

# The Save Ivor Wynne Stadium Project

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Enclosed, are clippings (mostly from [The Hamilton Spectator](#)), taken from the Ivor Wynne Stadium Scrapbooks located at the [Hamilton Public Library](#). The documents within, have been extracted from the six volume collection dating from 1957, to today.

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British Empire Games at Hamilton's Civic Stadium

August 1930

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# A Few Highlights From the Ivor Wynne Stadium Scrapbook

*(pre-1970, all mention of Ivor Wynne Stadium actually refers to Civic Stadium)*

*\*Dates immediately following the bullets below, represent publication dates for the articles in the Ivor Wynne Stadium scrapbook. Articles in bold, are located within this document.*

## Vol. 1 – 1957 to 1970

- Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>, 1957 – add more seats to Ivor Wynne, or build new?
- **May 14<sup>th</sup> 1957** – should we build new 30,000 seat stadium in Kings Forest for a cost of approximately \$1M?
- June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1957 – a dump or a stadium in west end?
- Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1957 – up to \$2M for new stadium, or spend \$750K on Ivor Wynne
- Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, 1957 – new stadium could go in Burlington with private money says Cats owner
- Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1957 – council challengers Tiger-Cats to finance stadium
- Mar. 18<sup>th</sup>, 1958 – 88,500 seats is the difference between build new versus upgrade Ivor Wynne
- May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1958 – King's Forest urged for new stadium
- July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1958 – need two weeks to study before approval. Hamilton lagging behind; room for soccer team too in new stadium design
- (Page 27 & 28 of IWS Scrapbook Vol. 1) – architects rendering of how Civic Stadium seating would change
- Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, 1959 – renovations to IWS start next week
- Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, 1959 – stadium upgrades ahead of schedule. South stands demolished (photo pg. 32 of IWS Scrapbook Vol. 1)
- July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1961 – Tiger-Cats now a privately owned club. Cats might move to new multi-million dollar stadium in Burlington
- Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1968 – Ivor Wynne (the eventual namesake of Civic Stadium), now Parks Board chair
- April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1969 – Beechwood homes would be 'overshadowed'. Citizens fight north stand build
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1969 – get rid of Civic Stadium track so we don't have to expropriate any homes. Parking problem would be addressed by an HSR shuttle service. Building largest

stadium in Canada in a densely occupied area (Victor K. Copps is now Mayor of Hamilton)

- May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1969 – Olga DiFrancesco upset, council approved 14-7 to rebuild north stands
- **July 12<sup>th</sup>, 1969** – those opposed of north stand build approach OMB; ratepayers to vote whether or not to spend tax dollars on stadium upgrades (pages 47-52 of IWS Scrapbook – up to Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, 1969)
- Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1970 – 82,000 would have no vote. Only land owners can vote on stadium issue
- Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, 1970 – decided now that all residents of Hamilton will be aloud to vote
- Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, 1970 – open books to public, Tiger-Cats challenged
- Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>, 1970 – photo of old concrete entrance to Civic Stadium off of Beechwood
- **Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, 1970** – stadium renamed Ivor Wynne Stadium (page 87 of IWS Scrapbook Vol. 1). Ivor Wynne passed away Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1970; a day prior to his 52<sup>nd</sup> birthday

## **Vol. 2 – 1971 Only**

- April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1971 – used local lottery to raise money for artificial turf at IWS
- **June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1971** – attack on Hamilton for using lottery to fund turf. Lotteries only supposed to be used for charitable or religious causes
- **June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1971** – photo of Mrs. Wynne and Robert (Bob) Wynne at the dedication of the ‘new’ Ivor Wynne Stadium

## **Vo. 3 – 1972 to 1975**

- April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1975 – Pink Floyd to play Ivor Wynne in front of 60,000 fans. (concert is held on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1975). First outdoor entertainment venture @ Ivor Wynne (pages 48 to 63 of IWS Scrapbook Vol. 3, cover the concert)
- **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1975** – photo of Pink Floyd concert at IW

## **Vol. 4 – 1976 to 1982**

- Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>, 1976 – talks of approving beer at Ivor Wynne Stadium
- Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1978 – federal money available for expansion of stadium

- Apr. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1979 – talk of Canadian rockers Rush, coming to Ivor Wynne
- May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1979 – Rush concert approved
- Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1979 – article about Rush show that took place Aug. 24<sup>th</sup>, 1979 (Pg. 51 of IWS Scrapbook Vol. 4; pg. 57 shows a photo of the band playing during the Hamilton concert)
- March 13<sup>th</sup>, 1980 – talks of a new stadium; Harold Ballard now the owner of the Tiger-Cats
- June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1981 – Burlington Tiger-Cats could happen someday, says Ballard; perhaps even closer to Oakville
- **July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1982** – Ballpark Beer; It's Great For the Fans
- Jul. 11<sup>th</sup>, 1981 – cost to play at Ivor Wynne is a sweet deal for the Tiger-Cats
- **Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1981** – Ballard threatens to move the Tiger-Cats out of Hamilton (pg. 97 of IWS Scrapbook Vol. 4, and on pg. 105, talks about Ballard wanting money from Beer sales)
- Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>, 1982 (Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>) – beer sales commence

## **Vol. 5 – 1983 to 1990**

- Begins with Ballard/City fighting over concessions
- **March 16<sup>th</sup>, 1983** – Ballard letter of intent to lease Varsity Stadium; move Cats – Ballard wins concessions battle
- Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1983 – Ballard wants city to either fix Ivor Wynne or build a new stadium; he would waive territorial rights he holds for the Toronto Maple Leafs of which he owns, to open the doors for an NHL team in Hamilton
- Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>, 1983 – talks of moving Cats to a proposed Superdome at Bronte Creek
- Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>, 1983 – Pigskin Pete (Weiler) photograph – 'don't move team'
- Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>, 1983 – City council approves 5 stadium sites for review; 2 in Milton and 3 in Oakville (pg. 25 of IWS Scrapbook, Vol. 5)
- Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, 1983 – facelift of Ivor Wynne approved at a cost of \$650,000 (pg. 41 of IWS Scrapbook, Vol. 5)
- Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>, 1986 – pre-game rallies (Tailgate Parties), on trial run
- Apr. 27<sup>th</sup>, 1987 – Hamilton loses bid to host '91 Pan Am games, but we did host contending matches for those same Pan Am games that were played in Indianapolis, at Ivor Wynne Stadium (pg. 73 of IWS Scrapbook, Vol. 5)
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- July 30<sup>th</sup>, 1988 – Family Section at Ivor Wynne is born
- Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>, 1988 – Bachman-Turner Overdrive (BTO), opens for the Stamps/Cats game, playing an hour long pre-game concert



- Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>, 1988 – Blue Rodeo plays before the Ottawa/Hamilton game
- **Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>, 1988** – while the BC Lions and the Winnipeg Blue Bombers were battling it out in the 76<sup>th</sup> Grey Cup in Ottawa, Harold Ballard backs moving vans into Ivor Wynne Stadium, and cleans out Tiger-Cats lockers
- **Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, 1988** – padlocks placed on Ivor Wynne by City, to keep ‘moving vans’ out
- **Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, 1988** – Ballard gives away concession to charity, as concession battle heats up

## Vol. 6 – 1991 to

- June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1992 – a marriage is held at Ivor Wynne Stadium
- Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, 1993 – talks of press boxes at Ivor Wynne
- Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>, 1993 –more amenities need for Ivor Wynne
- **Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, 1994** - Empire Games history; end of Ivor Wynne and the Cats?
- Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1995 – Alderman (Fred) Eisenberger and Caplan disagree on stadium press box issue
- **Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, 1998** – radio personality John Hardy (CHML), didn’t know who Ivor Wynne (the person), was. Suggested when he read Bernie Faloney was fighting colon cancer, that the stadium be renamed in his honor. Calls flooded the CHML offices from family and friends, and those who remembered the contributions the late Ivor Wynne’s made to sports; both locally and nationally. Ivor Wynne’s son Robert (Bob), was quoted in the article
- June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2000 – time Hamilton built a new stadium.
- Mar. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2001 – more talks of holding concerts at Ivor Wynne again
- Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2001 – Blue Rodeo to play a concert after the Green Rider/Ti-Cats game
- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003 – new scoreboard. The ‘Young’ era.
- **Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004** – ‘Our Gem of a Park’ by Steve Milton of the Hamilton Spectator. References made of the historical opportunities that exist with Ivor Wynne. ‘Young looking to capture what Boston did with Fenway Park’
- Jul. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004 – high-tech comes to Ivor Wynne. Laptops, Blackberry’s; wireless
- **Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006** – Ivor Wynne showing it’ age. MacKay editorial cartoon – Red Hill log/trend of ‘let’s build a new stadium’ throughout the years
- **Sep. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007** – Cats Kick of Stadium Debate; failing Ivor Wynne needs replacement
- **Sep. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007** – a ‘perfect storm’ for new stadium. Invest in new urges Scott Mitchell

- **Sep. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007** – The Perennial Issue Log (Editorial Carton). The history of Build New vs Restore Old
- **Sep. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007** – kickoff for stadium debate; editorial
- **Sep. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007** – ‘Game for stadium magic’. Article by Scott Radley of The Hamilton Spectator
- **Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008** – ‘Our Game to Give’, a charity hockey game held by a group of NHL players, is held at Ivor Wynne Stadium.
- **Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008** – ‘Creative Thinking’, re: an AHL regular season hockey game or the All-Star game at Ivor Wynne. O’Connor (Live Nation Canada Promotions Company), likes Ivor Wynne and had thought of such a use for IW for decades
- June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – another wedding at Ivor Wynne
- Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – re-name Ivor Wynne Stadium ‘Lancaster Stadium’ (Wheeler)

# Parks Board Acts On Stadium Idea

Hamilton's Board of Parks Management last night took first concrete steps towards improving the city's football facilities. The board agreed to invite Mr. J. G. (Jake) Gaudaur, president of the Tiger-Cat Football Club, to the next meeting to discuss the situation.

In a letter received recently by the board, Mr. Gaudaur suggested that additional seats be built in Civic Stadium in order to keep abreast of expansion moves already taken by Big Four clubs in Toronto and Montreal.

## Agreed on Study

Earlier this year, following a previous letter from the football club the board had agreed to investigate the situation, but no official action had been taken to date.

Judge W. F. Schwenger said that the possibility of a new stadium should be thoroughly investigated, and suggested that a joint committee be set up to handle the matter.

"With the city's present rate of expansion, a new stadium would be a sound financial investment," said Judge Schwenger. A project of this size should not be too big for a big city.

John Gray proposed that King's Forest would be an ideal site for a stadium, with ample parking and a seating capacity of at least 30,000. "That way," said Mr. Gray, "we could use Civic Stadium and the HAAA grounds for soccer."

Mr. Ralph Adams indicated agreement, commenting that football facilities were the immediate problem but that soccer should not be overlooked in plans for an expansion program.

The areas presently occupied by Civic Stadium, HAAA grounds and King's Forest are all under the jurisdiction of the Parks Board.

The board also approved a request from United Gas and Fuel Company to lay a natural gas pipeline across Chedoke Golf Course and King's Forest. Work on the project will not start until the fall, and thus will not interfere with regular play at the city-owned course. Official authorization will come when details of an agreement have been worked out.

## Parks Brochure

Considerable debate took place over a proposed brochure to outline, for the benefit of tourists visiting the city, the various public parks and their facilities.

Judge Schwenger said that such publicity material should be handled by City Hall or the Chamber of Commerce, and should not be undertaken by the Parks Board. The cost of preparing 5,000 copies of the brochure would be in the neighborhood of \$2,500 said Mr. Clifford Hale, a public relation counsel who presented his plans for such a publication.

The matter was set aside until such time as Mayor Jackson returns to the city. It was at the Mayor's suggestion that the project was first considered.



## Objections filed

# Civic Stadium battle in OMB's lap

CP HAMILTON ~~By~~ IVOR WYNNE STADIUM

The final whistle still has not blown in the battle over the expansion of Civic Stadium.

Some crucial plays are ahead as the argument heads soon to the Ontario Municipal Board.

More than 60 persons have backed objections to the \$1,500,000 scheme that would expand the stadium to 36,664 seats, the largest in Canada.

IT SEEMS likely the OMB will call a public hearing on the issue later this summer or early fall, probably at city hall.

The 7,864-seat expansion

was approved by city council — by a vote of 14 to 7 — at its regular meeting May 27.

Under the Ontario Municipal Act, however, such a major capital project cannot be undertaken without a vote of the city's electors, unless such a vote is ruled unnecessary by the OMB.

THIS ACTION is mandatory for all major building projects not included in the city's current budget.

In this case, the city advertised its notice June 19 to dispense with a vote of the electorate.

When the 21-day period for objections expired Thursday, the city had seven letters of objections, one petition against it from nine persons and another objection from a ratepayers' group of 50 persons.

THESE DOCUMENTS will now be sent by the city clerk's office to the city solicitor, forming part of the city's application to the OMB for approval of the project. Local officials could not recall a case when the OMB has not held a public hearing after receiving objections, so one is probable in this case.

The ratepayers' group has hired Hamilton lawyer Thomas Beckett to handle their case to the Ontario Municipal Board. He filed the objection July 3.

"My clients are objecting to this expenditure firstly as a matter of principle," Mr. Beckett said. "This expenditure of \$1,500,000 is to build a plant for a private, profit-making operation."

"If Maple Leaf Gardens wants to expand, it does so on its own and the same

would be true with most other facilities used solely for a professional club."

Mr. Beckett said that if Hamilton citizens had voted in favor of spending \$1,500,000 for the stadium expansion, his clients would accept the majority will. He said he feels the voice of the voters should be heard.

He said his clients also object that:

- the expenditure will further reduce the city's already-low borrowing capacity;
- the expansion is contrary to good planning principles;
- the expansion would be injurious to the residents in the neighborhood of the stadium;
- no evidence has been shown that expansion would be needed for other than a Grey Cup game;
- other public sports in the stadium would be restricted by the expansion.

City officials had hoped that the stadium could be ready for the opening of the 1970 season. Drawings for the new north stands are still in the

preliminary stages by the architects.

The new north stands would bring 5,574 seats between the goal lines at the stadium, the prime space for spectators, particularly season's ticket holders.

HAMILTON SPECTATOR  
July 12, 1969



# Stadium re-named after Ivor Wynne

Hamilton Civic Stadium has a new name.

The parks board voted last night to name the stadium in memory of the late Ivor Wynne, in

recognition of his service to the parks board, the university, and the national and local sports scene.

Effective immediately, the

park will be called Ivor Wynne Stadium.

"Ivor Wynne was a man known in Halifax and Vancouver for the role he played in sports across the country as well as in Hamilton," said

Con. Jack MacDonald.

"I think it's altogether appropriate to name the stadium after him."

Today Mrs. Wynne said: "I think it is a great honor and tribute that the community feels that way about him. . . I'm flabbergasted."

"I didn't regard my husband as anything very special, he was just an ordinary person but a tremendous father and husband. I've been amazed since he died at how many tributes have been paid to him for the work he did in the community."

"I think it will mean so much more to my boys, especially at this very difficult time for them, to have a sports park named after their father. They're both so very sports-minded that I know it will be a great thrill to them."

Naming civic stadium in memory of Mr. Wynne, who died Nov. 1 after a short illness, was one of three proposals given serious consideration by the parks board.

ONE ALTERNATIVE was King's Forest Park. The other was a small park overlooking the Mountain above Chedoke Civic Golf Course, a park Mr. Wynne used frequently because of its proximity to his Scenic Drive home.

"But we decided that it was only proper to name a more national sports park after him," said parks board interim-chairman John Pelech. "He had so many friends across the country, and he had contributed so much to the sporting world."

Mr. Wynne was chairman of the parks board at the time of his death. He was largely responsible for developing the physical education course at McMaster University.



"New boys" and the men they are replacing on board of control. From left: Jim Bethune, Herman Turkstra, Bill Foley and Jack MacDonald, at today's meeting.



# Stadium dedicated, controversy starts

A \$30,000 surplus in the budget for renovations to Ivor Wynne Stadium has started new arguments over the lottery that is financing installation of artificial turf at the stadium.

Jack MacDonald, former y controller and chairman of the Jaycee AstroTurf lottery, told visitors touring the north stands at the stadium yesterday that the renovations were made at a cost of about \$1.47 million — shaving \$30,000 off the \$1.5 million budget.

At an informal reception arranged by the parks board at the stadium, Percy Hanson, general manager of the Junior Chamber of Commerce lottery, suggested the

\$30,000 be donated to the lottery by the city.

Mayor Vic Copps, apparently taken by surprise, said: "We'll see what we can do."

LATER the mayor said: "I support any assistance we can give to the turf fund but if they want money, they should really make a request."

But Jack MacDonald, chairman of the lottery, said that at this point, the Junior Chamber of Commerce should not make such a request — even though another \$125,000 is needed for the turf fund.

"To even talk about it at this point gives a hint of defeatism," Mr. MacDonald said. "I think for now we should just sell hell out of the tickets."

Earlier this year there were heated arguments in board of control and city

council over committing the city to involvement in the lottery beyond approving the lottery licence. Council eventually defeated the proposal that the city underwrite the cost of the turf.

CONTROLLER Anne Jones, on being told of the proposal to donate the surplus \$30,000 to the fund, said today she would not be in favor of turning the money over to the Jaycees.

"There's a very serious

principle involved," she said.

"I don't think you can decide to do something one way and then turn around and ask the city council, which indicated it did not want to participate, to participate."

Ward One alderman Mac Cline thinks the problem is not the same as in January.

"It's a different thing all together. (In March) we were asked to guarantee the total package deal. I would think

the city might very well consider turning the money over, depending on the results of the turf ticket sales. I see nothing wrong with it."

But Jim Stowe, alderman for Ward Six, thinks the request, if made, is exactly the same.

Jack Pelech, chairman of the Parks Board, thinks the money should go back to the parks board to be used for some parks purpose.

LAST NIGHT, game-goers in the fibreglass seats of the north stands, decorated in the colors of the nine teams in the Canadian Football League, and spectators in the young, but now termed 'old' south stands, watched as the official dedication of the stadium took place.

Mr. Pelech said that Ivor Wynne, teacher, athlete, and dean of students at McMaster University, was one of Hamilton's great men.

"His involvement in sport was natural. He was a great athlete in his own time and loved sports."

"HIS INVOLVEMENT in the university was natural. He loved young people especially."

"As an athletic coach, teacher, and dean of students, he was peerless."

Mrs. Frances Wynne, accompanied by her two sons Bob and John, then unveiled a plaque to be placed at the entrance to the north stands, dedicating the stadium to the memory of Ivor Wynne.

On behalf of the family, Bob Wynne told the 22,760 people: "You have made us more proud, if that be possible, to be the immediate family of such a fine man."





Mrs. Ivor Wynne and her son Bob after she unveiled the plaque commemorating her husband's memory.





More than 60,000 of them crowded into the field and stands for a hot night of hot music

HAMILTON SPECTATOR

June 30, 1975.



# Ballard blackmail won't alter city's priorities - mayor

By RICK WINSTON  
Spectator Staff

MAYOR BILL Powell has no apologies to make and says he won't bow to blackmail or threats to speed plans for a new football stadium or renovation of Ivor Wynne Stadium.

Former Tiger-Cat vice-president and general manager Ralph Sazio said at a press conference yesterday that Hamilton won't be in the Canadian Football League if it doesn't provide a better facility.

But Powell is adamant that city council has done all it can for the Tiger-Cats and refuses to change his priorities.

"I am very sorry to hear that Mr. Sazio is leaving," he said yesterday. "I felt that at least I could talk to him. I believed the Tiger-Cats were very grateful when the city gave its generous offer for the rental agreement. The Ticats are now in a better position than many other CFL clubs."

"But the arena-trade centre is the most urgent need right now and there is no way we could proceed with both. The cost would be unbearable to the taxpayers. City council has made its decision and put the stadium on the back burner."

And Powell pooh-poohed Sazio's comment that Hamilton might lose its team.

"We've had this threat for a long time. They said they were going to London but that didn't happen. We can be threatened all over the place and if it happens, we'll have to live with it."

But Powell noted the Tiger-Cats are now part of the Maple Leaf Corporation in Toronto and had few kind words for Ticat owner Harold Ballard in the stadium confrontation.

"Mr. Ballard has made all sorts of comments," he said. "It's very unique that an operation working out of Toronto can try and blackmail the city into doing something costing so much money. Mr. Ballard is a wealthy man. If he wants a stadium, he could put some money into it and the city would try and help him."

Parks and recreation committee chairman Ken Edge said the arena-trade centre is the top priority, the stadium second.

"We must get the arena-trade centre underway first and then look at financing before we discuss the stadium," Edge said.

He added discussions about the stadium will begin in January.

"We are well-aware of the needs of Ivor Wynne Stadium and we know that we have the lowest seating capacity between the goal-lines in Canada. I concur with Ralph in that we know we have to do something with the facilities. It's just a matter of time."





# Ballpark beer

It's great for the fans  
says Tiger-Cats' Zuger

By RICK WINSTON  
Spectator Staff

HAMILTON AND Toronto sports executives are toasting the news that football and baseball fans can have a brew or two during the game.

"I think it's great for the fans," said Hamilton Tiger-Cat general manager Joe Zuger.

"It's a convenience for them. I'd be delighted if it brought 10,000 more fans into the stadium but I don't think it's going to do that."

Zuger isn't worried that the two-beer limit, served in paper cups, will increase rowdiness at Ivor Wynne Stadium.

"They're not supposed to have it (alcoholic beverages) now and there are still drunks," Zuger said.

"I don't think it will necessarily mean the need for more security at the games."

## Stone age

Zuger's comments were echoed by Tiger-Cat owner Harold Ballard.

"I think we are getting out of the stone age now because we were the only province in North America that we couldn't go buy a beer at the ball park or stadium," Ballard said.

think it will encourage people to go to the park and sit in the stands with a beer and a hotdog. It's part of an event at any park.

"I'm happy they put a limit on the amount of beer served," he added. "I don't want drunks around. I don't want people bringing cans or bottles in. It will all be served in paper cups."

While Ballard is willing to bring out extra security if it proves to be necessary, he thinks just the opposite will occur.

## Drunk

"You don't see guys getting drunk on beer," he said. "A lot of guys bring whisky into Ivor Wynne Stadium now. They can't bring a case of beer in so they bring in two or three mickies."

"This will sort of taper off the whisky business. When you're told you can't have something, if you are a red-blooded human being you will say 'The heck with you, I'll have it.' Now that they can get it, a lot of guys will say 'who wants it.'"

While Ballard's football fans will be able to enjoy their beer, the same won't hold true for his fans at Maple Leaf Gardens. But Ballard, also owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs, isn't concerned.

"This is just an experiment," he explained. "They'll profit from the experience and by the time hockey comes around they'll have some idea of what they want to do with the Gardens. I think it will come in time."

Toronto sports teams were just as happy with the announcement. The Toronto Blue Jays had been pushing for beer at Exhibition Stadium for several years.

Blue Jay vice-president Pat Gillick said: "I think the fans for the most part want it and I'm pleased for them."

"I don't think it means a heck of a lot for the club. It's more of a tradition for the fans. They'll have a better time at the park. I don't think it will have any affect on attendance."

The Jays get 16 per cent of the concession revenue and Gillick agreed this would be a plus for the ball club. But he had no estimates as to the revenue increase.

## Security

"I just don't know how many people are going to drink beer," he said. "I'm not certain if we are going to add extra security, but you don't get rowdy on two beers."

Toronto Argonaut club president Ralph Sazio said the change would be welcomed news for fans but wouldn't change anything for the scullers.

"It's modern society — why not do it? You can go around the corner from Ivor Wynne Stadium and get a beer. Why shouldn't you be allowed to buy one in the stadium?"

"I think the fans who were inclined to have a drink would have it regardless of whether or not you are allowed beer. Somehow they devise ways and means of getting it into the stadium. I saw a lot of it when I was in Hamilton. This will eliminate excessive drinking."

Sazio vetoed the idea of additional security, stressing it would not be needed.

The Toronto Blizzard management also welcomed the sale of beer at Exhibition Stadium.

SPECTATOR  
JULY 8, 1982



# We won't be bullied by Ballard ultimatum, aldermen say

FOOTBALL

By MICHAEL DAVIE  
and MARK HALLMAN  
Spectator Staff

A MAJORITY of city council says it won't be bullied by Ticat owner Harold Ballard into giving him the rights to food, beverage and beer concessions as part of a lease agreement at Ivor Wynne Stadium.

The Tiger-Cats announced their departure after failing to get the concessions — without having to bid on them — along with advertising rights and lease at Ivor Wynne Stadium in one package.

Sources indicate the Ticats made it clear when they approached the city this year that they would pick up and leave if they weren't given the concessions.

Several councillors have complained that Mr. Ballard

has never made any attempts to discuss the issue with them despite repeated invitations to do so.

Mayor Bob Morrow said yesterday he's "convinced that a solution can be worked out. That remains to be put together."

But Mr. Morrow, who supports tendering concessions at Ivor Wynne, would not comment on any type of compromise with the club and declined to identify what initiatives he might take to avert the Ticat plans to shift operations to Varsity Stadium in Toronto.

## 'Plenty of ideas'

"I have plenty of ideas, but I don't think anything I might say now might be helpful."

Mr. Morrow said he would "make appropriate recommendations on whatever

seems appropriate at the time."

He repeated that he wants to find ways in which the city and community organizations can promote attendance at Ticat games.

An informal Spectator poll showed tendering is also firmly supported by 11 aldermen: Don Gray, Fred Lombardo, Henry Merling, Brian Hinkley, Bill McCulloch, Mary Kiss, Michael Davison, Peter Peterson, Ian Stout, and Paul Cowell. Alderman Bruce Charlton was previously on record in support of tendering but declined comment yesterday.

Tendering was also favored by aldermen Shirley Collins and Vince Agro who say they may change their minds if Mr. Ballard can present a convincing case, and Vince Scott who feels a

compromise may be possible.

Aldermen Jim Bethune and Tom Murray were the only councillors to oppose tendering in a council vote March 8 and they're still opposed. Mr. Stout was absent from the council meeting.

Alderman Brian Hinkley, chairman of the parks and recreation committee, still supports tendering of the

things stand at the moment, I don't intend to change my mind ... They (the team) would be walking out of their own volition..."

"I'm not alarmed," he said. "It's been going on every year, one thing or another."

## Media war

Alderman Ian Stout said there's "no question" the concessions should be tendered.

ing about \$2 million on refurbishing the stadium and asked: "How much do we have to spend to make Mr. Ballard happy?"

Alderman Mike Davison said he doesn't "take kindly to threats."

"Mr. Ballard hasn't persuaded me to change my position ... I think the concessions should be tendered."

Alderman Fred Lombardo was similarly unmoved: "Just to throw something down and say, 'That's it or nothing,' isn't proper business procedure."

## Compromise

Alderman Vince Scott voted in support of tendering, but said he believes a compromise is possible.

But Mr. Scott said he doesn't know what form such a compromise should take.

## CRISIS IN TIGER TOWN

concessions and said: "I'm not going to do anything. We've asked the club to send us a letter outlining their position. I can't respond to things in the newspaper and on TV. You have to respond in a business-like fashion."

Mr. Hinkley said: "Where

Mr. Stout said Mr. Ballard has never met with city officials to discuss the issue and has been waging his war against the city through the media.

He noted the team's rent was cut by \$200,000 in the 1981 season, the city is spend-

(cont'd...)

SPECTATOR

MARCH 16, 1983.

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# TICATS IN LIMBO

## Ballard moves team's gear out of Ivor Wynne

By JEFF DICKINS,  
MIKE HANLEY,  
and DOUG LeFAIVE  
The Spectator

THE FATE of Hamilton's Tiger-Cats is in limbo because owner Harold Ballard has cleaned out the lockers at Ivor Wynne Stadium.

While the Canadian Football League was preparing to kick off the 76th Grey Cup yesterday, Ballard had a moving van at Ivor Wynne to haul away uniforms and blocking sleds along with equipment from the concession stands.

"We won't be back," said Ballard, 85. "I get the impression the city doesn't give a damn whether there's a team or not."

Donald Crump, treasurer of Maple Leaf Gardens, was supervising the move.

"We'll use some of the concession equipment at Maple Leaf Gardens," he said. "The football equipment can be sold off to a junior team."

He denied the move is a bluff to scare politicians into a more favorable rental agreement for the stadium.

"We don't deal in threats," he said. "We've always negotiated in good faith with the city. We're not playing hardball, we're playing survival."

City officials have been asked to reduce the stadium rental to \$1 a year. During last week's meeting of Leaf shareholders, Ballard said he would sell the Ticats for \$1 to anyone prepared to assume its debts.

"We must have lost six to eight million dollars there over the last nine years," said Ballard, who also owns the Toronto Maple Leafs of the National Hockey League. "Now they want to hold us up over a measly \$300,000. This thing has been goin' on for months. We just got fed up."

Mayor Bob Morrow said he's received some calls from the public about the threat to the team.

"Not too many - they either say Do everything you can to save the team or Don't give in and let Ballard have it all for free," he said this morning.

Mr. Morrow said he hasn't been in contact with Mr. Ballard or other Ticat officials today.

The last he heard was last week when a meeting was tentatively scheduled for sometime this week.

John Gallagher, vice-chairman of the parks and recreation committee, wasn't surprised by the move.

"Mr. Crump is famous for his outlandish tactics and public negotiations," he said, calling the move "an attempt to intimidate city council during negotiations."

He said once the mayor and Ballard meet directly, eliminating Crump at the table, things will be sorted out.

For its part, the CFL doesn't intend to intervene in the Cat fight. "We're looking for the clubs to be prudent business people in their dealings. That's the league's position for all teams," said John Laboni, director of communications.

Although commissioner Doug Mitchell was not available for comment yesterday, Laboni reiterated his boss' earlier position.

At that time, Mitchell said: "We've been the biggest bimboes in the world for decades ... it's time we got smart and started to negotiate with them (stadium landlords)."

### Zuger informed

Ticat general manager Joe Zuger said he was informed of the removal of equipment from the locker room at Ivor Wynne. Despite the recent events, Zuger remains confident the club will continue to play. He's not exactly sure where, though.

A five-year lease between the city and the Tiger-Cats expired last March and the team now owes the city \$300,000 in stadium rental for the 1988 season. Crump says the club has been negotiating with the city "on and off" since December.

Mr. Gallagher said his committee and the mayor "are willing to bend over backwards, within reason, to ensure the Tiger-Cats, and the CFL, have a fair shot of making a comeback."

Asked if he was willing to write off the \$300,000 back rent owed by the club, Mr. Gallagher agreed saying at least until such a time as "the Tiger-Cats and the CFL return to viability."

When asked if taxpayers might object to bailing out a millionaire's football team, he agreed but "on the other hand this is the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. I am sure the average Hamiltonian would feel a certain pain in their guts to see the Tiger-Cats disappear" and would back any reasonable move to prevent that.

"We've given them our best deal," said Crump. "The mayor knew our situation a long time ago. Maybe the team could have been saved then; now I don't think it's salvageable."

The team is expected to lose more than \$3 million this season.

"I don't know if anyone in their right mind would buy this team for \$1," said Crump. "Maple Leaf Gardens earn about \$25 million after taxes and the Tiger-Cats cost about \$4.2 million to run. That's not smart business."

"We'll go to Varsity Stadium if we have to," Ballard said, referring to the 25,000-seat University of Toronto downtown football stadium.

In March 1983, Ballard threatened to move the team out of Hamilton in a dispute involving concession rights. He had talked about playing future games at Varsity Stadium but the Argos, who have territorial rights, refused to allow it.

Many considered that move to be little more than a bluff, but Ballard recently unloaded his money-losing Toronto Marlboros to Hamilton lawyer Jack Pelech and realtor Mario Cupido.

The Tiger-Cats were formed in 1950 after the Tigers and Wildcats amalgamated. Interest was at its peak during the early 1970s when average attendance was more than 31,000.

But attendance has been dropping the past few years and the team could only attract an average gathering of about 15,000 for the 1988 season.

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"We're not abandoning Hamilton," said Crump. "The people of Hamilton abandoned this team."

Head coach Al Bruno hopes a deal can be struck and the team won't move. He can't imagine the club in black and gold called the Toronto Tiger-Cats.

"It doesn't make sense. I'd hate to see that. Of course, people hated to see Montreal fold, too."

He said people would be shocked to see how conditions at Ivor Wynne compare with other CFL stadiums.

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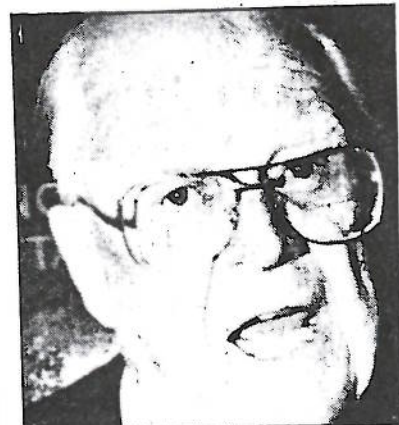
"We're paying more rent than some of the teams with new facilities," he said.

"It'll be a hell of a loss," said Tom Hickey, who played with the Hamilton Tigers and Wildcats between 1941 and 1949. "The city couldn't support a hockey team, and now they'll lose their football team."

But Howard Fields, an eight-year Tiger-Cat veteran, thought Ballard might be just chasing headlines.

"It seems to me that Mr. Ballard has the city right where he wants them. He's done it before and it worked."

With files from Canadian Press



Harold Ballard: a bluff?



Mark Fraser, The Spectator

Ticats may never appear at Ivor Wynne Stadium again

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Harold Ballard's movers load up the van with Ticat gear yesterday.

Kaz Novak, The Spectator

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# Padlock ploy could seal Ticats' fate Crump says

By RICK HUGHES  
The Spectator

CHANGING THE locks on Ivor Wynne Stadium may have cost the city any hope of keeping the Tiger-Cats in Hamilton, a spokesman for Harold Ballard's Maple Leaf Gardens Ltd. says.

But Mayor Bob Morrow insists Hamilton will have a Canadian Football League team next year and last night was waiting for a call from Mr. Ballard to set up a meeting to negotiate a new lease. He said the city's "absolute priority" is to keep the franchise in Hamilton.

"We are not going to allow the Tiger-Cats to leave Hamilton. They are too much a part of the fabric, the life, the spirit of Hamilton. That's the most important bottom line," Mr. Morrow said.

However, changing the locks has angered Don Crump, Maple Leaf Gardens Ltd. treasurer, who says the city's latest move could have jeopardized the meeting between Mr. Ballard and the mayor.

"Now that they've changed the locks, maybe there won't be any meeting," a furious Mr. Crump said.

Mr. Ballard has threatened to move the team from Hamilton because it is a perennial money loser. He wants the city to reduce its \$300,000 annual rent to \$1 a year. The team has not paid any rent since a five-year lease expired in March.

The team raised the ante on Sunday when Mr. Crump showed up at the stadium with a moving van and loaded up uniforms, blocking sleds and concession equipment and carted it away.

Yesterday, Mr. Morrow would not say what the city was willing to do to ensure the Tiger-Cats stay. He refused to comment when asked if the team's \$300,000 rent for the municipally owned stadium is negotiable, but later said, "I'm on this every hour of the day. We're available, we're ready. We're bound and determined to make a deal."

He also refused to respond to Mr. Crump's statements and said he would not speculate on what the city's next step would be if Mr. Ballard did not call to set up the promised meeting.

"What I have agreed to, and had agreement to, is a meeting. And at this point I am not aware there will not be a meeting. So I am waiting for that."

But he said he is not willing to wait indefinitely.

The city move to change the locks on all gates to the stadium was done to protect city and Tiger-Cat property, Mr. Morrow said.

Employees of the CFL club can still pass through the stadium's main door but no trucks, such as the one that carted away nearly all the Ticat gear on Sunday, can get in or out.

"If we wanted to bring a truck in here, it would be impossible," said Mike McCarthy, the Tiger-Cats' assistant general manager. "I guess they told their foreman down here to change all the locks."

The city was not retaliating, he said. The change was made by staff and he fully supports it.

"There was a great deal of confusion as to who was going in and out. It's not unlikely someone totally removed from either city or ball club could get in there and start taking things out."

Mr. Crump said earlier in the week the Tiger-Cats have paid \$1.7 million in rent during the last five years. The city maintains the CFL club owes it \$300,000 for 1988.

At a meeting last week of Maple Leaf Gardens directors, Mr. Ballard said the Tiger-Cats had lost \$20 million over the last 10 years.

He offered to sell the club for \$1 plus its debts, but later said he would continue operating the Tiger-Cats if no buyers could be found.

Mr. Ballard has also threatened to move the club to Toronto's Varsity Stadium or Exhibition Stadium if the Hamilton lease cannot be settled. He had a similar plan for the Ticats in 1983, but the Argonaut football club exercised its territorial rights to block the move.

However, with the Argonauts under new ownership as of yesterday, that situation could change.

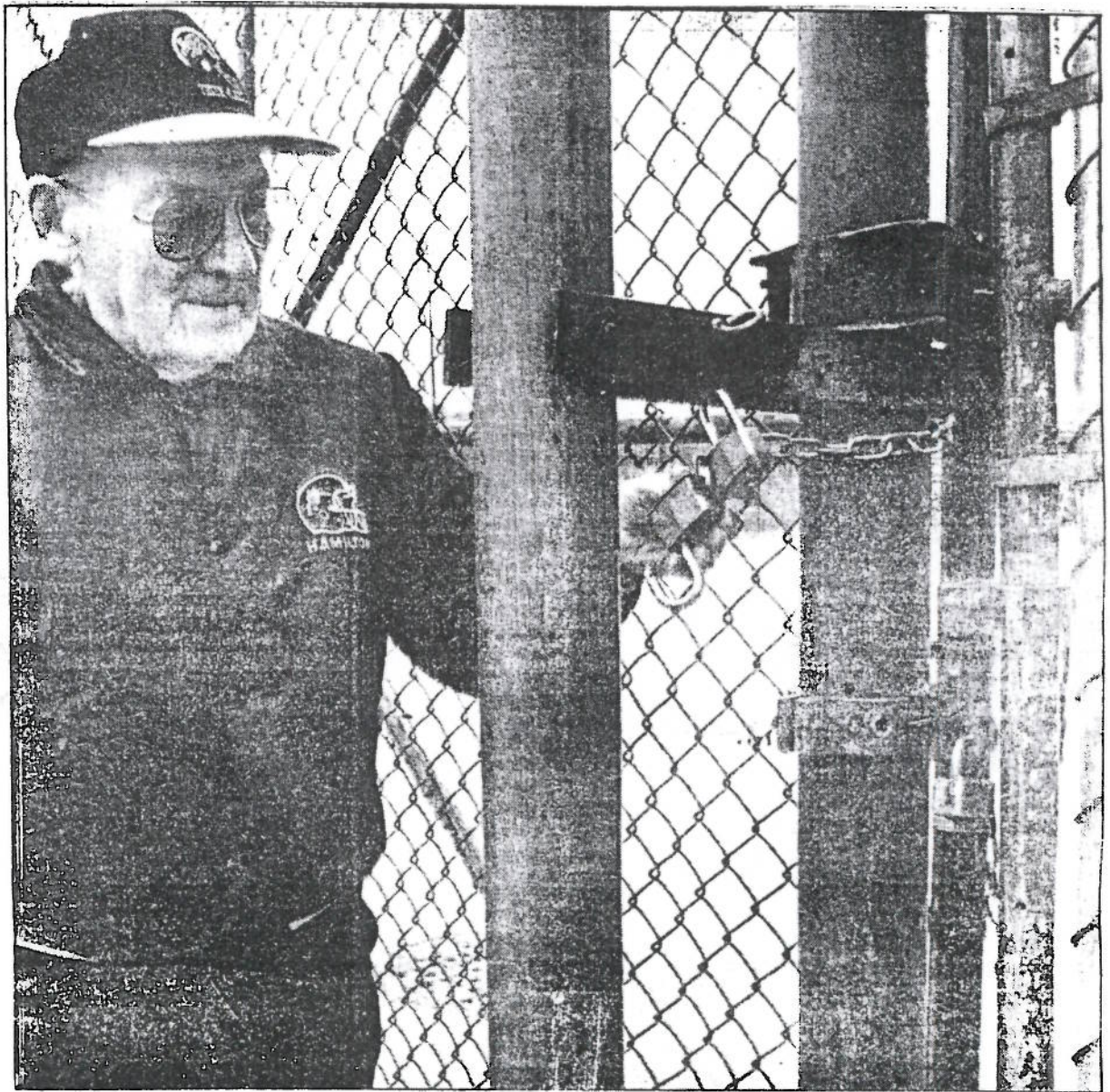
The new owner of the Argonauts, Harry Ornest, refused to be drawn into the squabble. "I don't know anything about Mr. Ballard and the Tiger-Cats situation, and I won't speculate on what is happening. I can't do that."

Mr. Morrow said he briefed CFL commissioner Doug Mitchell yesterday on the situation. He did not ask Mr. Mitchell to intervene.

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Kaz Novak, The Spectator

Ticats' locker room manager Scotty Wright checks out locked gates at Ivor Wynne Stadium.

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# Ballard gives concession leftovers to the needy

By JEFF DICKINS  
The Spectator

HAVING GIVEN the raspberry to Hamilton football fans, Tiger-Cat club owner Harold Ballard then donated food to the city's needy.

The locks were removed from the Ivor Wynne gates yesterday to allow a van and truck to cart away about \$15,000 worth of goods to Mission Services and The Good Shepherd.

"I got a call Monday and was told to give it to charity," explained stadium concessions manager Jim Hyk.

"There's stuff like produce and cheeses and it's got to go now. And items in the freezer that would keep for a few months were also considered perishable."

This was the latest incident in the tumultuous Tabbie saga. In this instalment, Mr. Ballard plays the part of benefactor.

He'd emptied the shelves and cleaned out all the fridges at Ivor Wynne Stadium and Chedoke and King's Forest municipal golf courses during the past few days in response to his dispute with the city.

The scenario opens with Mr. Ballard refusing to pay the \$300,000 that Hamilton wants for stadium rental in 1988. On Sunday his trucks rolled up to Ivor Wynne and took away equipment. By Monday, the city had placed new locks on the gates so no more transport vehicles could load.

That meant making arrangements yesterday to allow the pickup.

A grateful Brother Mark Kinsella of the Good Shepherd said the gift would be put to immediate good use.

"This is a Godsend. Unfortunately, it's not under better circumstances," the Dublin native said. "We all hope something can be resolved. Wouldn't it be a shame to see it rot away..."

That sentiment was shared by Mr. Hyk. He's been running the operation at Ivor Wynne since 1983. His ties to the team go back much further, however. "I used to sell pop in the stadium. I remember the 1972 Grey Cup here. As much as we might joke, it's a sad day."

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Barry Gray, The Spectator

Workers empty concession booth storage lockers at Ivor Wynne Stadium yesterday, loading food such as hot dogs, buns and french fries into vans for distribution to the city's needy through the Good Shepherd Mission.

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IVOR WYNNE'S LAST STAND?

# The home of the Cats

*With the future of Hamilton's football team in doubt, tomorrow's game could be the final CFL match at Ivor Wynne Stadium*

By STEWART BROWN  
The Spectator

If, as pessimists predict, tomorrow's confrontation between the Tiger-Cats and the Saskatchewan Roughriders turns out to be the last Ticat game in Ivor Wynne Stadium, fans will tend to lament the loss of professional football more than the stadium that houses it.

A stadium, after all, is only as good as the events it showcases. Once the roar of the crowd has subsided and the people have gone home, there's nothing quite as lonely as an empty ballpark on a raw, rainy November night, especially if the home team has lost.

It's the people — on and off the field — that make it come alive.

"My first memories are of people booing Toronto," says Louise Froggett, assistant curator of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame and a lifelong football fan.

"My father and uncle took me to Civic Stadium when I was three years old in 1956.

"My favorite team was the 1967 Ticats, a great one for defence. Mosca, Henley, Barrow. Those are the names that mean Hamilton football to me. They were tough and mean and the fans were kind of tough along with them, all through those great years, from the late 1950s through the 1960s."

A season-ticket-holder since 1977, Louise reckons she's only missed a couple of games along the way. Already, she and husband Don have renewed for next season.

She rates the two seasons when Dave Beckman coached the Cats among the low points. "But watching the turmoil within the club the past four or five years has been hard to take."

For all that, Louise thinks Ivor Wynne is a great place to watch football.

"I like the stadium. I like the prox-

imity to the field. I'm not fond of indoor football. You go to the Sky-Dome and you wind up watching the game on the Jumbotron. You might as well watch it at home."

"I first covered the Wildcats on CHML in the 1940s," says broadcaster Norm Marshall.

"Brian Timmis was coaching the team. Joe Krol ran one back from his own end zone for a touchdown. Those things you don't forget. You sometimes forget the stadium, though." Marshall did radio play-by-play of the Ticats from 1950 to the mid-60s, before he concentrated on television work and switched to Saturday college football games. Among his highlights: the first televised Grey Cup games, in black-and-white in 1952 and in color in 1953. All told, he described the action on a dozen Grey Cup games.

For many of those years, his broadcasting partner was Ivor Wynne, McMaster's athletic director, and later, dean of men.

"Ivor started with us in 1954, the year B.C. Lions joined the CFL. We used to pick up somebody in the other cities to do color. But we had nobody in Vancouver.

"The day before an exhibition game, I went for a walk and ran into Ivor, who was taking a summer course at UBC. I asked him if he knew anything about the Lions. He said, yes, he'd been watching their practices.

"I asked him if he'd like to be a color man. He said, sure, he'd give it a try. He stayed with me on the broadcasts right up until he died in 1970.

"Not only was he loaded with all the relevant information, but he was so well liked, just automatically by people, that he really enhanced the broadcasts. It was wonderful when they named the stadium after Ivor."

As an Argonaut receiver in 1952 and 1953, Al Bruno remembers the intimidation factor of Civic Stadium.

"The fans used to throw bottles at

us. Toronto fans did that at the Ticats, too, but Hamilton fans were a little more energetic. They were really behind their team in those days. As a Tiger-Cat head coach from 1983 to 1990, Bruno welcomed the closeness of the fans ... even the critical ones.

"I used to laugh. The fans would get on me pretty good right behind the bench. The guys that really yelled at me sent me a huge tree when I was recuperating in the hospital in 1987.

"They said: 'We're the guys who used to boo you behind the bench.' I said: 'I know who you are, you son-of-a-guns.'"

"The first place I went, when I got back on the field, was over to them, just to argue."

"I never bothered to look at the stadium," says Hamilton fan Angelo Savelli. "I always looked at the ball games and the field."

"My older brother took me to a Wildcat game in 1948. I wanted Tom Casey's autograph, but when I got on the field, geez, Casey was gone.

"I met Casey maybe 40 years later, when he came to Hamilton for a hall of fame dinner. I spotted him getting out of his car and went over and said:

"Geez, you know how many years I've been waiting to get this program autographed?"

Savelli cherishes the days of rough, tough Ticat defences.

"Back in those days, if they had a lead of seven or 14 points, it was tough to score on Hamilton."

For Bill Sturupp, the public-address-voice of virtually every sports event in Hamilton over the last four decades, the stadium has been home.

"I did my first P.A. job when I was a 16-year-old at Delta, with the old

SPECTATOR

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# Stadium was part of complex

*"The zero hour is almost at hand. a few minutes, two years of planning, of dreaming and hard work will have fruition and the British Empire Games will be under way."*

*"As one looks down from the heights of the press stand on the north side of the stadium, it is a breath-taking picture that meets the eye."*

*"Everything humanly possible to ensure the success of this great sporting spectacle has been done and the gods of High Olympus gave their blessing by flooding the arena with bright sunshine that came down from cloudless sky."*

The Hamilton Spectator, Aug. 16, 1930

By STEWART BROWN  
The Spectator

THE FLORID prose of Spectator reporter Cecil Berry aside, the 1930 British Empire Games at Hamilton's Civic Stadium were clearly a high-water mark – and remain so this day – in the city's sporting history.

Fifteen thousand spectators crowded into brand-new bleachers for the international event that drew athletes from Ireland, Scotland, England, Australia, New Zealand, British Guiana, Bermuda, South Africa, Canada and Newfoundland.

Six days later, Spectator scribe Ella Reynolds added her two cents' worth:

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## Empire Games provided highlight

"The crowd was, as usual, good natured and enthusiastic, and while the south stand reflected all the colors of the rainbow in feminine apparel, the big north stand was almost entirely a sea of men's straw hats."

The 1930 B.E. Games weren't the first sporting events on what used to be J.J. Scott's farm, now bounded by King Street East, Melrose Avenue, Beechwood Avenue and Balsam Avenue, and intersected by Cannon Street East.

On Valentine's Day in 1913, the city expropriated 13 acres from Scott. An arbitrator decided that Hamilton would pay \$6,835 an acre, rather than the \$18,500 that farmer Scott wanted.

By 1921, the complex was home to a pair of soccer fields, running north-south, where Ivor Wynne Stadium now stands, a baseball field, a cricket pitch, bowling green and children's playground.

The summer of 1930 brought the British Empire Games but virtually nothing remains today of that Civic Stadium.

When the Hamilton Tigers and Wildcats combined to form the Tiger-Cats in 1950, the team played games at Civic Stadium but kept its clubhouse and practice field at the H.A.A.A. Grounds on Charlton Avenue in southwest Hamilton.

The stadium's south stand was rebuilt in 1959, while a new north stand was erected in 1971 – the same year AstroTurf was introduced – well in time for Hamilton's hosting of the 1972 Grey Cup game.

Civic Stadium got its new name in December, 1970, five weeks after the death at 51 of Ivor Wynne, a former chairman of the parks board, long-



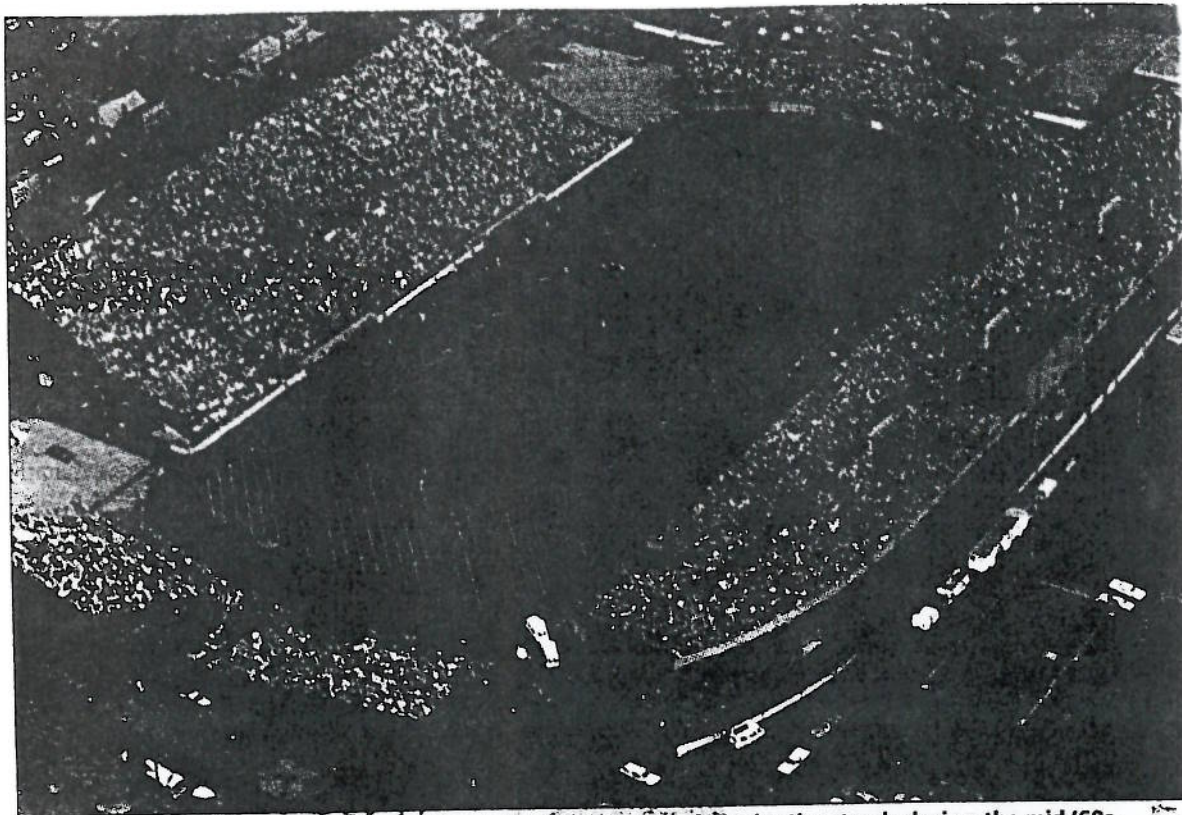
Spectator file photo

Groundskeeper marks the field at Civic Stadium prior to a CFL game during the 1960s.

time athletic director and dean of men at McMaster University and football color commentator on radio and television.



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An aerial view of Ivor Wynne. Below, a young boy sells his goods under the stands during the mid '60s.

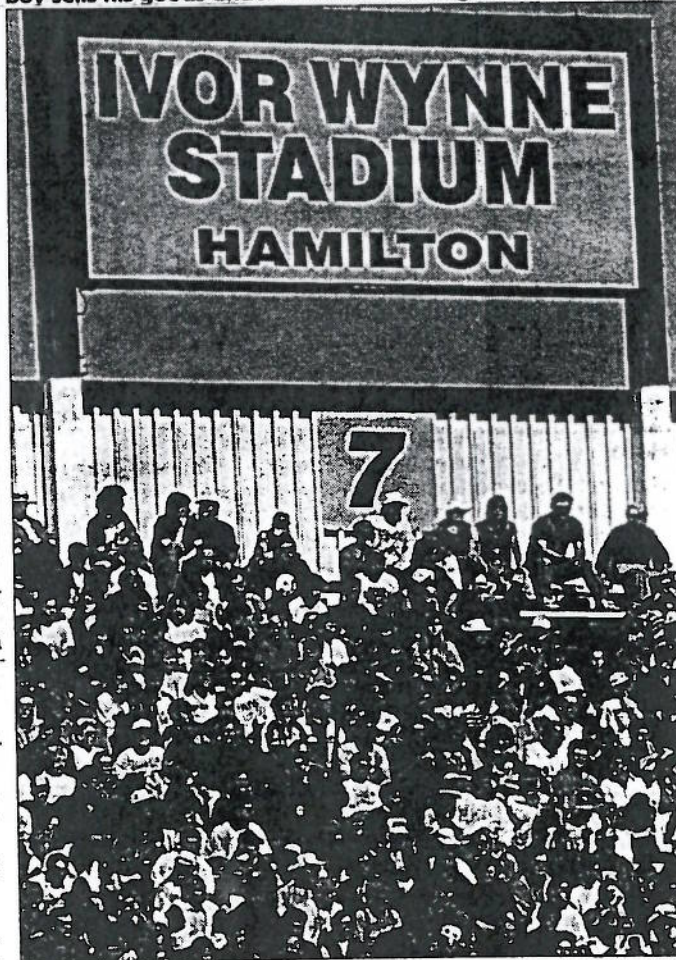


Hamilton Cardinals at the Civic Stadium baseball field. Then I did high-school games from a dingy little booth on the north side of Civic Stadium."

Now, Sturup is the P.A. voice at both Ivor Wynne and Toronto's Sky-Dome. "My position is as a league official. The P.A. announcers are paid by the CFL just the same as the referees.

"Ivor Wynne has been a very comfortable place. I've seen it grow from both sides to what it is now. I've spent a lot of hours of my life down there, doing all sorts of things, from being the awe-struck high-school kid, to being the assistant P.A. guy, to taking over the P.A.

"I haven't worked too many Rush concerts, though. They don't give away too many pizzas or lucky numbers at Rush concerts."



Spectator file photo

A crowd in the mid-'80s basks in a fall sun.

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# Radio host runs afoul of Wynne family in bid to rename stadium

By CARMELINA PRETE  
The Spectator

Radio morning man John Hardy had crow à la mode on the breakfast menu for a broadcast blunder that prompted an on-air apology.

The red-faced CHML radio celebrity said he erred and apologized yesterday morning to family, friends and fans of late hometown hero Ivor Wynne for suggesting the sports stadium named in his honour be renamed to commemorate Hamilton's Hall of Fame quarterback Bernie Faloney.

Wynne was athletic director and dean of students at McMaster University and his passion for sports was known nationally. Faloney, a legendary Ticat, made headlines earlier this week after publicly describing his personal battle with colon cancer while helping to launch a new cancer support group.

Hardy read the headlines and not much else before going on air Thursday with the "spontaneous suggestion" to strip Wynne's name from the stadium.

Hardy, who has been with CHML 21 years, said he didn't quite know who Ivor Wynne was or that the stadium had been named in the man's honour only 28 years ago. "I didn't realize it was that recent. I didn't do my homework," admitted Hardy. "I thought there should be a suitable tribute to (Faloney) while, and I don't mean to be morbid, he's still here to recognize the gratitude ... It was a well-intentioned bad idea (and) an unfair and inappropriate thing to suggest. I feel very bad, professionally and personally."

But Hardy said what really made him "feel like a heel" was hearing from the Wynne family, who reminded him of

their patriarch's contributions in municipal government and national sports circles.

"All I ask is that he do his research," said Penny Wynne, who never knew her father-in-law. "How can you be honouring people by taking the name off something? ... It makes no permanent honour."

Hardy apologized privately and publicly to the Wynne family, who said the matter is now considered history.

Still, the suggestion disappointed Robert Wynne, Peggy's husband.

"It was obvious to me that he didn't know the history of dad," said the 51-year-old Ancaster father of four. "To have dad attached to a stadium is a great privilege to our family ... But (Hardy's mistake) has given some chance to reacquaint people with the history attached to a landmark."

Ivor Wynne died a day shy of his 52nd birthday in November 1970. His death was mourned by many — from students to politicians. The former chairman of the city's parks board was considered largely responsible for McMaster's physical education course and the planning and development of its athletics complex. A month after his death, the former Civic Stadium, home of the Tiger-Cats, was renamed in his honour.

"It was not well thought out," said Darryl Hartwick, CHML program director, of Hardy's idea. "It's an internal matter for us to deal with."

Mayor Bob Morrow said he has no intention to rename the stadium but believes the city should commemorate Faloney's local contributions.

"There is something I am trying to achieve ... something significant ... to honour him," said Morrow, who said he won't provide details until he speaks with Faloney, who could not be reached for comment.

Hardy, who calls Faloney a great Canadian, hopes the man will be honoured but remains humble about his error. "I will take 101 per cent of the blame ... There's no excusing this, but at least now I have a better understanding of who Ivor Wynne was."



Hardy



Wynne

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# Our gem of a park

*Football fans will love improvements to Ivor Wynne*

As with most things historical, there is a precedent for what Ticat owner Bob Young hopes will happen at Ivor Wynne Stadium.

It's called Fenway Park.

"People didn't realize they had a gem here and it took the '67 Miracle Team to make them recognize it," says Richard Johnson, curator of the New England Sports Museum in Boston, and co-author of the book *Red Sox Century*.

"It was sort of like the scene in *The Wizard of Oz* when it turns from black and white to colour. It was a change in attitude and latitude. People came to Fenway and rediscovered it."

People had always come to Fenway and loved it. The problem in the 1960s was that most of those people weren't from Boston. They weren't the regulars who had to cram their rumps into the narrow seats, who had to fight massive queues at concession stands, who had to hope the ill-lit and inadequate washrooms were still usable when they finally got their turn.

Admittedly, the Red Sox had terrible teams in that era, but between 1952 and 1966 the Sox never averaged above 15,626 fans per game and twice tumbled below a 10,000 average.

"(Owner Tom) Yawkey had become apathetic about the club and park," Johnson recalls. "He saw Fenway Park wasn't just regarded as a tear-worn park, a lot of people call it a dump."

While the park didn't change much, perception did and since the late 1960s, Fenway has been the hardest ticket in sport.

Yet when Ted Williams, the greatest pure hitter who ever lived, played the last game of his brilliant and bittersweet career — hitting a homer in what everyone knew was his final at-bat — at Fenway in 1960, there were only 10,454 in the audience. Best-selling author John Updike wrote his classic "Hub Fans Bid Kid Adieu" for *The New Yorker* magazine around that game and described Fenway as a tiny, emerald jewel where everything "is in curiously sharp focus."

While none carry the literary heft of Updike, Ivor Wynne has its share of lyrical worshippers, too. But they're scattered throughout the Canadian Football League in cities not named Hamilton. They talk of the compactness and the immediacy. And they talk of the intimidating wall along the south sideline as if it were the Green Monster at Fenway, bestowing its horrors upon visitor and home team alike.

Outsiders who haven't had to abide the absurd scoreboard, gloomy under-stands and washroom lineups more than once or twice a year can instantly see what so many of us here long ago became blind to: the rare, communal, intimacy of a building which not only offers the best view of



STEVE MILTON

football anywhere in the country, but which walks hand in hand with the history of the Canadian game.

"There is a spiritual aspect to this, it's not just the architecture," says Johnson, who minors in the relationship between sports stadia and their communities. "You don't ever want to lose that."

Young seems to have a firm grip on that concept. If there is anything positive about Hamilton's rejection as Commonwealth Games' host, it's that we're now forced to deal head-on with Ivor Wynne. This is where the institution which most broadly represents the city, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, will continue to play, perhaps for the rest of their days. This is what will help define to the rest of the world what is good or bad about Hamilton. It is our choice whether it's the positive or negative which is emphasized, just as it has been with New Englanders and Fenway. Shrine or outhouse?

With his promise to redecorate the stadium's underbelly in light-enhancing colours and his state-of-the-art scoreboard just three months from installation, Young may shift local perception of Ivor Wynne from what's lacking to what's treasured. The scoreboard, in particular, will close the place in, emphasize the intimacy. The darker hue of the new turf has already started that process.

HAMILTON SPECTATOR  
MAR 03 2004  
(cont'd...)

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"You need progress," Johnson agrees. "You

can't just play in a museum.

"History sells, and the Red Sox owners have discovered that. Your people (in Hamilton) should pay attention to what the Sox' owners have done. They basically have paid homage to tradition while turning over a page or two: for instance putting the seats over the left field wall. That brings attention back to what was great about the park before."

It says here that is exactly what the new scoreboard will do for Ivor Wynne. That, and a team which wins more than one game.

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# Ivor Wynne shows its age

## Immediate repairs needed to structure

BY KEN PETERS

A recent consultant's report shows Ivor Wynne Stadium requires between \$50,000 to \$75,000 in immediate structural improvements as part of a necessary \$15 million upgrade over the next 10 years.

The repair bill has at least one Hamilton politician wondering whether it's time for council to jump-start talks with senior levels of government on a new facility, which could cost as much as \$80 million:

'I think the time has come where we should sit with a number of the partners and ... look at all the options.'

BERNIE MORELLI

"I think the time has come where we should sit with a number of the partners and start to look at all the options. Where do the major users of the facility see this going, how efficient is the place. We're at that point," said Councillor Bernie Morelli, a member of the city's culture and recreation committee in whose ward the stadium sits.

"It needs to be reviewed not only from the perspective of not only providing a safe facility from a structural point of view but



whether it serves as a facility that is required in these times and those coming forward, given how football has moved forward," Morelli continued.

A resurgence in fan interest saw the Hamilton Tiger-Cats attract an average of more than 27,000 fans per game last season.

Morelli said there is no question the city will have to make the immediate repairs.

"We have a responsibility to ensure that it is safe because, quite frankly, to do otherwise would be totally irresponsible and probably criminal," he said.

In Hamilton's most recent Commonwealth Games bid, the city's pitch included the cost of constructing a \$150 million stadium. But that project died when Commonwealth Games Canada selected Halifax to carry the country's hopes for the 2014 event.

The city recently hired a consultant to assess the 75-year-old facility and found the concrete seating slabs and support steel in the south and east portions of the stands "are beginning to show signs of deterioration" and should be replaced within the next decade.

"The assessment results have further concluded that the steel stairwells in all three bleachers are also showing signs of deterioration and that several stairs need immediate attention," states a recent report from Joe-Anne Priel, general manager of community services.

Cultural and recreation spokesman Dale Wood confirmed yesterday the city-owned facility requires \$50,000 to \$75,000 for the replacement of the steel stairwells.

"To do concrete repairs and steel repairs down the road it can get up to ... \$15 million was the estimate in the report that was prepared. That's over a 10 year period," he said.

The Hamilton Tiger-Cats, the facility's main tenant, are entering the third-year of their five-year lease. The club has already spent \$3 million on stadium improvements, mainly to the press box and concessions, confirmed Christopher Dean, the club's general manager of business operations.

"We love Ivor Wynne and we want to work in partnership with the city," he said. "I think it's a dialogue we're going to have to have with the city as time moves forward."

The looming stadium repairs would seem to put on hold any plans the Ticats may have of bringing the Grey Cup to Steeltown anytime in the near future.

■ ■ ■

The deadline for Tiger-Cat season ticket renewal is tomorrow at 5 p.m. Dean reports the club expects to surpass the 17,000 season ticket subscribers from last season, the highest total in recent memory.

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# Cats kick off stadium debate

Failing Ivor Wynne needs replacement, club president says time is running out

**BY JOHN KERNAGHAN**

The Tiger-Cats need a new or revamped home and city hall has a two-year window to resolve the issue, the

football club's president said yesterday. "Where do we play?" Scott Mitchell asked after outlining a decision he said can't be put off any longer.

His call to action prompted Mayor

Fred Eisenberger to promise a new home for the Tiger-Cats will be a top priority once the current budget process is completed.

Mitchell defined the issue in a speech at The Mayor's Luncheon, noting Ivor Wynne Stadium is declining rapidly and would cost \$30 million to \$40 million to rebuild.

Mitchell said the city can go that

route and have a limited-use facility in a residential area or consider a new stadium capable of housing more events. It would cost \$150 million to \$200 million, he estimated.

Eisenberger said he'd direct city staff to start examining options, including an inner-city location, as soon as the city's budget is ironed out.

Ivor Wynne started as Civic Stadium in 1930 when it was built for the British Empire Games. Mitchell stressed the risk with aging stadiums, pointing out one side of Ottawa's Lansdowne Park was condemned as unsafe recently.

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# A 'perfect storm' for new stadium?

BY JOHN KERNAGHAN

The elephant known as the stadium issue is not only in the room, its trunk is tapping city leaders on the shoulder.

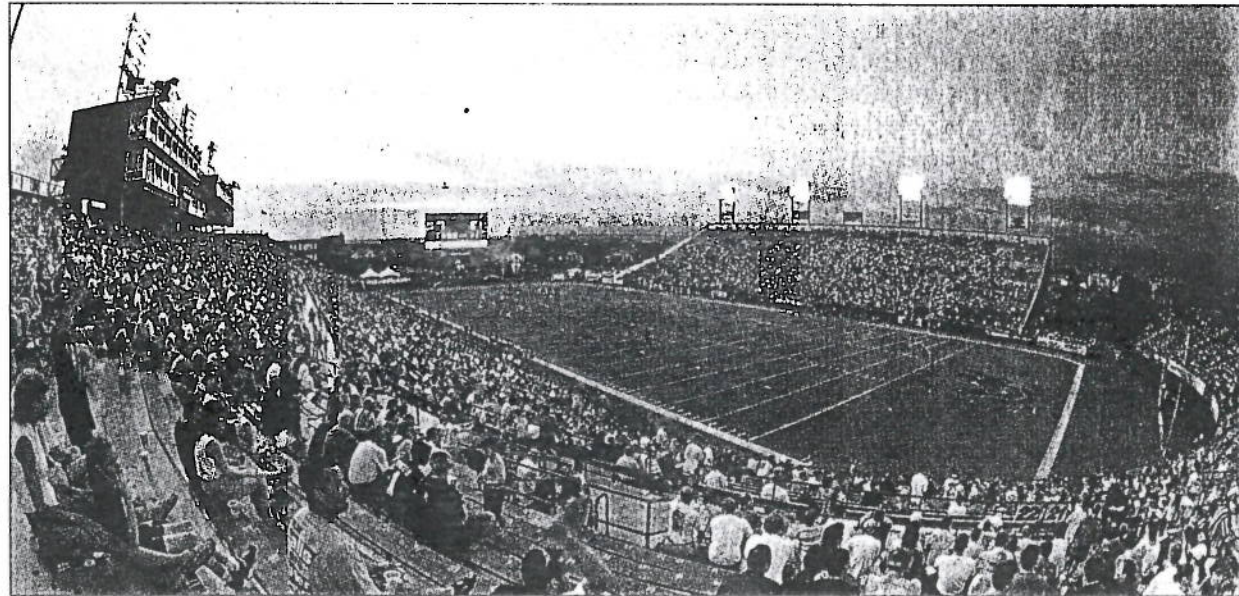
Hamilton faces a decision in the next two or three years — either revamp ageing Ivor Wynne Stadium for up to \$40 million or find a spot for and finance a brand new home for the Tiger-Cats. That bill? Up to \$200 million.

Tiger-Cat president Scott Mitchell was clearly pushing for the latter with a Mayor's Luncheon address yesterday centred on "the vision for Hamilton and its future through technology, downtown revitalization and sports infrastructure."

He told a group of city staff and business people that it was a kind of "perfect storm," the challenge of the stadium issue also presenting an opportunity if Hamilton wants to position itself as a sport centre for Eastern Canada.

Mitchell pointed out Tiger-Cat owner Bob Young has set a tone for Hamilton by establishing the football club's offices and two other businesses, Lulu Inc. and MRX Associates, downtown.

Lulu is a growing self-publishing company and MRX is in the promo-



HAMILTON SPECTATOR FILE PHOTO

**Ticat president Scott Mitchell is urging the city to invest in a new multipurpose stadium rather than revamp Ivor Wynne.**

tional and event marketing field.

Mitchell painted a picture of a new stadium that could incorporate halls of fame like the Canadian Football hall and homeless Canadian Sports hall as well as head offices for national teams.

The Ticat president said 8,000 to 10,000 people in Toronto are employed in sports-related jobs, and some national sports organizations are finding office space too expensive there.

He added that sports centres twin

nicely with the emphasis on health and fitness at McMaster University.

The equation of stadium, national sports offices and improved recreational facilities could be accelerated if Hamilton gets back in the Games-bid-

ding business, successfully this time with the Pan-Am Games.

Mitchell reminded his audience that Manchester, England, used the 2002 Commonwealth Games to revitalize a city demoralized by the loss of traditional industries.

Mayor Fred Eisenberger said after Mitchell's speech that the city has to move soon to study the stadium options. He said he favours an inner-city location for a new stadium, but not a waterfront site.

The site floated in the 2010 Commonwealth Games plan was Bay and Barton streets in an area now dominated by Rheem Canada Ltd., which is pulling out in 2009.

Eisenberger said that site would help create a corridor connecting downtown with the waterfront.

But he added any new stadium proposal would have to include other businesses and attractions to make it a year-long destination.

Other locations suggested in the past have been near the Hamilton airport and on the east Mountain.

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# Kickoff for stadium debate

So, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats say they need a new or refurbished stadium to be viable. Some cynics might wonder, don't they have to start playing football again, first? We're not among the cynics, however, and would never wonder such a mean thing.

Kidding aside, the question here isn't whether or not Hamilton and its beleaguered football franchise need a new or renovated stadium. The age and condition of venerable Ivor Wynne Stadium provide the answer, but in case you've been living in a cave, the answer is a resounding yes.

The real and more perplexing question is the same one city council grappled with around our deteriorating City Hall. Do we do major renovations to bring Ivor Wynne up to standard, and at the same time preserve the historic and unique character of the Balsam Street landmark? Or do we bid a fond farewell, and build a new stadium to house the Cats (who are sure to be winning again by the time all this happens) and other big outdoor events, too?

And the answer is ... not going to appear here, at least not today. When Cats president Scott Mitchell told the Mayor's Luncheon this week that the stadium question needs to be solved within a window of a couple of years, Mayor Fred Eisenberger's response was entirely appropriate. He said the issue would be front and centre as soon as the current budget process is complete. And the mayor pledged to have staff start examining the various options.

So far, so good. This is a hugely complex matter that requires extensive research, visioning and a sound business case before a decision is taken. Current cost estimates, which may or may not be accurate, suggest overhauling the 77-year-old Ivor Wynne will cost between \$30 and \$40 million, while building from scratch will cost \$150 to \$200 million. That's a big difference in price tag, but it tells only part of the story.

The former Civic Stadium certainly has history and nostalgia on its side. But it also has major limitations, most notably its location in a fully developed residential area with no potential for growth in parking, major issues around access and limited capacity to accommodate larger-scale events. Other schools of thought advocate a greenfield location, probably on the Mountain, near the Linc or airport, which is much less romantic but certainly addresses the road access and parking issues. Still other options include another location in the lower city, perhaps on the waterfront or in the North End, making effective use of brownfield property left vacant by unfortunately retreating industry and manufacturing.

All these ideas have merits, and drawbacks. A thorough assessment, undertaken with urgency and calm, should facilitate lively discussion and debate, and allow for a clear-headed decision that will stand the Cats and their city in good stead for the next 77 years, at least.

— Howard Elliott

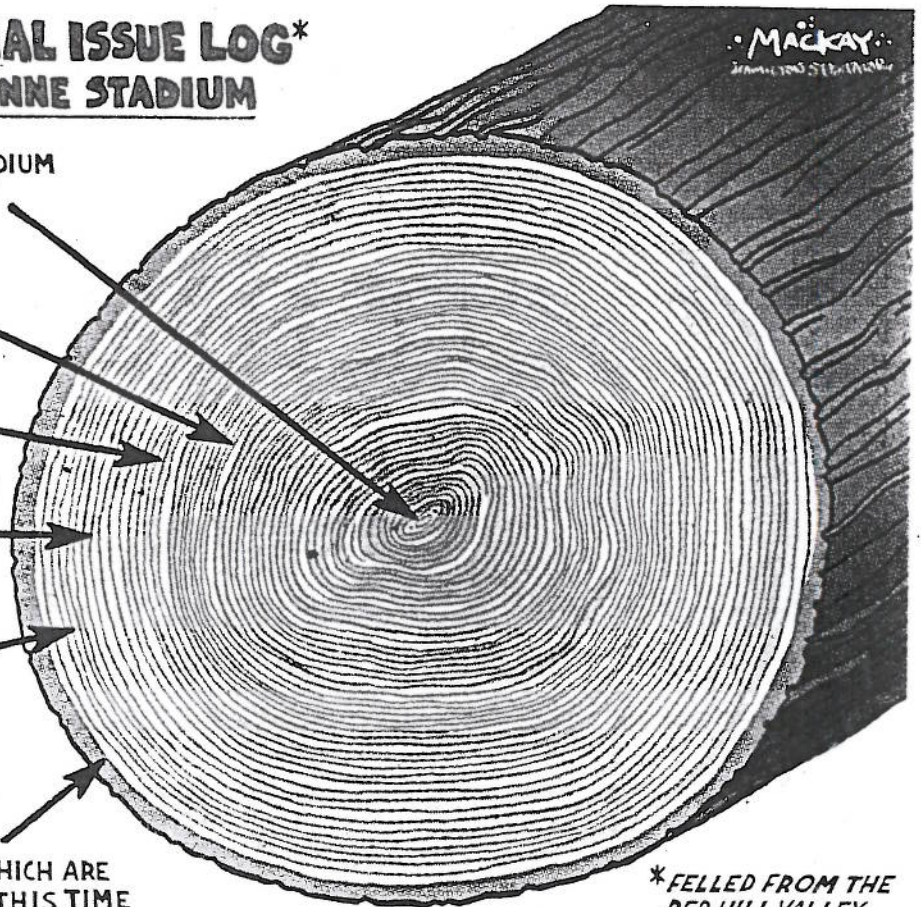
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# THE PERENNIAL ISSUE LOG\*

## SUBJECT: IVOR WYNNE STADIUM

- CIVIC STADIUM  
BUILT
- RENAMED  
IVOR WYNNE  
STADIUM
- PLANS  
FOR A NEW  
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\* FELLED FROM THE  
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# I'm game for some stadium magic

## Pivotal decision: rebuild or move



SCOTT RADLEY

Nearly 20 years ago, Baltimore had one of the worst downtowns in all of North America. Driving through the streets of boarded-up buildings after boarded-up buildings was like taking a tour through a nuclear fallout zone after the bomb had landed.

Today, the area is booming. And you'd be hard-pressed to find anyone who doesn't lay the credit for stimulating the turnaround at the feet of the Baltimore Orioles and their construction of Camden Yards.

Now, Hamilton is hoping a new football stadium might be able to do the same here. Debate has started about whether to repair Ivor Wynne Stadium or build a new \$200-million-or-so facility somewhere else in town, with hopes of getting the downtown

economy humming.

Question is, where? And is this kind of turnaround even possible here?

Truth is, the most sensible location is probably somewhere around the airport. There's enough available land for a stadium and sufficient parking. There's growing development. Once the Red Hill Creek Expressway is finished, just about anyone in the city

could get there in about 20 minutes. And if the area can handle airplane noise, it can certainly survive outdoor concerts through the summer.

But it's clear the first choice and political will is downtown. So is there a spot that can make sense in the core?

Not the waterfront location favoured by some during the first Commonwealth Games bid, that's for sure.

While it would certainly offer a picturesque view of the harbour, it's worth remembering some other great facilities built right on the water. Cleveland Stadium. Exhibition Stadium. Candlestick Park. All which shared the nickname 'The Mistake By The Lake' for good reason.

Sitting in the stands as the wind howls through the stadium and fans are pelted with rain blowing sideways isn't fun. Furthermore, access to the area is exceedingly limited. Single-lane roads are not sufficient to handle the vehicles expected, unless you don't mind going to a game on Sunday and not getting home until Tuesday.

Meaning, in addition to the cost of the stadium, millions would have to be

spent on fixing and expanding roads.

Similar traffic concerns would be a significant issue at another rumoured site on land at Confederation Park. And at the soon-to-be-abandoned Rheem property near Barton and Bay.

Yet that last site clearly has the most

potential. It's a close walk to the downtown. It's adjacent to rail lines that could offer public transit opportunities. It's near the waterfront development, without being right on the harbour. And it's big enough to handle parking requirements.

But is the city really willing to spend \$200 million or more on this, or is it talking big but hoping to do this on the cheap? To see why this is such a key issue, let's go back to Maryland.

Yes, Baltimore revitalized its downtown on the strength of a new stadium, so it can be done, even in the most desolate areas. But before city hall gets too overconfident, it needs to remember that Camden Yards is a lavish, archi-

tecturally stunning facility that cost \$110 million to build in 1989. In fact, it was so magnificent that it started a revolution in baseball stadium design that turned teams away from concrete bowls to retro parks with outstanding amenities, all served with in an old-time feel.

It spawned imitators in Cleveland, Detroit, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, San Diego and other cities that used gorgeous stadia as centre-pieces to their resurrected cores.

Creating a beautiful stadium here

might capture the same magic in a bottle Baltimore found. But that costs a lot of money. Throwing together a cookie-cutter facility that's out of date — and out of style — nearly as soon as it's opened, won't have the same impact.

"You've only got the opportunity to do it right once," says Tourism Hamilton executive director David Adames.

One other thing to consider. All those stadia that did such wonders for their cities were baseball fields with 81 home dates a year. The Ticats have just nine home games and one exhibition tilt. Which is why, as easy as it is to find a baseball park that's had a positive impact, it's equally impossible to find a football field that's done the same by itself.

That could be overcome by designing a stadium with an 8,000-seat hockey arena attached to draw more people to the area throughout the year. But moving the Bulldogs there would essentially kill Copps Coliseum, creating a whole new set of problems.

Makes you wonder if saving some dough by rebuilding Ivor Wynne might not just be the best idea after all.

Hey, Chicago's downtown is doing OK, and Wrigley Field is 93 years old.

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# Stars come out at night

*AHL president says all-star or regular-season game at Ivor Wynne possible*

By Garry McKay

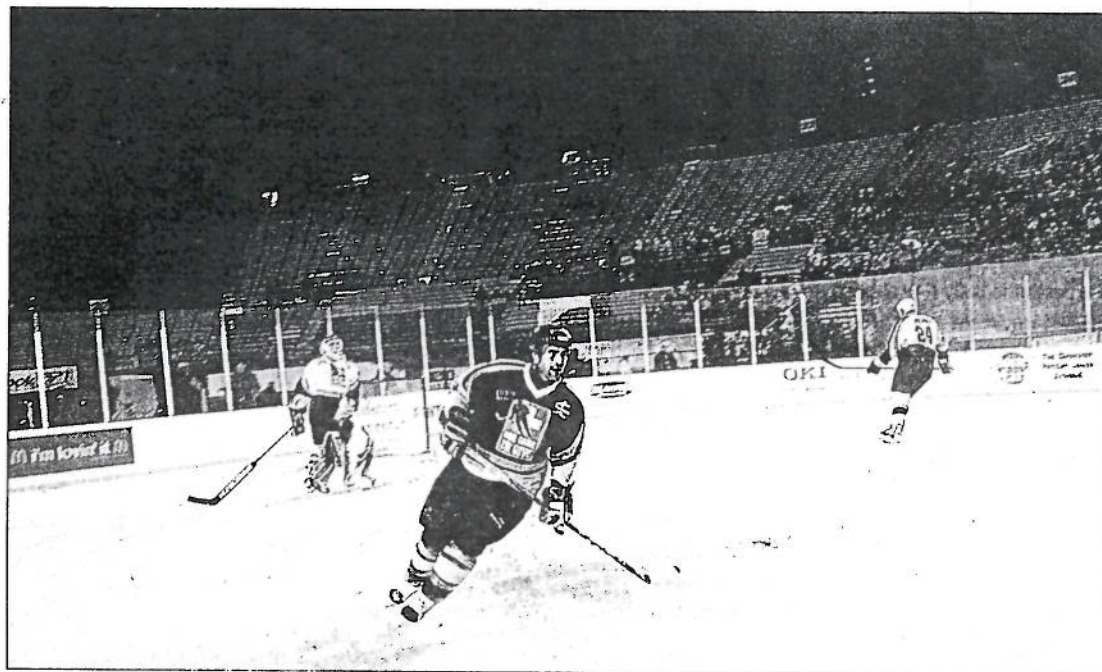
[ BINGHAMTON, N.Y. ] The American Hockey League all-star game outdoors at Ivor Wynne Stadium? It's not as far-fetched as you might think.

League president Dave Andrews said at his annual state-of-the-league news conference yesterday at the all-star festivities that there has been a lot of informal talk among governors about playing an outdoor game.

"We should be talking about scheduling issues and all they want to talk about is playing an outdoor game," Andrew said jokingly of the governors. "I think the concept of us playing an outdoor game is very real. I don't think it would be that difficult to do. Whether it would be a regular-season game or perhaps even the all-star game is something we'd have to look at."

Hamilton GM and governor Glenn Stanford said it is something they will definitely look into.

"If the league wants to do an outdoor game, we owe it to our



HAMILTON SPECTATOR FILE PHOTO

**A WET, CHILLY EVENING.** Todd Bertuzzi, foreground, was happy to be back on the ice and playing with fellow NHLers during the Our Game to Give charity hockey game, held at Ivor Wynne Stadium, in April 2005.

community to at least look into it," he said.

He also mentioned that if the Bulldogs were to do it, he would

prefer it to be the all-star game.

The Bulldogs have traditionally not shown any interest in hosting the all-star game, but Stanford

point out that this is different.

"If it's the all-star game outdoors, it becomes an event and Hamilton is an event city," said the

Bulldogs' general manager.

Stanford has experience running the all-star game. He ran the St. John's Maple Leafs when they hosted the 2002 game at Mile One Stadium.

Stanford said any discussion about an outdoor game in Hamilton would have to wait until the team's negotiations with HECFI are concluded, which he felt could be soon.

The hockey club and Hamilton Entertainment and Convention Facilities Inc. are in negotiations for the latter to take over marketing and advertising sales for the hockey franchise.

"For us to do the all-star game outdoors at Ivor Wynne wouldn't just be the Bulldogs doing it," Stanford explained. "It would require HECFI and the city to be involved. But now that word of this is out, I expect we might hear what HECFI thinks about the idea very quickly."

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HAMILTON SPECTATOR  
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# 'Creative thinking'

*HECFI, Dogs show interest in pursuing outdoors game idea*

**By Garry McKay**

The idea of an American Hockey League all-star game played outdoors at Ivor Wynne Stadium is definitely worth pursuing. That's the opinion of Duncan Gillespie, chief executive officer of Hamilton Entertainment and Convention Facilities Inc.

"It certainly fits into the creative thinking that we're trying to incubate here at HECFI," Gillespie said. "An event like that at Ivor Wynne is something that we would certainly want to take a look at and explore to determine whether it's something that's a good thing to do."

Dave Andrews, president of the AHL, floated the idea of an outdoor game during his state of the league news conference at the league's annual showcase event

Monday in Binghamton, N.Y.

He said there was nothing concrete in place but that a number of the league's governors were kicking around the idea. Since the concept is only in its infancy, Andrews said they weren't sure whether it should be a regular season game or possibly even the all-star game.

Bulldogs' president and governor Glenn Stanford said they were certainly interested in exploring the concept, but felt that if they were going to do it it should be the all-star game because that makes it an event and the Steel City is known as an event market.

Both Stanford and Gillespie agree that any move to go forward with the concept would have to wait until HECFI and the Bulldogs

finish their negotiations for HECFI to take over marketing, ticket sales and advertising sales for the hockey club. Those discussions are ongoing.

"I think we're in the final stages of consummating that deal," Gillespie explained. "I think there is a desire by both parties to do this and it's a mutually beneficial arrangement. We're right in the final stages of our due diligence."

"If this deal with the Bulldogs goes through, it (an outdoor game) would still be a partnership with the Bulldogs and I think Glenn said it best ... it would become an event ... and everyone, including Tourism Hamilton, would have to be involved."

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