



**FIRST INSPECTION:** Korean War veteran Dave Crook was the inspecting officer for the first official inspection of the Acton Sea Cadets at Branch 197 of the Royal Canadian Legion recently. - Submitted photo

# Teen dance marred by fights

By Frances Niblock

Fist fights among young boys abruptly ended the Kinetette's teen dance at the Acton arena/community centre on Friday night as organizers were forced to turn up the lights and turn off the sound at 10:30, 30 minutes before the scheduled end of the popular dance that drew approximately 300 kids.

"There were three small fights, like boom, boom, boom in a row, so we just decided to shut it down, turn on the lights and tell the kids to cool, put on their coats and wait for their parents to come at 11 o'clock," Kinetette Club of Acton president Paula Paul said on Sunday.

Paul said fights are not common, although "there are usually arguments and girls crying because their boyfriend broke up with them," but this is the first time they've been forced to end the dance early. Paul doesn't know what they can do to prevent future fights, adding if the kids don't fight in the hall, they fight right outside in the parking lot.

"There is nothing we can do to prevent the fights, but we can stop them as soon as they start, and we don't allow kids to take backpacks, purses or coats into the dance," Paul said.

Paul said one boy who had fought, left the dance, and another was made to sit and calm down until one of his parents arrived to take him home.

She said they ensured that volunteers, parents of TDI (The Dance Inn) students who helped run the event in exchange for a portion of the proceeds, went out into the arena to keep an eye on



**UNSAFE CROWD:** An off-duty Halton Hills firefighter said this crowd of teens, waiting to get into the Kinetette's dance on Friday at Acton arena, was unsafe, and that arena staff had received a letter in the past cautioning against allowing too many people in the hallway. - Frances Niblock photo

the kids who didn't stay in the hall.

Because of the cold weather, the kids were allowed to line up in the arena before the dance doors opened, and some unruly kids pushed and shoved each other and bounced off glass fronts of trophy cases and blocked the way to the leisure pad - a crowd control problem that had been raised by the fire department after an earlier

Kinetette dance.

Facility supervisor Al Hay said he was at the arena at 7 p.m., and the Kinetettes were doing a "pretty good job" of keeping the pathway open so people could get back and forth.

"Was there free flow? No, there wasn't, but it wasn't worse than when we've had major events on the ice," Hay said on Monday, adding he'll talk to the Kinetettes about

increasing their visibility, and having more volunteers to help with crowd control, to "keep things as safe as we can."

## False alarm?

Acton firefighters could not determine why a carbon monoxide detector sounded at 3:21 last Tuesday afternoon at a Division Street residence.

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# Theatre in Acton

## Meeting

### Monday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m.

**Acton Town Hall Centre,  
19 Willow Street North**

For anyone interested in joining Acton Old Town Hall Dinner Theatre

To become involved with:  
Acting, directing, set design and/or construction, set painting, costumes, makeup, props, publicity, ticket sales, greeting/ushering, etc., etc. etc.

## Experience is not necessary!

If you can't make this meeting, please leave a message for Mark at 853-2711 or Kathy at 853-0784

Have fun and experience the satisfaction of contributing to our town.

It's that time of year again!

## Citizen of the Year Nominations

The Acton Rotary Club is seeking nominations for Acton's Citizen of the Year

Nominations with a supporting explanation to be mailed to:  
Citizen of the Year, c/o Acton Rotary Club  
Box 22, Acton, L7J 2M3  
Deadline: March 17, 2007

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