

Halton tests emergency preparedness plans this month

Halton Region held two exercises this month with its Emergency Preparedness partners as part of ongoing efforts to ensure that the Region is a disaster-resilient community, ready to deal with any potential, imminent or actual emergency.

"Community safety is a high priority for Regional Council," said Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr. "Halton Region, the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton and the Town of Oakville work together year round with our emergency preparedness partners to plan for and ensure a coordinated response to emergencies. Efforts such as these exercises support the Region's emergency management program goal to create and maintain an effective community structure that provides for the safety and well-being of Halton residents."

The first exercise was a mock evacuation at Post Inn Village Long-Term Care Home held on September 8. Halton Region Emergency Management and

the Oakville Fire Department staged an evacuation that involved a mock fire drill and a building evacuation, using volunteers.

The exercise at Post Inn Village was held to help ensure that Halton Region's long-term care homes meet the standards for emergency preparedness required by the Long-Term Care Homes Act 2007. It also supported the efforts of Halton Region's three long-term care homes – Allendale, Creek Way Village and Post Inn Village – to continue to meet Accreditation Canada standards.

Last week, Regional Emergency Control Group members participated in "Exercise Twisted" in the Regional Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). The EOC is a command centre used in emergency situations to provide strategic planning and support to officials at an emergency site. In this case, participants responded to a mock emergency, a tornado that "touched down" in Oakville. The exercise was designed to test the Halton Community Emergency Response

Plan.

"Both exercises were a tremendous success," said Nick Buczynsky, Community Emergency Management Coordinator for Halton Region. "We were able to use the lessons learned from the Post Inn Village mock evacuation in our simulated exercises in the Emergency Operations Centre. All teams performed admirably and met the standards set. I'm confident that we are well prepared to deal with a real emergency."

For more information about Halton's Emergency Management Program and to download or order Halton's Personal Emergency Preparedness Guide, visit www.halton.ca/beprepared, dial 311 or 905-825-6000, Toll free 1-866-442-5866 or TTY 905-827-9833. You can also follow Emergency Management on Twitter @BPreparedHalton for incident updates and preparedness tips.



NAME CHANGING FUN: Crowds of approximately 100 people cheered as a crew from ET Canada filmed the unveiling of the new Roz Weston Lane – the dirt laneway running behind Tim Hortons and the Beer Store – on Saturday. Weston, the KiSS 92.5 morning man in Toronto, was joined by Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette. – Submitted photo

Acton laneway named after KiSS morning man

In a self-described "exercise in show biz narcissism," former Acton resident Roz Weston – now morning man at KiSS 92.5 in Toronto – visited Acton on Saturday to have a street – well, not quite a street – named in his honour. The Town's unpaved right-of-way, which runs behind Tim Hortons and The Beer Store from Meadvale Road to Churchill Road, is now named "Roz Weston Lane."

Approximately 100 KiSS fans from all over the GTA jammed the parking lot at Tim Hortons on Saturday as KiSS did live broadcast cut-ins while fans danced, said hello to Weston and his morning crew, and had their pictures taken with them. As well, a crew from ET Canada filmed the unveiling.

Weston said the campaign to get a street named after him was the perfect platform to talk about

Acton all summer, and to remember his roots. "I'm being rewarded today for being a bully – for bullying a small town mayor (Rick Bonnette) into naming a street after me. But, I don't think there's anything wrong with that," Weston said, amid a wild crowd of happy fans, balloons, music and KiSS 92.5 staffers handing out station merchandise.

Weston lived in six locations in Acton from Grade two through Grade 12. He graduated from Acton High School in 1993, moved to Toronto, and joined ET Canada six years ago. He's been morning man at KiSS 92.5 in Toronto with the Roz & Mocha Show for two years.

While Weston's mother moved from Acton eight years ago, he comes back to visit friends, his father's grave and to take in the Fair. In fact, his KiSS 92.5 producer, Maurie Sherman, said Fair organizers delayed the start of this year's parade by 15 minutes to give Weston and Mayor Rick Bonnette time to unveil the new street sign and get to their parade car.

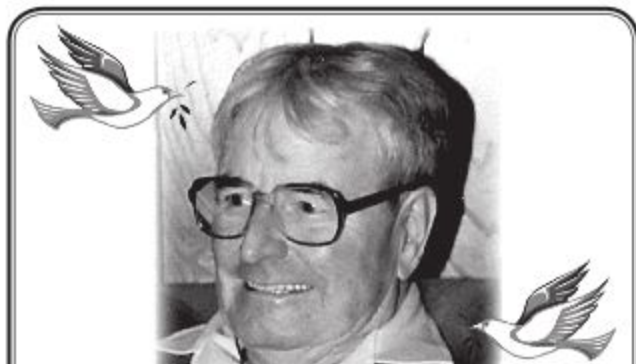
Weston didn't realize how much Acton meant to him until he moved away.

"Years later – I'm almost 40 now – I realize that the most important lesson I learned from growing up in Acton is how you treat people matters. I think that's what this town did for me, and I'm extremely proud to be here today," Weston said, adding that the whole street naming thing "started off as a total goof – but turned into something much bigger."

As he and Weston climbed up onto the side of a Town works truck, Mayor Rick Bonnette said it is "really nice to see a hometown boy do well."

Told later that some people believe there are Acton residents more worthy of a naming honour, Mayor Bonnette defended the promotion, adding it probably brought Acton "a couple of hundred thousand dollars" in advertising publicity.

"When you considered how much they've talked about Acton since May. I was interviewed four times, and I talked about the Town Hall Centre, Leathertown Festival and Fall Fair," Bonnette said on Monday, adding a jingle inviting people to the Fair was played 20 times a day all last week. "It was a whimsical thing."



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He left us eight years ago and I still think about him everyday, you see that very special person was the best friend I ever had and he was also my Dad.

Thank you for a lifetime of priceless memories Dad, for without you I wouldn't have my children and their families, who are giving me the same priceless memories you and MOM gave to me.

*I will always miss you
Your son - Don*

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