

Projects chosen for CIIF grant applications

Grant applications to cover unfunded upgrades to the Cultural Centre and the quadding of the MoldMasters SportsPlex will be submitted by the Town to the new Community Infrastructure Improvement fund (CIIF) – \$49.6-million in Federal Economic Development Agency Ontario funding to allocate to municipalities to boost economic activity and create jobs by improving the quality of community facilities.

Last Wednesday, Terry Alyman, the Town's Director of Recreation and Parks, recommended that the Cultural Centre and MoldMasters projects be submitted from the potential list of five that were under consideration. The other three projects are all in Acton – the twinning of the arena, renovations to the old fire hall to turn

it into an Acton Youth Centre, and conversion of the multi-purpose hall at the Acton arena to help with Acton Senior Centre space needs.

Alyman said both selected projects meet the criteria, including having identified community fundraising requirements, a compelling case for support, both projects warrant construction, both are designed for LEEDS Silver and established partners exist for both.

Georgetown Councilor Ann Lawlor asked if the Acton Town Hall Centre accessibility renovation project would be eligible for the funding, and CAO Dennis Perlin said he had just received information about a separate program for non-profit groups, and would look into Heritage Acton's eligibility for the CIIF

funding.

Funding recipients may receive up to 50 per cent of total eligible costs – up to \$1-million per project, and recipients must contribute at least 50 per cent of the costs. The funding criteria includes giving priority to projects that leverage 66.6 per cent or more, and to those demonstrating anticipated economic benefits to their community, including the potential for job creation and the use of new technologies and innovation.

The unfunded portion of the Cultural Centre project is \$1-million and \$2-million for the MoldMasters SportsPlex. The capital budget for the Acton Town Hall Youth Centre is \$600,000. The Acton arena-twinning budget is \$11.3-million, and converting under-used space for the Acton Seniors Centre is budgeted at \$500,000.

Horse racing economic 'impact study' a sham: local MPPs claim

A newly released document reveals that Premier Dalton McGuinty's government had already made up its mind to kill the horse-racing industry, even before it received an economic analysis.

That document, released today by MPPs Ted Arnott (Wellington-Halton Hills) and Randy Pettapiece (Perth-Wellington), offered confidential advice to cabinet on the economic impact of ending the Slots-at-Racetracks Program. That report is dated March 14, 2012 – two days after Finance Minister Dwight Duncan announced he was ending the partnership between the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) and the province's racetracks.

"This report exposes the sheer arrogance of this Liberal government toward the horse-racing industry – not to mention the thousands of people

whose jobs are on the line," said Pettapiece. "It's as if they just cooked up this report after the fact to try to defend this decision they had already made."

Arnott agreed, while questioning the legitimacy of the report's findings: "To the extent that they studied the economic impact, it was superficial and flawed in many respects. Their numbers are highly questionable, and likely won't hold up under scrutiny." He added: "It looks like it was done on the back of a napkin."

Removal of the Slots-at-Racetracks program would, according to the report, result in job losses of between 3,500 and 5,800 annually.

"The report dramatically understates the potential job losses, completely overlooking the true economic spin-offs the equine industry creates throughout rural Ontario," Arnott said.

The Liberals' own 2004 provincial budget backs up Arnott's contention. That budget boasted that the Slots-at-Racetracks program had preserved and enhanced over 60,000 jobs, providing over \$1.1-billion to the province's agricultural sector since 1998.

Pettapiece and Arnott also noted the report's finding that 11 of the 17 racetracks now operating across the province could shut down: "Which ones will close, and why won't they say?" Arnott asked.

In June, the province announced its three-member transition panel on the future of the industry. Pettapiece and Arnott are calling on the panel to support those in horse racing who stand to lose their jobs. They are urging the panel to push back on the Minister of Finance.

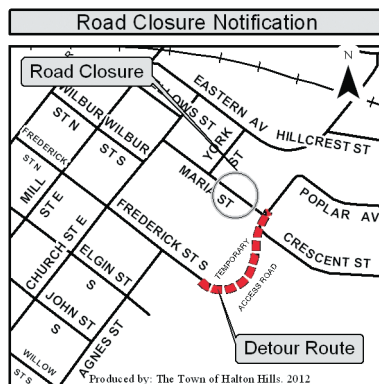
The panel's recommendations are expected on August 17.



TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

August 20, 2012 – October 31, 2012
Maria Street between York Street
and Poplar Avenue

The Town of Halton Hills Infrastructure Services Department is advising of the Temporary Road Closure on Maria Street between York Street and Poplar Avenue in Acton. A temporary detour route for local traffic will be installed at the south end of Frederick Street during the closure (see map below). This closure will take place from August 20, 2012 until October 31, 2012.



This road closure is required to expedite the replacement of the existing bridge.

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