

Acton churches pray for Christian Unity

Habitat for Humanity project in Acton unveiled at Legion service on Sunday

With "praise, prayer and proclamation" the congregations of Acton's churches, approximately 430 people, marked the kickoff of the Week of Christian Unity with an Ecumenical Unity Service at the Acton Legion on Sunday.

The rousing music – from a combined choir and from worship leaders/recording artists Daphne and Joe Bevaqua – warmed the crowd of chilled because the Legion's furnace was not working.

For just the third time in 100 years, Week of Prayer materials focused on Canada with the theme: "Has Christ Been Divided?" with the challenging divisions in the Body of Christ.

Guest speaker, Dr. John Bowen, Director of the Wycliffe Institute of Evangelism, said the current church has forgotten

what it is supposed to do in a "good world gone wrong" – a world in which outsiders see the church as aging, crumbling buildings, lots of rules and traditions and moral failures.

"We've forgotten what church is meant to be," Dr. Bowen said, turning to Paul's Letter to the Ephesians with its message to repent and believe, and a clear sense of a united church. "How can the church grow into this new society God seems to have in mind?" Dr. Bowen asked, noting the word "one" was used seven times in three verses – breaking down barriers for a unified church.

"What you are doing here in Acton that is represented here today is absolutely marvellous. I wish churches in every community could do what you are doing ..." Dr. Bowen said, adding the

Acton Ministerial Association has adjusted the different parts of the Body of Christ so they work together and contribute their different strengths.

One of the Ministerial Association's new efforts to fight poverty is working with Habitat for Humanity Halton to help provide affordable housing – a proposed multi-unit, high density development in Acton on Churchill Road north, a site owned by Elli-Finn Construction Ltd. which has Town planning approval for nine lots. After the service, The Reverend Brian Galligan of St. Alban the Martyr said the Ministerial would act as a partner with Habitat to "provide feet on the ground" and to promote the program, create links within the faith community, businesses and trades people to provide resources to get the housing built.



Children's Choir



Combined Choir

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ACTON MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION: Prior to Sunday's Acton Ecumenical Service of Christian Unity at the Acton Legion, members of the Acton Ministerial Association gathered, including from left: Majors Sam and Shirley Roberts, Pastor Ray Vander Kooij, The Reverend Brian Galligan, Pastor Kellen Wiersma, The Reverend Ralph Neil, The Reverend Hyuk Cho, Pastor Cam Willson, guest speaker Dr. John Bowen, The Reverend John Bedell and Father Robert Hetu. – *George Henderson photo*

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