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# Ice shortage solution?

At first blush, many members of the Halton Hills ice users group are interested in hearing more about a so-called non-conventional arena to provide more badly needed ice time. The group – the Georgetown and Acton Figure Skating Clubs, the Acton House League Hockey Association, the Tanner rep league hockey, Georgetown Raiders and the Twisters women's hockey league – were briefed on a new option – the non-conventional arena – at a recent meeting.

An Alberta firm, Sprung Instant Structure Ltd., uses an aluminum frame construction that is covered with a multi-layer architectural membrane. A regular twin-pad arena, proposed for the Mold-Masters SportsPlex, could cost \$16.2-million, and the cost of the Sprung building is approximately \$10-million. The proposed twin-pad would replace the aging Memorial Arena and help with the growing need for more ice time.

"It is an interesting idea and worth taking a further look at," said ice user group member Dave Eagan, representing the Acton Tanners rep league.

"The good thing I like is that the Town approached us – they wanted our feedback before they invested any significant time looking at this (option). The Tanners and other groups have been pushing hard to have this partnership approach, so I actually thought that the whole meeting was very positive that way – the fact that we are sitting there debating merits of a building solution," Eagan said.

A recent report to Council said the potential \$6-million in savings from a non-conventional building could be used to twin the Acton arena with a non-conventional building.

Paul Stover, the Town's Manager of Facilities said they are planning a trip for some councillors and ice user group members to see one of the Sprung non-conventional

arenas at a private school outside Calgary.

"We haven't heard hardly anything negative about this technology and it would be more economical and faster to go this route," Stover said on Friday, adding the Sprung facilities have been used as car plants in Brampton, as a casino in North Ontario and as club houses at sports centres.

"We know we don't need another major event facility – we need ice pads – and this (option) would get us where we need to be sooner," Stover said, noting that a 2007 strategic report found that the Town was short 1.5 arenas at that point, and needs seven arenas by 2016. He said with the decision to wind down the Memorial arena, they would be at a deficit of three arenas.

Stover said following the trip to see the Sprung facility out west, they would try to nail down costs to see if the non-conventional facility is the way to go in Halton Hills.

## Telecommunicators honoured

For the past several years, Public Safety Agencies nationwide have recognized the pivotal role that Communications staff fill as "First - First Responders" to police, fire, and ambulance personnel. These individuals work around the clock, all year long, to support these emergency service workers in the field and help keep the public safe.

The Halton Regional Police Service is again recognizing these Telecommunication Specialists during National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week which runs until April 17.

The dedicated members of the Halton Regional Police Communications Centre answer thousands of calls from the public within the Region of Halton for police, fire, and ambulance. They enter calls to be dispatched for Police and transfer Fire and Ambulance calls when required. In 2009, the Communications Bureau received 342,527 calls. Emergency 9-1-1 calls accounted for 102,695 with the vast majority of calls requiring police involvement.

We would like to invite the media for a behind the scene look at what the role of the "First - First Responder" Communicator entails. There will be an opportunity to speak with a staff member who will be available to answer questions, as well as provide a tour of both our Communication Centre and our Mobile Command Unit which is utilized at Critical Incident Calls and Community Events.

### Acton man charged

A 41-year-old Acton man involved in a two-vehicle accident that seriously injured a four-year-old girl on March 15 in Oakville has been charged with careless driving.

Police report that the driver of a Honda, heading south on Trafalgar Road at Britannia Road, experienced mechanical difficulties and attempted to pull off to the side, but the car partially blocked the lane.

A commercial van driven by the Acton man was unable to avoid the car and ran into the trunk, injuring the girl who was airlifted to a Toronto Hospital where she is recovering from non-life threatening injuries.

Police are still looking for witnesses who are asked to call 905-825-4747, ext.



2359, or call Crime Stopper at 1-800-222-8477.

### Prohibited knives found

A 23-year-old Acton man was charged with two counts of possession of a prohibited weapon after police stopped a car on Queen Street at 2:30 a.m. last Thursday and found two flick knives in the vehicle.

### Van stolen

A 2002 red Dodge Caravan valued at \$8,000 was stolen from the driveway at a Poplar Avenue residence early Tuesday morning. The van's licence plate is BCEX 360.

### Cars damaged

Vandals damaged two cars over the weekend in

Acton. A car parked on Queen Street had the paint scratched on both sides, while another car parked on Peel Street was also scratched and police said it appeared someone attempted to break into it. No damage estimates were released.

### Grass fire

Acton firefighters extinguished a small grass fire in the Fourth Line – 32 Side Road area at 12:37 on Sunday. No other details were released.

### False alarm

A low battery is blamed for a CO alarm activation at a Wynford Place residence at 8:33 a.m. on Friday.

### Accident help

Acton firefighters disabled the electrical system of one of three cars involved in a collision at Highway 25 and 15 Side Road at 4:26 last Thursday afternoon. No other details were released.

### Fire starter

A male was seen setting fire to a pile of rubble under the bridge leading from Maria Street to Crescent Street at 6:21 last Wednesday night. When Acton firefighters arrived, they found a smouldering pile of rubbish. They interviewed several youth in the area who reported seeing the male set the fire and then leave when approached an area resident.

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