



**ENERGY EFFICIENCY:** Replacing the lights at Dufferin Rural Heritage Centre earned the Acton Agricultural Society at \$5,250 rebate cheque from Halton Hills Community Energy, whose CEO Art Skidmore (right) and Conservation demand Manager Linda Boyer delivered the cheque to Society president John Martin and Centre manager Mike O'Leary on Friday – Frances Niblock photo

## Visits up at Conservation Halton areas - records set

Conservation Halton's just released 2011 Public Accountability Report, provides an overview of the environmental agency's programs and services over the past three years, and how these services are funded.

One highlight is the solid growth in visitation at Conservation Halton's six primary Conservation Areas, or parks, with a record number of nearly 750,000 people visiting in 2010. Outdoor environmental education for children continues to be strong for Conservation Halton and watershed management staff was kept busy in its environmental protection efforts reflecting the growth in the watershed.

"A number that jumps out for me from the Accountability Report is Conservation Halton consistently generates around 60 per cent of its revenue, which is one of the highest percentages among Ontario's 36 conservation authorities", said John Vice, Chair of the Conservation Halton Board of Directors. "Certainly a contributing factor is prudent financial management by our organization and providing value to the community with our services, aided by the increase in park visitors over the past few years."

Conservation Halton's Parks – Crawford Lake, Hilton Falls, Kelso/Glen Eden, Mount Nemo, Mountsberg and Rattlesnake Point – attracted 748,466 visitors in 2010, up 82,640 visitors from 2009's previous record total of 665,826. Much of this growth can be attributed to a large increase in users at Glen Eden – ranked in the top five of the 40 ski

and snowboard operations in Ontario.

The number of people from schools and community groups who participated in educational programs at conservation areas was 58,300 in 2010, the third highest on-site participation in the past seven years and the number of off-site educational programs was 107 in 2010, up 50 per cent from the 2008 total of 71.

On the regulatory side, watershed management staff continued to provide assistance on matters related to ecology, flood control, forestry, environmental planning, engineering and drinking source water protection while administering the various Provincial Regulations. In 2010, there were over 1,000 permit reviews, inquiries and planning applications processed by staff, the second straight year over 1,000 and fourth time in the past five years.

The Public Accountability Report shows how Conservation Halton spends the funds it receives to benefit residents, what conservation activities have

been carried out, and how they compare to services offered over the previous three years. The report includes facts and information on how Conservation Halton has been protecting the natural environment – forests, water and land – within its watershed. The report has budget statistics showing the sources of revenue and the expenditures for the organization.

The municipal funding received by CH is used primarily to fund programs and operations for environmental planning, flood protection and conservation programs. Tax dollars (municipal or provincial) are not used to support recreation programs at CH's Conservation Areas, which includes Glen Eden. Revenue from annual pass sales and other park user fees fund the operations and capital infrastructure needs of all Conservation Areas.

The Accountability Report can be viewed on Conservation Halton's website at [www.conservationhalton.ca](http://www.conservationhalton.ca) in the Our Profile section, or call 905-336-1158 for a copy.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Come join the family of

**Ed Hubbell**

*in celebrating his 65th Birthday*

December 16th

at the

Acton Legion

15 Wright Ave.

7:00pm - 12:00 am



## Lighting retrofit rebate at Dufferin Rural Centre

*New lights reduce electricity use*

The new lights at the Dufferin Rural Heritage Centre in Prospect Park are more energy efficient will last longer, cost less to operate, generate a rebate and, according to recent users, make it easier to see what's happening on the soccer field.

The Acton Agricultural Society, owners of the facility with a ground lease from the Town, recently spent approximately \$30,000 to replace the original 400W metal halide high-bay light fixtures with new energy efficient florescent fixtures, qualifying for a \$5,250 rebate through an electricity retrofit rebate program.

The new lights will reduce energy demand by 7.2-kilowatts per month, and reduce consumption by an estimated 35,784-kilo-

mwatt hours, enough to power approximately three Acton households. The new lights will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The rebate is to help offset the cost of the new equipment, thanks to an Ontario Power Authority (OPA) retrofit incentive program which helps commercial, industrial, institutional and agricultural customers conserve energy with more efficient lighting, motors, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and overall electricity systems.

HHH staff are currently processing approximately 20 Equipment Replacement Initiative Incentive (ERII) applications in Halton Hills, and there have been four approvals within the past month. "Hundreds of local businesses have benefited from the conservation programs offered by the local

utility and the OPA in past year," said Art Skidmore, the President and CEO of Halton Hills Hydro, he and staff presented Acton Agricultural Society officials with a huge prop cheque on Friday (along with a regular cheque to be deposited.)

Building manager, Mike O'Leary said four lights in the four-and-a-half year old facility had burned out, and several showed signs they would burn out soon. "We knew we were going to have to re-lamp in about the five-year timeframe, and here was an opportunity to use less electricity and save money."

"The players, coaches and spectators, they think the field looks greener... and there's less light bleeding up onto the ceiling," O'Leary said, the field appears to the eye to be brighter.

## What's Your Beef?



**Put it in a letter to the Editor!**  
*It's better than just chewing your cud!*

Deadline is Tuesday at noon.



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