

It's time for expansion of Ballinafad Community Centre



Canadian and international artists' work will be up for sale at the Ballinafad Gala Art Auction. Come out Saturday for the 6:30 p.m. preview and 8 p.m. auction at the Ballinafad Community Centre just off Trafalgar Road North. Putting on the auction are (left to right) hall board secretary Anna Spear, treasurer Marlene Burnett, Daniela Gablin of Fogal Fine Arts, and hall manager Jane Huston. (Herald photo)

By ANI FEDERIAN
Herald Staff

An expansion of the 25-year-old Ballinafad Community Centre may be taking place this fall, if plans by the Ballinafad hall board are approved by Erin Township council.

Erin is expected to make its decision this week, as the Community Centre, just off Trafalgar Road North, belongs to it.

The plans, designed by retired architect Ed Lanek of Ninth Line, expand the Centre by 2,000 square feet, giving it a bigger hall, bigger kitchen, six more washrooms, an upstairs cloakroom, a bar, and a wheelchair ramp.

Hall board treasurer Marlene Burnett said a budget of \$100,000 has been set for the expansion. Already, the board has received two government grants totalling \$36,600 towards the project, and has raised another \$15,000 over the past three years through dances and other hall board functions. Erin has given \$5,000 to the expansion.

"Everything we do that makes a profit goes to the building fund," Mrs. Burnett said. "Rental fees are used to just run the hall and pay its overhead."

The hall board plans to come to Halton Hills council also, for funding.

"They should be able to help us a little bit because everybody north of Highway 7 there rents the hall and comes to our dances and weekly exercise classes. Some even come from Georgetown for them, too," Mrs. Burnett said.

As the hall board doesn't have the entire \$100,000 raised yet, and anticipates having to take out a mortgage on the building, care is being given to avoid going over budget.

The addition will expand the hall space to allow 150 people instead of the current 120, and Mrs. Burnett expects more wedding parties will be interested in renting the hall.

"Not many people keep their weddings down like they used to. It seems to be 150 guests nowadays," she said.

Along with getting more rentals for wedding receptions, the hall board expects to make more money by being able to charge more for rentals. Currently, it charges \$100.

"The new addition will let us raise the rent up, and the functions will increase, so we'll have more money coming in," Mrs. Burnett said.

The 25-year-old building is in dire need of improvements, especially to its bathrooms. There are two bathrooms now, but they're in bad shape, Mrs. Burnett said.

"The septic bed doesn't work any more because cars are parking on the weeping bed," she said. A new septic system is to be put in.

As well, the building no longer meets fire code standards. Upgrading the doors and windows to meet these new standards costs money.

Will there be people to use the building after all these improvements are made? The answer is yes, according to Mrs. Burnett.

To the west of the community centre, 23 new houses are being built by Howard Caten and Henry Burnett. That development will dedicate a six-acre park to the community, right next to the centre.

There's also another subdivision of 17 homes to be built by Rene and Joan March east of Trafalgar Road on Regional Road 42.

Right now, the centre is used for exercise classes, Scottish dancing, Beavers, a men's club, stags, dances, weddings, reunions, anniversaries and other community functions.

Ballinafad has men's and ladies' baseball teams who play in Limehouse. With the new six-acre park, these teams won't have to go to Limehouse for games.

As well, the park will have soccer fields, a picnic area and horseshoe pits.

"Can't forget them," Mrs. Burnett laughed. "Especially for the reunions. That's one of the big fun things."

Duplicate Bridge

Duplicate Bridge started Sept. 29 at 1 p.m. at the Legion (upstairs). The winners were Midge Hampshire and Norma Maynard. Except for holidays falling on a Monday duplicate bridge will be played every Monday at 1 p.m. sharp.

Partners are available if needed and refreshments are free. For further information call Norma at 877-8918 or Elsie at 877-2475. All bridge players are welcome to come and try duplicate bridge. If there are enough tables a free play will be given to the winners. The Oct. 6 individual winner was Velma Charnley with Diane Johnson a close second and Dot Warren third.

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lot of "unfounded concerns" and "emotional rhetoric" about hunters.

He said the "emotional residents" near the Coulson Tract who object to hunting should spend their time combatting rabies instead. By not allowing hunting, you're allowing rabies cases to increase, Mr. Trenwith claimed.

He said there were very few documented cases of residents having problems with hunters in their area, a statement which Halton Hills Coun. Pam Sheldon agreed with.

The Coun. noted the Ministry of Natural Resources seldom document complaints because most of them are "frivolous" in their view.

Martha Szgoric is one of the neighbors on Fourth Line just north of the Coulson Tract who complained about bullet holes in her walls.

"I call these people nutcases. Contrary to what the Ministry of Natural Resources claims, these aren't isolated incidents. Those are daily incidents to people who live there," Mrs. Szgoric said.

She said she used to let hunters come onto her property but has since forbidden them because of bad experiences.

Her complaints always went to the police, Mrs. Szgoric said. It wasn't until last year she learned complaints should be directed to the Ministry of Natural Resources.

"Hunters say there's a greater danger from family picnics. I guess it depends on what brand of tuna mother uses in her sandwiches," Forest neighbor Dennis Taylor said.

Don Huff of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists expressed the view that hunting precludes the use of the area by others as it poses an "unreasonable risk" to others.

Rick Morgan of the Ontario Federation of Hunters and Anglers said hunting is one of the safest Canadian activities according to the Travelers Insurance Company.

"The liability issue is a real threat to our taxpayers," Halton Hills Coun. Pam Sheldon said. "We have to be concerned about all the users, not just the hunters but also the passive users."

She noted deer did more crop damage in dollar value (\$88,000) than all the other wildlife combined. That was why the Region's Task Force on Hunting seemed to zoom in more on the deer hunt than on small game.

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