

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS: One hundred and fifty youth volunteers who collectively contributed 8,500 hours, received awards from the Town at a recent ceremony in Georgetown. Special achievement award recipients included, from left: Taylor Matthews, Rachel Dobbs, Danielle Tyl, Hannah Kastien, Saepon Cho, Gabriella Palmiere, Jennifer Krause and Mayor Rick Bonnette. Absent: Martias Wharton, Matthew Simpson and Robert Bohlken. – Submitted photo

Youth volunteers honoured

fifty local youth volunteers who collectively contributed over 8,500 volunteer hours to children's programs, events and committees, leaving a positive impact on thousands of children and the community as a whole, were honoured recently by the Town at a

One hundred and ceremony at the Gellert and live music by local hope is that this has been Community Centre.

Approximately 200 people, volunteers and their proud friends and families, celebrate the youth volunteers' achievements with a special achievement award presentation, a video presentation of volunteers "in action"

musician Amanda Cen-

Mayor Bonnette said many of the volunteers learned that volunteering is a rewarding and valuable experience that helps to build self confidence, discover strengths and talents and develop independence. "Our

a growing experience that will be with them forever. Hopefully, they will continue to volunteer in our community."

Visit www.haltonhills. ca/volunteer for more information about the Recreation and Parks volunteer program and opportunities.

Talks continue about Acton **Seniors Centre future**

Although Bev Jones, president of the Acton Seniors Centre, predicted earlier this summer that a new or expanded facility in Acton won't be built in his life time, talks are continuing between Town politicians, staff and Centre officials to try to make it happen sooner.

The Centre's Board of Directors met with Mayor Rick Bonnette, Acton Councillor Jon Hurst and CAO Dennis Perlin in a closed-door session at the Acton Seniors Centre last Thursday. While no public comment was issued, Jones said they discussed "possible options" in a meeting that he characterized as friendly and productive. He also said that "talks are in-going... now that the expansion is not going to go through."

In an earlier report to Council, Perlin said the Town would have to take on additional debt in order to carry out projects required by growth including expanding the Acton Seniors Centre (\$2.4-million),

developing Phase Two of the Gellert Centre to include a Georgetown Seniors Centre, youth centre and gym (\$12.5-million), purchasing additional land at the Gellert (\$5.3-million), and building an Acton youth centre (\$2.4-mil-

It will be up to Council to decide if it is willing to take on additional debt – beyond its own guidelines – to build the facilities, or look into a buy/lease partnership with private companies.

Councillor Hurst said he thinks the Seniors' Board appreciated the Town coming to a meeting and explaining why they can't afford to proceed with the muchneeded expansion at this time, and the willingness to look at other options.

"They maybe don't see or understand the challenges with our fi-nances," Hurst said on Saturday, adding he may be able to say more after their next, as yet unscheduled, meeting.

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