

Fundraising campaign continues as new rinks open to public

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

The sparkling new two-rink addition to the Mold-Masters SportsPlex in Georgetown was officially unveiled to the public on Sunday, but there's still plenty of heavy lifting to do before the project is truly complete.

Several hundred local residents turned out for the festivities and ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Guelph St. facility, which now has four ice pads in operation.

Town of Halton Hills officials and key players in the project, which was finished on time and on budget, spoke to the crowd about what has gone into bringing the arena expansion to fruition and the pavement-pounding that still needs to be done.

The Stay at Home and Play fundraising campaign has raised \$1.7 million of its \$2-million goal and has been extended to the end of the year to reach that mark.

The new rinks at the Mold-Masters SportsPlex encompass just two-thirds of the \$24.8-million cost of the project,



Town of Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette officially welcomed the community into the newly expanded Mold-Masters SportsPlex in Georgetown at a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sunday afternoon. Pictured (from left) are: Halton Hills Regional Councillor Clark Somerville, Janice Badgley and Terry Bennett of TransCanada, one of the rink sponsors, Town Councillor Bryan Lewis, HHAUG co-chair Steve Highfield, Mayor Bonnette, Councillors Bob Inglis, Joan Robson, Dave Kentner, Jane Fogal, Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong, Councillors Ann Lawlor and Jon Hurst. Photo by Eamonn Maher

which also includes a twinning of the Acton Arena, slated to be completed in September 2015, with shovels expected to be in the ground in the spring of 2014.

And while local-area businesses and community groups will be approached in the coming weeks to help bridge the fundraising shortfall, Sunday was a day for

those involved to enjoy the fruits of their labour.

"You have truly exceeded our expectations," Steve Highfield, co-chair of the Halton Hills Arena Users Group (HHAUG), told members of Town council.

The HHAUG consists of 18 local sports and recreation organizations representing about 13,500 members, some of whom have had to travel outside the municipality in order to find playing time.

"It's not the cost of the ice. It's the cost of the time and the convenience," said Mayor Rick Bonnette.

"The cost to our local businesses and the economy and the cost of the community's identity. Playing home games in Orangeville just doesn't cut it. It's nice to be able to say stay at home and play, a very fitting theme to the capital campaign."

An arena surcharge for each hour of ice rented at the facility has been earmarked for generating \$2.4 million towards the cost of the project over the next decade. Significant contributions from various levels of government have also gone into the construction costs.

Late rally not enough for Potter at Halton golf championship

By **HERB GARBUTT**
Metroland Media Group

Gray Potter had just double bogeyed the 12th hole to fall four shots off the lead and it seemed the chances of pulling off a victory at the Halton high school golf championship had vanished.

The Georgetown District High School student would stage a valiant rally, though. He birdied three of the final six holes but M.M. Robinson's Greg Goddard would par the final hole to seal a one-shot victory Monday at Hidden Lake Golf Club in Burlington.

Potter entered the day two back after shooting a 76 in the opening round at Wyldewood.

"I knew I had a shot but I started badly," he said.

He bogeyed two of the first three holes but said a pep talk from teammate Callum Biehn got him going.

The Grade 11 student started his rally on the 13th, draining a 30-foot uphill putt for birdie. At 16, Potter's approach came up just short of the green but he chipped in to move to four-over.

Potter kept the pressure on, though. At the par-3, 167-yard 17th, he hit it to nine feet and made the putt to move within one stroke of the lead.

As Potter played the par-5 18th, Goddard had a similar, though slightly longer, birdie putt on 17 but it came up just inches shy of the cup. Potter two-putted for par and a round of 74. That left it up to Goddard, who two-putted from 10 feet for a par and the win.

Though it didn't bring him the individual title, Potter's run of birdies

helped GDHS qualify for the Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference championship Monday at the Beverly Golf and Country Club in Copetown. With three team spots available, GDHS finished tied for second with Burlington's Corpus Christi with a score of 626.

Joining him will be Biehn, who finished 12th with a total of 159, Mitch McLeod and Ben Braun.

Dane Firhoj of CtK shot a 77 Monday for the Jaguars' best round, followed up by teammates Thomas Hunt (78), Andrew Pehiniak (79) and Jeff Brown (83).

Acton's Spencer Mokrenko carded an 88.

On the girls' side, Christ the King's Samantha Spencer shot a 77 Monday to finish one stroke behind winner Anika Haynes of Iroquois Ridge.



REBELS ROMP: Georgetown Rebel Zoe Butson pokes in a rebound behind Bishop Reding Royals goalkeeper Loren Pelaez during their Halton high school junior girls' Tier 2 field hockey matchup Tuesday at Kiwanis Field. The Rebels picked up their first win of the season, a 6-0 victory, to improve to 1-1-1. Jamie Gardner (2), Sarah Ridd, Sarah Laurie and Rebecca Sherk also scored for Georgetown and goalie Emily Freeman earned the shutout. In Tuesday's senior game, Bishop Reding won 2-1. Photo by Chris Carvalho

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