

## The fight against Cancer continues in Acton

For the first time ever, more people diagnosed with cancer (64 per cent) are living, not dying. For them, and their loved ones, the words "Cancer Can Be Beaten" are not just a smart marketing slogan, but the joyful, hopeful truth.

Acton continues to be a very generous community when it comes to raising money for the fight against cancer through April's door-to-door canvass and special events, including the annual Paul Murr Golf Tournament, the Terry Fox Run, daffodil sales, and an April 16 fashion show at the Legion.

The Acton campaign officially kicks off

Wednesday at Knox Presbyterian Church when Acton Canadian Cancer Society officials welcomed guest speaker, Nelson HO, a researcher at the University of Guelph, who talked about the latest breakthroughs in research and treatment.

As in past years, The New Tanner's focus during Cancer Month is a weekly infusion of hope, bravely supplied by Acton cancer survivors, who, in telling their stories of triumph over this dreaded disease, prove cancer can be beaten. Acton cancer survivor Dianne Mellon, and her husband Ron Mellon will be featured in next week's issue.



**FREE TAX HELP:** Thanks to Revenue Canada's Community Volunteer Income Tax Program, 11 Acton area residents with low household incomes had their taxes done, for free, at a clinic last Thursday at the Acton library. Volunteer Colleen Dugard (centre) prepared returns for Andy and Colleen Peckham. – Ted Tyler photo

## Town Digest

### Court services

No decision has been made at this point to transfer Halton Court Services to South Halton – a concern raised by Halton Hills Councillor Ann Lawlor who asked Town staff last Monday if Acton and Georgetown residents might have to drive to Burlington to attend Provincial Offences Court.

Halton and its municipalities deliver court services for Provincial Offences Courts in Burlington and Milton and during debate on the Court business plan and budget Lawlor questioned a section of the business plan that said court services could be consolidated to a Burlington location, a move Lawlor said is quite a dis-

tance and would be "quite a hardship" for Halton Hills residents. Treasurer and Director of Corporate Services, Ed DeSousa said, the issue was discussed at the joint management board – made up of the CAOs and treasurers of each municipality – but "no decision" had been made and the issue was referred back to the Management Board for further study. The budget includes \$151,000 revenue to Halton Hills which shares net revenues from the Courts, with 50 per cent going to Halton Region and 50 per cent being split between the four municipalities.

### Hockey heritage help

Want to see the undefeated, five-time International Canadian Amputee Hock-

ey team in action? The team will hold pre-tournament training tomorrow (Friday) and stage an exhibition game at 4 p.m., against Halton Police on Saturday afternoon at Mold-Masters SportsPlex in Georgetown.

Town Council agreed to cover the \$1,998 ice time bill as requested by the organizers, even though the group is not from Halton Hills, and therefore does not meet eligibility criteria in the Town's Municipal Assistance Program policy.

In support of the Municipal Assistance, Acton Councillor John Hurst pointed to the long, rich history of all levels of hockey in Acton and Georgetown, and called the exhibition games a "unique opportunity" to broaden and enrich the Town's involvement in high level hockey.

### Election reform

Halton Hills has joined the municipal movement – started in neighbouring Milton – for reform at Elections Canada to improve election and voting procedures, improve voter turnout, cut costs and reduce the environmental impact of elections.

In a Notice of Motion approved by Halton Hills Council last week, Regional/Acton Councillor Clark Somerville argued that rising administrative costs of elections are a growing burden on municipalities across Canada, leading FCM – the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, which Somerville sits on – to ask the Government and Elections Canada to

consider the feedback from recent elections to simplify voting procedures and make changes to improve the voting process.

Somerville said in the past 18 months there have been elections for all three levels of government in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario and in each case people voted in different locations, and it's time to "bring the election process into the 21st Century," he said at Town Council last Monday, adding if they want to increase voter turnout, they need to look at standardized on-line voting.

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Town Council also voted to support FCM's request that the federal government discourage Canada Post from cutting public postal services in rural communities. Calling rural mail box delivery "vital to the viability and economic development of rural communities," FCM said the existing Canadian Postal Service Charter does not protect the public interest, and asks Canada Post to consult with the public, municipalities, MPs, postal unions and other major stakeholders to "dramatically improve" the Charter.

Somerville said in some rural areas, Canada Post has reduced hours and closed post offices on Saturdays with no notice, and he suspects a route review in 2013 will result in more super mailboxes, instead of individual delivery in rural areas.

Both motions will be debated at the FCM annual general meeting in June.



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