

# Local rinks can't handle demand Committee to review need for ice time

Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department will set up a committee of arena users to review the need for ice time.

Council gave the approval for the new committee at last week's council meeting. Councillor Bryan Lewis and Bob Inglis will be sitting on the committee, which is expected to meet for the first time next month.

The need for the review became clear last fall when Georgetown Minor Hockey Association was unable to garner ice time for about 140 youths who

wanted to play hockey here—they were referred to out-of-town organizations instead. With the release of water to allow more housing this year, this shortfall will only grow in the ensuing years.

Halton Hills has three arenas: Acton Arena—a rink and leisure pad, Memorial Arena—which is over 80 years old—and the two-pad Mold-Masters SportsPlex.

Prior to the opening of the second rink at Mold-Masters SportsPlex, the per capita ratio for arena was 1:15,493. With the opening in 2001 that dropped to

1:12,046 but just three later in 2004 with a population of 54,800, it climbed to 1:13,700.

By the time 2011 rolls around the ratio is expected to be back up to 1:15,000.

The committee's agenda would be to review the existing ice time conditions, projecting need based on ice activity and age group, exploring ice "optimization" strategies and looking at other options such as private ventures or a joint public/private venture.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

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