



An artist's rendering of the Georgetown Universally Accessible Children's Playground

Rotary's Children's Playground to be ready for kids next May

By LISA TALLYN
Staff Writer

The Rotary Club of Georgetown's Universally Accessible Children's Playground should be open and ready for children to play on for the long weekend next May.

The playground will be an expansion of the Dominion Gardens Park playground with universally accessible play equipment.

The cost of the project, funded by the Rotary Club, is approximately \$140,000. The money was raised through a \$102,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant and other fundraising by the club including a raffle for a 2012 Fiat 500 POP car.

Harry Hope, a member of the Rotary Club's playground committee, said the club raised \$30,000 in the raffle in which 489 of 500 \$100 tickets were sold. The draw for the car was Oct. 15 and the winner was Sean Campbell of Georgetown.

"I was really impressed with the people of Georgetown," said Hope. "They really stepped up." He said some people said they couldn't afford the ticket, but they made a donation to the project anyway.

Hope was very appreciative to Georgetown Chrysler, which was supportive of the fundraiser and provided the car to the club at cost. He also thanked businesses who allowed the Rotary Club to sell raffle tickets such

as Georgetown Market Place, Canadian Tire and the Georgetown Farmers' Market.

Hope said the Rotary Club is "ecstatic" to see the playground will soon be built.

It will include two new ramps, four deck components, seven play panels and five independent play components plus a rubberized safety base.

The Club has applied for additional funding from Ontario Tire towards the cost of the rubberized base.

Hope is pleased the Club was able to have the playground at Dominion Gardens Park.

"Everything is there now, the splash pad, the washrooms, it's handy to the people. Everyone knows where the playground is," said Hope. He said they believe it's also the most highly used playground in town.

Before moving ahead with the Universally Accessible Children's Playground the Rotary Club did a study with area schools and found, "10 per cent of children have some type of special needs."

"There's definitely a need for this," said Hope.

He said it's important that children with disabilities can play with the other children and this playground will allow that.

The Rotary Club has worked with Town staff on the final design of the playground. Construction on the playground is set for next spring.

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