



Remember my goal?

Paul Henderson, the hero of the Team Canada vs Team Soviet hockey series of 1972, speaks with several members of the Halton Hills Christian Women's Fellowship.

hockey hero's stature. From left, Joanne Dexter, Janie Visser, Henderson, Grace Forley, and Gerry Kunic. (Herald photo)

For elderly, handicapped

Activan plays vital role

By CHARLIE GIBBS
Herald Special
As the Activan service of Halton Hills nears its sixth birthday this May, residents and councillors alike recognize the need to improve the service. Activan has proven itself as a necessary and vital program in the community.

Activan was established as a service in 1981 through public and private donations. The need of an adequate transportation facility for the seniors and handicapped of Halton Hills was originally suggested by local support groups, such as Halton Helping Hands and A Friend in Need. The responsibility for the van was transferred to the municipality and province, and has given a total of about 15,000 rides collectively.

The van is unlike any other in the area, due to its capacity to lift wheelchairs. A contract between the Town and Tyler Transport of Acton has been arranged.

"It's getting old," said Ted Tyler "The van we have now could be used as a good back-up, but it really needs replacing."

The possibilities of buying a new van is currently being examined by Council. A new van would cost about \$40,000, of which, half of the cost would be supported by the province.

"We do need another van," said councillor Marilyn Serjeantson, a member of the Town Activan committee. "The Activan has been a very positive service in our town. We've done all sorts of things to make it work."

In addition to the regular 9-5 operating hours of the van, additional times are also arranged for evenings and weekends. The van is used by about four students each morning and afternoon as well, and often takes patients to physiotherapy sessions and doctor appointments.

However, there are some citizens who feel the service warrants reform.

"It is very difficult to book the van," said Pat Woode, President of Social Planning Council of the Physically Handicapped. "Especially between 8-9 in the morning, and 2-4 in the afternoon."

Yet, Mr. Tyler maintains that Activan is doing the best that it can. "We can't be in two places at once," he said. "We can't offer a taxi service, this is public transport."

"Generally speaking, I think everybody is getting good service. We get very few requests that can't be met. Town Council is currently con-

ducting a survey to find out how large a problem exists. In January, 200 rides were given, with only three known conflicts.

"I believe that people have started making their own arrangements," said Mrs. Woode. "It has been automatically booked in the early morning for students."

Most, however, agree that Activan has had a successful history, and provides an effective solution to the problem of transportation among the elderly and handicapped in Halton Hills.

"I can frankly say that it has made a real difference. It has opened a lot of doors for some people," Mrs. Woode said.

"We get fairly good productivity out of the van," said Coun. Serjeantson. Because of effective scheduling, the van costs the Town about \$8 per ride, as opposed to similar services in the area which cost the municipality much more. There is a charge of \$1 for each ride.

Ballinafad community centre plans to open for Canada Day

By BRIAN MacLEOD
Herald Special
Barring no unscheduled delays, the newly renovated "L" shaped Ballinafad Community Centre will be completed and ready for the official opening July 1, Canada Day.

When all is said and done, the Community Centre, originally built in 1962, will have a 30 ft by 30 ft addition to the north and west sides of the current building, said Ballinafad Community Centre Board Chairman Peter Loughnan.

The building will be almost double the current 1,800 square foot size with the capacity to hold 175 people up from the 90 it is limited to now, Mr. Loughnan said.

All the funds for the \$125,000 project have not been nailed down yet but money is coming in, said Mr. Loughnan.

The Township of Erin has donated approximately \$10,000 over the past two years and the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation has approved a grant for \$33,000, said the Board Chairman.

The Board is asking Halton Hills to allocate \$15,000 for the project and local donations total \$8,000 to \$10,000 so far, he said.

Businesses donating over \$500 will be acknowledged as well those who donated their time and services, said Peter Norton, the Halton Hills representative on the board. A plaque will be installed in the foyer bearing the names of all those who donated time and money inscribed in brass, he said.

Organizers are also thrilled with the addition of a new six-acre park adjacent to the property. The park, turned over to the Centre by the Township of Erin, will eventually house a soccer field, a baseball diamond and a children's play-ground, said Mr. Loughnan.

But that will be a future project as the \$125,000 sum doesn't include provisions for renovating the park, he added.

In addition, the finished version of the Community Centre will be equipped with a wheelchair access ramp at the entrance and the two washrooms on the upstairs main floor will be geared to handle handicapped people, he said.

The new main entrance will be located on the west side of the addition facing the road, said Mr. Loughnan.

The addition will also feature new kitchen facilities adjacent to the dance floor. The kitchen will be installed with new appliances and is big enough to handle the bigger events expected at the Centre, said Mr. Loughnan.

Parking will now be at the back of the Centre, he said.

Other major renovations include a peaked roof which extends over the old flat roof, all the windows will be replaced and the wooden door frames will be replaced with steel frames to adhere to the fire code, Mr. Loughnan said. The old paneling in the interior will be replaced with drywall but the entire color code scheme is still up in the air, he said.

Downstairs there are two more washrooms and a second large room which has not yet been designated for any specific use, he added.

Mr. Loughnan expects the bigger Community Centre to produce increased revenues. "Now, with the new hall and new size, we can have bigger dances and weddings and better catering (with the new kitchen). We're looking at increased revenue," he said.

Seventy per cent of the users are from Halton Hills and groups like the Beavers, who can use the hall for free, and rentals, such as aerobics and dance classes should benefit from the new facilities as well, Mr. Loughnan said.

Hearings begin

A public hearing into Halton Region's choice of a landfill site begins May 5 at 10 a.m. at the Oakville Granary Commercial Centre, 105 Robinson St. in Oakville. A Joint Board will be deciding whether to give approval, after hearing evidence from the Region and the public. If the Board gives approval, lands required for the landfill may be expropriated. The hearing is expected to last for several months. The landfill is required for domestic and industrial solid wastes. No liquid industrial or hazardous wastes will be accepted at the site.

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