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A step in the right direction

Four-year-old Emma English still needs a little help to walk but her mother, Helen, is looking forward to the day the youngster can walk on her own. Helen was told Emma, who has cerebral palsy, would never walk but a visit to The Ability Camp in Picton has Emma up and walking with parallel bars. Boreland's School of Karate is holding a kick-fit-a-thon Nov. 18 to raise money to send Emma back to the camp. See story page 5.

Photo by Ted Brown



New arena is a go ...but for a price

Construction of a second ice pad at Gordon Alcott Arena should begin in 10 days.

At a special council meeting last night (Thursday), Halton Hills council gave the go-ahead for the \$5.8 million project—\$1.8 million more than originally approved last March.

This additional cost will translate into additional 1.2 per cent tax increase—about \$9 for the average home (assessed at \$185,000).

It's hoped that with an immediate start, the ice pad may be completed in time for the 2001-2002 ice season. However, the contractor warns the schedule is tight, and is contingent on receiving pre-engineered structural steel components by March.

While the original Alcott Arena will continue as the "main event" venue, the new ice rink will include 300-seat seating in the

rink area and in a heated viewing area. It will also include an increased lobby area and a mezzanine area (to be left unfinished at this time) and an elevator.

Council was shocked two weeks ago when tenders were opened and the \$4 million price tag approved last March jumped to \$6.2 million. Council ordered the arena team to look for reductions—approximately \$300,000 was found—and to have the four bidders revise their tenders.

A list of 40 items were identified as possible reduction items—but that was whittled to a final list of 22. They include: confirmation of donated materials and equipment; change in roofing and cladding system specifications; revision to the refrigeration sub-trade specifications; change in materials for some areas of the interior; deletion of some renovation work to the existing arena

See ALCOTT, pg. 3

Hospital lottery makes Norval man an instant millionaire

Steven Boisclair's cousin offered a pretty convincing argument to buy a \$100 lottery ticket. His reasoning never included that it could make Boisclair a millionaire.

"My aunt (the cousin's mother) died from cancer," Boisclair explained Thursday, a day after winning the one of three million dollar prizes in the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation Lottery.

"He said it's a good cause, the

odds are good and what's \$100 to you?"

The 43-year-old Norval resident handed over his \$100 thinking that if he won a \$200 prize he'd be more than breaking even. Instead he got 10,000 times his investment.

"It's pretty numbing," he said of the moment he heard the news.

Boisclair, who refused media requests to have his photo taken, was at work when his cousin,

who was watching the draw live on CityTV's Breakfast Television, called to tell him. Boisclair took Thursday off from the Toronto engineering company where he works.

"I was so useless (Wednesday), I told my boss I didn't think I was going to be any better today (Thursday). They were pretty understanding."

But Boisclair has no plans of retiring just yet.

"I'm planning on moving my

retirement up from 60 to 50 but I work with a great bunch of people and I enjoy what I do, so why not keep working?"

Boisclair has no immediate plans for his windfall.

"On advice from someone who won 6/49, I've locked it in so that it's not even a consideration," Boisclair said. "They said don't do anything hasty and I listened," he said.

And although he said the jackpot was not as big as those

in Lotto 6/49 or Super Seven, it does secure his future and gives him some money to help his parents.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

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