

'Stepping stone' to arena completion in place, says councillor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Even if we had a facility today without any structural concerns, recognizing our budget today, we'd still have to give consideration to the strains on ice time," he said.

Scheduling problems have forced the Essex Minor Hockey Association to rent ice from an arena in Leamington to accommo-

date the EMHA's 500 players.

"Now that we've got the provincial funding, I don't know what the stumbling block is," Voakes said. "Collectively as a council, we should commit and move forward."

Voakes said fundraising will be stimulated if residents and corporations are told that council is behind

the project "100 per cent."

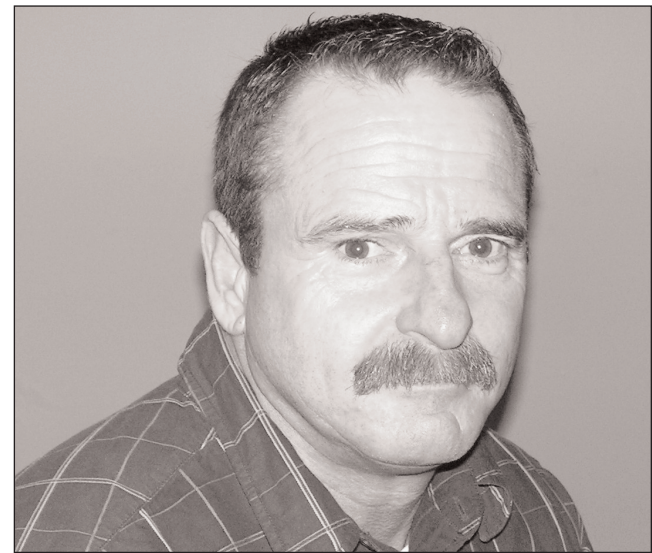
The \$2.5 million provincial commitment came as the result of an increase in rural infrastructure grants announced March 23 upon the release of the 2007 budget.

Mayor Ron McDermott received a phone call from Essex MPP Bruce Crozier prior to the announcement telling him to "put the

cheque in the bank."

"We were praying for it and we got it," McDermott said. "It'll be used for building a twin pad arena or a single pad at least."

The Arena Steering Committee met with architects Rounthwaite, Dick and Hadley this week and are expecting to receive a cost analysis for the project in the near future.



Essex Ward 1 Coun. Randy Voakes

The 411 on 211

Following the approval in February by Essex County Council, Windsor City Council has voted to support 211 service for residents.

The 211 service is a three-digit phone number providing free, confidential, multilingual access to information about the full range of community, social, health and government services.

Just as 911 means access to emergency services, 211 is the pathway to these non-emergency human services. All 211 calls are answered by live operators who are certified information specialists. They will assess each caller's needs and link them to the best services and programs, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A version of the comprehen-

sive, continually updated 211 database will also be available on the Internet.

Windsor City Council has not only agreed to help fund 211 service but also to provide the service through its 311 call centre.

Sheila Wisdom, Executive Director of the United Way / Centraide - Windsor-Essex County, described 211 as the best possible way to connect people with the health and human services that are available to them.

She lauded both councils for their commitment to the well being of residents of the City and the County.

"City and County Councils have together taken a huge step toward building upon the assets that already exist in our community. The current economic realities have meant that many people who have never needed help before need it now. Most of these people have no idea where to find that help. 211 will

ensure that the people who need these services can easily find them."

The 211 service will be delivered by City of Windsor 311 with funding from the County of Essex, City of Windsor and United Way. United Way has always provided financial support for information and referral services. With the participation of the City of Windsor and the County of Essex, United Way funding is leveraged to create a service which will be available around the clock, every day

of the year. It is expected that 211 will begin operation in the late fall of 2007.

The service has been available to residents in Toronto since June 2002; in 2004 it started up in Edmonton; and in the spring of 2005 it was introduced in Calgary. With these three centres operating, 15 per cent of Canada's population has access to 211. In the United States, where 211 started in 1997, 137 million people (46 per cent of the population) now have 211 access.

Has Adoption Touched Your Life?

visit www.ontario.ca/adoptioninfo

If you were involved in an adoption that is registered in Ontario, you should know that access to identifying information for adopted adults and birth parents is changing.

Changes to adoption information laws in Ontario will allow most adopted adults and birth parents to receive identifying information from original birth registrations and adoption orders.

Changes also include the ability to register a no-contact notice and apply for an order prohibiting the disclosure of identifying information in order to prevent harm.

In the past, non-identifying information may have been disclosed to adopted people or birth relatives.

To learn more about these changes and how they might affect you or someone you know, please visit www.ontario.ca/adoptioninfo.

This ad is paid for by the Government of Ontario.



K of C PICKEREL FISH DINNER

Friday, April 6th
Holy Name of Jesus Hall
Essex • 4:30-7:00 pm

Use Entrance off Fairview Parking Lot Rear Entrance TAKE OUTS AVAILABLE

\$10.00
1 pc. Fish
2nd Piece of Fish \$5.00

Children's Meal **\$7.00** (under 10)
Hot Dog, Pop & Chips \$2.50

PASTA AVAILABLE

BOB PRICE HOME INSPECTIONS LTD.
Home Consulting & Inspections

BOB PRICE
President

Experience :-
→ 9 years HVAC / Heating / Cooling / Mechanical
→ 13 years of Home Renovations
→ Past owner of Polar Insulation
→ Volunteer Firefighter

For a professional and timely inspection
www.bobpricehomeinspections.com

Courses Obtained
AHT / Canada - structure - electrical - heating and cooling - Interiors - Exteriors-plumbing-roofs-insulation/ventilation -

Trainer Facilitator
Pump Operations
WHMIS
Health and Safety Officer
Sprinkler Systems
Building Construction

650 Steven Dr., LaSalle Ont. N9J 3A6
Call (519) 999-9399 Home (519) 734-0008
robert770@sympatico.ca

STEVE WOJTALA CARPENTRY SERVICES

Specializing in Kitchens & Bathrooms and all your interior & exterior needs.

519-687-3955 • Comber, Ontario

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE!

Call 519-776-4268

The **ESSEX** FREE PRESS