

Recreation and Parks expands programs

Much of the activity that has taken place within the Town of Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department this year has been in aquatics and judging from current developments, that trend is likely to continue.

Joy Thompson, superintendent of recreation services for the department, said registrations increased this winter over last year, which is usually a slow time.

"We had a good response for our master swim program, which we started this year. It's for adults who have been previously involved with aquatics and it looks like it will do well next year too. We also had an increase in our lifesaving programs, our feeder for new staff, which was pretty well at capacity this year."

While other age groups for swim lessons were up, the department attempted to answer the even greater demand for pre-school lessons by introducing five classes, which just recently began on Fridays at Georgetown Indoor Pool.

"They've gone very well so far, with about five children in each group. It's held on Friday morn-

ings, which is one of the few time slots that we have open regularly.

That's one area we're trying to work on with the Board of Education, which owns the pools."

She said the department and the school board will be renewing their agreement over the sharing of the facilities and one goal is to try and get some more pool time during the day made available. Since the school's physical education classes change time periods often, the ability to run a class one day every week at the same time is next to impossible right now.

Thompson said the department will be able to avoid such programming problems when the town gets a new pool it can operate on its own, but such a project isn't budgeted until the year 2000.

"It will be a leisure concept pool, which includes a wading pool for pre-schoolers. There is \$4 million slated for the project, due to be built in Georgetown South."

Other recreation programs have also been busy, starting with the golf and tennis lessons which were both completely filled before the season started and have waiting lists. The same goes

for the Theatre Camp that will be held at the Cultural Centre this summer.

"The pre-school playshop programs in Acton which runs from September to June are very busy. They are at the Prospect Park Pavilion four days a week and it was completely booked up. Our Blue Mountain ski trip also went

very well. It was sold out, requiring us to get two buses," said Thompson.

Other things planned for the coming year include a drowning prevention day in August, a program designed to educate people about the dangers of drinking and boating. The other goal is to promote a sport injury and care pro-

gram, a one day free clinic.

"It's something we can set up for any sport organization as a way of helping decrease injuries. It's a great program that can be adjusted to specific injuries resulting from that particular activity, which keeps it more interesting for the people involved."



Aquatics is one of the Town of Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department's bigger success stories this year, bringing in higher than average numbers to its winter classes. The young people pic-

tured here are just a few of those signed up for lifesaving classes as they train to eventually become lifeguards and instructors. (Herald photo)



Lindsay Hepburn (left) and Megan Colvin worked to create their own pop-up books at the Georgetown Public Library using some handy arts and crafts materials. The pop-up book program is just one of the children's events being run by the Town of Halton Hills Recreation and Parks department this year. (Herald photo)

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