Cadets donate Buddy Benches to Acton schools



BENCH BUDDIES: Bethel Church Cadets representatives Leigh Adams, Sid Looyenga, and Gord Furzer test out the bench the Cadets donated to Robert Little Public School - Dawn Brown photos

Community of Acton Initiative for Refugee Sponsorship









THANK YOU

Together CAIRS raised \$40,000 to make a difference in the lives of refugees who will soon call Acton home. Special thanks to the **churches** of Acton and our generous business & community partners.

To learn more, please visit our website: www.BecauseActonCares.com

Acton Tire Stop

Acton's "Monday Night Quilting Ladies"

Blue Springs Golf Club

Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory

Cineplex (Milton)

Crawfords Garden Centre

De Melo Chiropractic & Wellness Centre

The Flower Shed

iPro Realty

Gro-Bark
Halton Hills Electrical Contracting
Hillsview Active Living Centre
Martin's Sweet Farm
MacMillan's Fine Food
Reds Garden Centre
Roxy Coffee
Tanners Pub & Grill
Town of Halton Hills

The Compassion of Individuals. The Power of Community.

..because Acton cares

This ad was paid for entirely by a designated donation

By: Dawn Brown

Bethel Church Cadets hope to help make schools a safer place and to help kids feel more included on the playground with the donation of the three Buddy Benches to the three Acton elementary schools. Cadet Councillors presented the first of the Buddy Benches to Robert Little Public School on Friday, May 20. Buddy Benches will also be presented to McKenzie Smith Bennett Public School and St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School.

"I think every school we approached was thrilled to receive it (the bench), and very welcoming to have us contribute to a significant problem—trying to help kids feel like they belong," said Cadet councillor, Gord Furzer. "It goes hand in hand with anti-bullying, so it ties in nicely to what the schools are already trying to do."

The bench will be set in the play-grounds at each of the schools. The purpose of the Buddy Bench is that any student feeling left out or having a bad day can sit on the bench letting their peers know and giving other children the chance to reach out to that

student

Furzer's wife came to him with the idea and he brought the project to the other councillors who all agreed it was something they needed to do.

"It's just a good idea, what the Buddy Bench stands for," explained Furzer. "Our goal with our Cadet group is to help raise boys to think about the community, to think about others while they grow themselves. This is one project we took on with our oldest group to allow them to have a presence in the community, and at the same time it's a project that benefits the community and hopefully helps more kids."

The Cadets began constructing the benches at the beginning of the New Year. Older cadets between the ages of 12 to 14 did most of the construction work, while the younger boys—ranging in ages between 6 to 13—helped with the painting.



