

Motion passed to amend policy on much needed autism therapy

Town and Chinese city sign historic twinning agreement

Halton Hills Town Council passed a motion to request to amend the Province of Ontario's policy on Autism Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) therapy at the council meeting held on Monday, June 20.

The motion comes as a result of the Provincial Government's new Autism Program, for which IBI therapy is no longer available for children five years and older. Under the new program IBI will only be available for children two to four years of age, while children five and up will be transitioned to the Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) services. Families with children on the IBI wait list who are five years and older will be issued \$8,000 in a one-time only funding to purchase services while transitioning off the wait list.

According to the Geneva Centre for Autism, ABA is a scientific process that identifies the functional relationship

between observable behaviour and environmental context, using that information to enhance social and personal well-being. IBI applies the principals ABA in an intensive setting to result in behaviour change and improvement.

David and Linda Galvao, who have two sons who both have autism, spoke before council in support of the motion. David Galvao described the therapy as life changing, explaining that their older son began IBI therapy when he was six-years-old. Prior to beginning the therapy, their son had been non-verbal, but after only 30 days of IBI therapy they heard their son speak for the first time, saying, 'I love you.' Now the Galvaos fear their younger son who is six years old will not be afforded the same opportunity as his older brother, despite having already been on a the waiting list for IBI for three years.

Melanie Fox, a single mother with a twelve

year old son who has autism also spoke in support of the motion. As her son was diagnosed late, he too will not receive the desperately needed IBI therapy.

The motion, move by Mayor Rick Bonnette, makes four requests of the province:

- Ensure families leaving the current IBI waitlist that the level of intervention their child needs will be provided through the transition and under the new delivery model;
- Ensure that all children are assessed equally for the level of intensive therapy they need regardless of age;
- Ensure oversight by professionals and parents based on 'development progress criteria and milestones; and
- Consider a transitory Direct Funding Offering to accompany the current Direct Service Offering Model.

"This is not something that is just here in Halton Hills," said Bonnette. "This is something that parents of autistic children have been dealing with throughout Ontario. I don't think anybody wants to see their child fall behind."

Bonnette went on to explain that by approving the motion, they would be joining other municipalities across the province to get parents the help they need.



Mayor Rick Bonnette and Secretary Wang Daomang - Les Schmidt photos

The Town of Halton Hills and Wenjiang District, located in the City of Chengdu China signed a formal twinning agreement today that establishes friendly relations and cooperation between the two communities.

The twinning is a direct outcome of a Town trade delegation to Chengdu City led by Mayor Rick Bonnette, back in March.

"We are honoured and excited to be the first Canadian municipality to enter into this kind of historic agreement with Wenjiang District", said Mayor Bonnette. "While our communities are different, it's that diversity that will make this an effective and valuable partnership and create many positive opportunities for both of us."

Wenjiang is one of Chengdu's growing districts with a population of 700,000, and is well known for its progressive work in creating a vibrant, modern and sustainable

city. The original plan was for the two communities hope to enter into a twinning agreement in two years, however representatives were so impressed with some of the work being done in Halton Hills, particularly in the area of sustainability that they asked that the process be expedited.

The twinning agreement was signed during a two-day visit to Halton Hills by officials from Wenjiang. During their time here they saw some notable locations in the community.

The twinning between the Town of Halton Hills and Wenjiang will fur-

ther enhance the existing friendship and facilitate cooperation on areas of mutual benefit. The opportunities for working together are considerable and range from economic development and investment attraction, to best practices around environmental protection, renewable energy, and the promotion of arts, culture, education, agriculture and tourism. Many of these areas have also been identified as priorities for the Town. For both parties, this agreement will pave the way for greater trade, improved prosperity and an enhanced quality of life.

monkeynastix
Physical Literacy starts here

Come MONKEY around with us this Summer!

A Fun, Active Camp Program in Acton!

Week of August 8 - 12th
Ages 4 & Up

Details and to register:
www.monkeynastixmilton.ca

519.853.4753 haltonhills@monkeynastix.ca

Treatment for:

- Fibromyalgia
- Chronic Pain
- Stress
- Headaches
- ...and much more.

Naomi Bedell
Registered Massage
Therapy
65 Mill St. E.,
Acton, ON
519-853-8557

Deanna Wilson
BSc. DCh.
Chiropodist
Foot Specialist
519-853-8557
65 Mill St. E.
Acton, ON
L7J 1H4

- Foot/Nail Care
- Diabetic Footcare
- Custom Orthotics
- Home visits

www.actonhead2toe.com

Losing your Grip?

**Take this test:
Are your dentures.....**

- Loose?
- Cracked or worn?
- In your pocket?
- Missing teeth?
- Making your gums sore?

If you answered **yes** to any of these give us a call!

Acton Denture Clinic
Tracy Mitchell, D.D.

130 Mill St. E., Unit 103 Acton, ON L7J 1J1
Telephone: 519-853-0079 Fax: 519-853-1134



DENTAL HYGIENIST / DENTIST / DENTURIST

Spa Dent, Chairside Whitening - Special Introductory Price!

Pearly Whites
46 Mill Street East, Acton
519-853-9788
www.pearlywhitesdentalhygiene.com
kirkpearlywhites@gmail.com

TOTALLY RENOVATED OFFICE

Direct Insurance Billing
Services include: Teeth Scaling,
Polishing, Chair Side Whitening

We also have: Custom Sport Guards, Dentures, Same Day Denture Repairs & Free Dental Consults

Also
Pearly Whites
49 Waterford Dr.
Erin
519-833-9788

Saturday and evening appointments available
Kelly Kirk, Registered Dental Hygienist
Elicia Older, Denturist
David Bleeman, Dentist (Erin Office)