

The 2016 Newsmaker of the Year

Our 2016 Newsmakers of the Year were again difficult decisions for our staff. In the end each notable newsmaker has a common link...a community coming together. Congratulations to Access for Arden our Newsmaker of 2016.

We chose this because three individual service clubs from three communities came together to help a young lady stricken with a rare condition, Acute Necrotizing Encephalitis, to be able to have basic renovations to her home

“to make her life tolerable”.

Note worthy honourable mentions include: the Rockwood Hidden Quarry. Whether you are for or against the quarry it brought a community and surrounding towns together out of concern

for their neighbourhood and its future.

Acton's most wanted was a rogue sheep on the lam from the Acton Fall Fair. Our town became a very large community watch for the sheep's well being while we 'trended' on Twitter.

Service Clubs work together to provide “Access for Arden”

The Rotary Club of Acton, the Lions Club of Rockwood and the Optimists Club of Halton Hills fundraise independently to help those in need. In 2016, they worked together for a common cause.

Arden Shilletto (10) is one of 300 people worldwide diagnosed with a brain stem disorder that leaves her confined to a wheelchair. As Arden grows, so has the need for aids such as mobility ramps and an accessible bath-

room. Easter Seals and March of Dimes couldn't help.

An email from Arden's mother Rachel last January got the ball rolling. Rotary President Dick Crane got in touch with Lions Club's Ken McNab and the brainstorming began. The most pressing need was for a ramp at the home's front entrance. Both clubs donated funding; Leathertown Lumber donated the lumber.

Bathroom renovations will cost around

\$13,000. Lions and Rotary organized a 50/50 draw which brought in \$10,000. Prize-winner Jeannie Southwell-Croft donated \$1000. Optimists Club President Sonny Mehta got chatting with Dick and Ken, and an Optimists 'Access for Arden' barbeque brought in \$1000. Floor plans and blueprints have been completed and renovation work is expected to begin soon. Next challenge? A ramp for the rear of the house.

Dick Crane writes, “The service clubs were happy to provide the leadership and organizational resources to make Access for Arden work. The real success is because Arden was fortunate enough to live in a caring and generous community. Most of the money came from individual donations, along with the Royal Bank (Acton and Rockwood), Leathertown Lumber and contractors Peter Schmuki and Amptech Electrical.”



Arden Shilletto smiling at the turnout during one of the fundraisers. - File photo



The Nylons performed as part of a fundraiser at the Acton Town Hall Centre in support of the Concerned Residents Coalition. - File photo

Quarry Face-Off

The Rockwood Hidden Quarry featured frequently in 2016 as James Dick Construction Limited (JDCL) and the Concerned Residents Coalition (CRC) faced off at a hearing before the Ontario Municipalities Board (OMB).

Early in the proceedings, legal council for the CRC noted that the Guelph Eramosa Township (GET) by-law in which JDCL had applied for rezoning back in 2012 had been repealed and replaced in August of this year, forcing

JDCL to reapply to GET Council under the new by-law. JDCL reapplied to council in December 2016.

Whatever residents' views on the quarry, there is no denying that much of the community came together as a result of this issue. With various fundraisers, the CRC—which has

grown to more than 1,000 supporters since its inception back in 2013—raised funds to cover the considerable expenses incurred by taking the matter before the OMB, as well as gaining support from local municipalities including GET Council, Milton Council and Halton Hills council.

The **RED HARP** PUB

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Wishing everyone a New Year filled with new hope, new joy, and new beginnings. Thank you to our staff, the community and of our supporters for an amazing 2016. It's been an incredible year, and we can't wait for 2017. Cheers!

UPCOMING LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

- Fri Jan 06: 4Play - LIVE band
- Sat Jan 07: 3 Sticks - LIVE duo
- Thu Jan 12: Karaoke - hosted by Rob & Michelle
- Fri Jan 13: The Duo - LIVE duo
- Sat Jan 14: Neil Cotton and the Hawk's Nest trio - LIVE band
- Fri Jan 20: New "Erin's Malore" - LIVE band
- Sat Jan 21: G/C Acoustics - LIVE duo
- Wed Jan 25: RESERVE NOW - Robbie Burns Night - Address to the haggis at 7 p.m. by locals Tim Somerville with Steve Turner piping
- Thu Jan 26: Karaoke - hosted by Rob & Michelle
- Fri Jan 27: Tom Webster & Friends - LIVE local band
- Sat Jan 28: Karaoke - hosted by Paul Crawford

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On the Lam

About a week after the Acton a Fall Fair, social media was a buzz with claims of a rogue goat spotted throughout town. The possible fake news turned out to be actual when it was discovered a sheep had decided to free itself from the fall fair circuit. It escaped when being loaded to head home and instead swam

feverously across Fairy Lake to freedom. Mayor Bonnette noted the town had “pulled the wool over most of our eyes” in ewe, oops awe, that sheep could swim. Not Halton Regional Police, the Agricultural Society, nor CityTV could capture it while sightings were continually reported. Town of Halton Hills staff Brad Swackhammer apparently had the sheep in a bear hug at one point until it

sheepishly slid its way loose. After T-shirt sales and trending on Twitter, the sheep, Acton's most wanted, may have brought the most media attention to Acton since “it's worth the drive.” Apparently the grass truly is greener on the other

side, and the sheep may have joined a rogue gypsy herd of sheep last seen traveling north in Wellington County.

On the lam in Acton



Acton, ON 2016

Lastly, kudos to our own Trish Bell. Following a lengthy search for a political columnist to fill the irreplaceable Mike O'Leary's spot, we received an email from Ms. Bell stating she was “never shying from an argument and always ready to share an opinion” and she'd like to “dive into an issue to create some new dia-

logue.” Well Trish, you didn't fill Mike O'Leary's spot because you made your own while creating a much needed dialogue in this town. Nestle Water, bullying, the Trunk Sale, Education Unions, “fearless Ontario Liberals”, or even taking on those who think she is a “hate monger,” Trish has a well expressed

opinion. Whether you agree with her or not is another discussion she created. We can tell you though, she has our readers reading and writing into us thus joining our theme of a community coming together. We're looking to see what she shares after the American inauguration this month.