

# Life expectancy of arena in question

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The facility would accommodate about 940 fans, not including space in an upper tier standing room.

The option would be the lightest burden on taxpayers, with a \$200,000 home paying about \$31 annually for 20 years based on "worst case scenario" revenue source estimates.

Ward 1 Coun. Randy

Voakes pushed for another option, a \$15 million two-pad facility that would carry an \$86 annual cost for most homeowners.

Voakes said structural studies have been performed on the arena in the past. He said, although he thought Innes' proposal "made a world of sense from a financial point of view...no engineer on the face of the earth would

deem (Memorial Arena) safe."

Innes said L.P. Meyer suggested that the aging facility "had a very long life ahead of it," and that a further detailed investigation of its condition is worth looking into before committing to one of the three designs.

The third option is to build a \$10-million single-pad arena and twin the

facility at a later date, while still operating Memorial Arena.

Mayor Ron McDermott, who cast the deciding vote to delay a final decision while a structural review is performed, admitted he was a little surprised with the costs associated with each option.

"It's a little high," he said. "But I've had a lot of people say if it's over \$100,

forget it. Well, it's \$86 at the most."

McDermott said he was hoping council would finalize its decision during the meeting but added that he felt it is important to explore all the options.

"We're doing the right thing by opening the channels," he said.

Ward 4 Coun. Peter Timmins was against all three options, saying he's

been receiving complaints from Harrow and Colchester residents about taxes and water and sewer rates already being too high.

"It'll be hard to pay for," he said. "We do not want any more debt or taxation."

Timmins suggested that only residents of Wards 1 and 2 be taxed for the new facility.

# Construction on new school to begin in June

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"As far as bus scheduling, it might make it easier for kids," she said. "It just lets them get on and off the bus with their brothers and sisters instead of two different stops. It's an advantage in a lot of ways."

The two-storey replacement school, which has yet to be named, will have 26 classrooms, including specialty rooms for art, science and music. A double gym, library and special educa-

tion classes will also be included.

A landscaped interior green space will be situated in the heart of the school, where teachers can take their lessons outside on sunny days.

"It's a state of the art building," said Beckan, elated with the design.

Director of education Mary Jean Gallagher informed the board of demolition costs for Maplewood Public School reaching about \$500,000

and that tapping into reserves for capital funds and working funds will be necessary to address a \$3-million funding shortfall.

Maplewood will stay open during construction, which is planned to begin in June.

Baseball diamonds that currently sit on the site of the new school will have to be replaced, said Dan Amicone of Architectura Inc. Architects, the firm hired to design the facility.

# Whelan receives Liberal nomination

Susan Whelan's name will once again appear on the ballot for the riding of Essex in the next federal election.

Whelan was declared the Liberal candidate during the Essex Federal Liberal Association's nomination meeting in Woodslee Friday.

After being nominated by Lakeshore Mayor Tom Bain, Whelan told supporters in her acceptance speech that she intends to "speak loudly for you in Ottawa."

Whelan also addressed

the crowd on a number of issues faced by residents of Windsor and Essex County, including the struggling automotive industry, the environment, agriculture and the local economy.

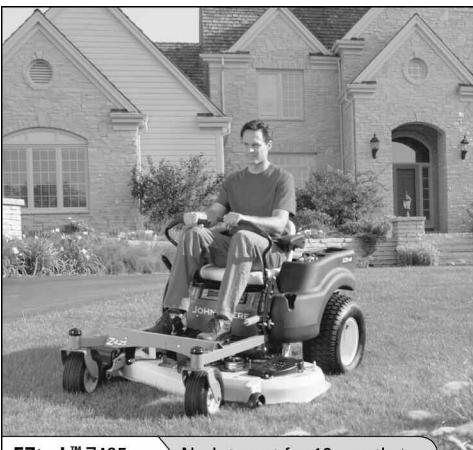
NDP candidate Taras Natyshak received his

party's nomination at a meeting held March 24.

When an election is called, Whelan and Natyshak will be vying to unseat Essex MP Jeff Watson who has yet to receive his party's nomination.



Susan Whelan celebrates following her nomination Friday as the Liberal candidate for the federal riding of Essex.



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