

EDITORIAL

With Frances Learment

Habitat housing hope

For those who pay more than 30 per cent of their income on housing and are considered "at risk," news that Habitat for Humanity Halton wants to build at least nine units in Acton is great news in the fight to break the cycle of poverty.

Habitat provides lower-income people with the chance to be homeowners with a hand up, not a hand out. Qualified families, and for the first time, individuals, can get interest-free mortgages and must put in 500 hours to build "sweat equity" with Habitat.

The property in question on Churchill Road north - the so-called Trinity Court subdivision - was approved in 2007 and has sat vacant ever since. Habitat officials are in talks with the owner and the Town to rezone to allow "several more" than the nine units already approved. The plans calls for singles, semis and townhouses.

The benefits of homeowners are well documented - homeowners report less stress, they are healthier, and their children do better in school than those of non-homeowners.

Acton already has two Habitat houses, and this development would go a long way to helping house the approximately 4,000 Halton residents in need of affordable housing.

Hope negotiations for the property and swift and successful. Habitat is now accepting applications at www.habitathalton.ca



Pioneer Cemetery

Clothes make the team?

In just over two weeks the Sochi Winter Olympics begin. I actually didn't know when they were, or where Sochi was. Sochi sounds Japanese to me, and I knew the games were in February, only because of the sales push for Canadian Olympic wear. This sounds pathetic, but we really aren't a big sports family, so it's not surprising I didn't know about Sochi.

As much as I am not athletically inclined, I do appreciate the dedication of everyone involved in any level of sports. Nothing exemplified this more to me than when I participated in a charity curling bonspiel a few years ago.

I grew up with a family of curlers. My grandparents and my parents curled religiously. The term "the curling club" was a part of my early vocabulary. When I was young, I never really thought about curling as a challenging sport. It was an adult wearing a big knitted sweater, a scrubby looking knee pad, and stretchy pants carrying a corn broom



By Angela Tyler

out the door while stating they were "on the way to the Club." Weekend bonspiels sometimes brought trophies home. At the end of the season the Churchill Road Club became kid friendly when they allowed skating before they took the ice out.

When I continued the family tradition of curling (or attempting to), I realized one very important thing. Curling is a hard sport and it takes a lot of umph to make that heavy rock do what you want it to. It doesn't matter whether you are the skip or the lead or any other member of the "team", every single one is an athlete, hiding behind a seemingly innocent curling sweater.

That was until the Norwegians came to the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver - crazy curlers with insane pants that

looked like they were the equivalent of the Jamaican bobsled team years ago. The quirky pants, bought at the last-minute online - worked in their favour as they won Silver.

This time, the Norwegians are at it again. They'll be wearing this insane horizontal sort-of stripped pattern suit and another one with a flower motif. Their theory is they have to win, because losing in those outfits would be to embarrassing so they work harder to win. They could have a point; hopefully their uniforms will distract their opponents, so they can't win.

I'm not a fan of the obscure when it comes to sporting attire, but this is similar to when the figure skating outfits got smaller and skimpier for the women and the governing bodies had to enforce the rules. Sure, the Norwegians may be noticeable however, I still think games in the Olympics deserve respect from the participants and clown pants don't say respect in my eyes.

LETTERS

Heritage help offered

To the Editor,

I would like to express my concern about a monumental, historic pioneer resting place for the forefathers of this fine community, in which we reside. Realizing that there were some devastating events that have occurred over the last while, such as ice storms and wind storms, I believe that there is a priority list of places that will be given attention to rectify issues that have taken place.

However, on several occasions I often see myself stopping by a resting place of our pioneers at Prospect Park area to say a little prayer and give thanks to those that brought this great community to life, only to see the devastation over several events' that still remain there.

I begin to wonder, where

on the list do these pioneers get the attention they deserve? I might suggest that if the workload is too great for the Township to tend to, that maybe they should consider asking for a bit of help from those within our community to offer a little bit of their time to volunteer their services in cleaning up this very historical resting place. I think those that rest there deserve that much.

I would be glad, and would give me great pleasure, to offer my services as a volunteer to help make it so. Thank you for taking the time, and in hopes this may shine some light in the right direction.

A concerned resident of a very fine Community,
Eddie McGuin
Acton, ON



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