot at that time.

Staff have completed a conceptual design for phase two which will add another 112 spaces. There are other options in phase two to create even more parking if required. One would include relocating the tennis courts—"but that's not on our plate at the moment."

Phase two, however, has not yet been slotted into the town's 10-year capital forecast, and needs to be approved by council.

How soon the new ice pad will be built will be the subject of a special council meeting tomorrow night (Thursday). Town council will vote whether to accept the final tenders to award the arena contract to begin building phase one this month— or to toss the tenders and re-tender the project early next year. If the project is delayed until the spring, the 2001 ice season will be lost.

—By Cynthia Gamlbe, staff writer



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ON NOVEMBER 13 2000

VOTE (3)

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