

Reprieve for youth centre

The Off The Wall youth centre in Acton will remain open past the end of the year, but details of how the cash-strapped centre, and one in Georgetown, will be saved, at least on an interim basis, had not been released by the Centre's operator, Links2Care, at press time.

"It is a good news story with respect to the (drop-in) centres for at least an interim period of time," said Sandra Melhuish, executive director of Links2Care last Thursday, adding details of the Centre-saving arrangement would be released today

(Thursday.)

After granting Links2Care \$285,000 in Community Investment Fund money over the past five years to help fund the youth centres, Halton denied further funding early this summer – the fund's intent is to provide short-term money so organizations can operate while they look for sustainable funding – leading Melhuish to say the Centre's future was at "risk" pending a special Board of Directors meeting. The youth centres face a funding shortfall between \$75,000

and \$90,000 Melhuish said.

"There has not been a Board meeting, but there's been a motion tabled, and we have correspondence that I've submitted to the Region, the Town and United Way for their comments," Melhuish said.

Last year, Links2Care also received \$24,000 from the United Way of Halton Hills, and \$13,860 from the Town to operate youth drop-ins – Off The Wall and Open Door in Georgetown. The centres are billed as safe places to hang out, with support workers for kids and their parents. The Centres have games and activities including pool tables, foosball, computer access and TV for movies or video games.

Warning signs for Acton intersection

An Acton woman's concerns about traffic safety at the Main Street North/Guelph Street (Highway 7) intersection prompted Ministry of Transportation officials to decide that "additional intersection warning signs can be installed to enhance safety at the intersection."

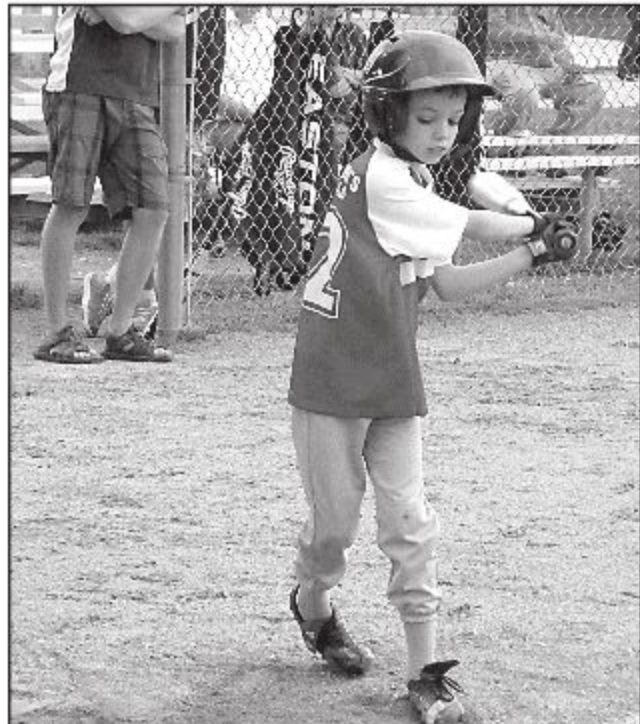
The new signs will be installed "as soon as possible, subject to weather, money and other signing priorities," according to the MTO, which investigated safety at the intersection after receiving a complaint from Hill Street resident Patricia Campbell, who raised the issue after coming upon a two-vehicle accident at the intersection earlier this summer.

Campbell said there are a number of factors adding to the need for improved safety, including heavy traffic volumes, a difficult turn from Guelph Street onto Main Street North, the railway tracks, and a knoll north of the tracks.

The accident that sparked Campbell's phone call to the Town – which was forwarded to Halton Region and Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott – involved a truck making a left-hand turn from Highway 7 to Main Street North and a southbound car. "There's a major confusion at that intersection," Campbell said on Saturday, adding the caution signs will be an improvement, but she'd prefer an overhead hanging amber light to warn drivers.

On Tuesday, MTO communications coordinator Astrid Poei said two signs warning there was an intersection ahead would be installed before the end of the month – one for eastbound Highway 7 traffic and one for traffic northbound on Main Street North.

Poei said their investigation showed there is not a "significant" collision history at the intersection – six accidents, none of them fatal, in the past five years.



SLUGGER SWINGS: The HeyRay Tigers downed Chudleigh's Cardinals 5-3 to capture the Acton Minor Ball Rookie championship at Prospect Park last Thursday. Chudleigh's Brandyn Tonelli struck out at the bottom of the third inning. – Frances Learment photo

TOWN DIGEST

FEDERAL CASH TO FIGHT GRIDLOCK?

"Dollars." That's the bottom line result of Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong's support for Town efforts to include Ottawa in debate over *The Big Move* – a long-range plan by GO Transit/Metrolinx to solve gridlock problems in the Greater Toronto /Greater Hamilton areas.

Unhappy with the investment strategy in *The Big Move* – a 25-year plan with a \$50-billion price tag – Town Council complained that the costly plan has no immediate benefit for Halton Hills. While supporting the goals of *The Big Move*, Town Council said it

fundamentally does not agree with the proposed funding options for 62 projects, none of which are in Halton Hills. They would require a one per cent HST tax, a five-cent per litre gas and fuel price increase, a business parking levy and a 15 per cent increase in Development Charges which would add approximately \$7,000 to the price of a new home.

Realizing that the issues need federal input, Council asked for help from MP Chong, and in a letter received by Council last Wednesday, Chong said he is "supportive" of the Town and will "advocate it with my colleagues in Ottawa, including the Minister of Finance."

Asked what Chong's

support means, Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette was blunt: "dollars." "The GTA is the hub of development in Canada and transit is not just a provincial or municipal issue, and now Chong is

willing to get the federal government involved," Bonnette said on Sunday.

"I think the gridlock will be resolved a little quicker if the federal government came to the table with dollars," Bonnette said.

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100 YEARS

1913-2013
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From Rural Roots to New Branches

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~ **DECORATE** ~

Your windows, front lawn, exterior of your home or business

- Display must be visible from the street
- Display must promote (and include) theme "100 years from rural roots to new branches - Maple Trees"
- Display must be completed by August 29th
- Fair passes to be awarded as prizes

*For more information and an application form, contact Fran 519-853-4985