

SACRED HEART

A productive month at Sacred Heart

The month of April has been another busy and productive month at Sacred Heart Rockwood. When the weather prevented us from enjoying outdoor activity breaks, we moved to the beat indoors with school-wide dance parties.

The badminton team gave a superb effort at the county school tournament on April 4. Our students demonstrated great sportsmanship and made our school proud.

Some grade 7 and 8 students travelled to St. James High School to participate in the Ontario Skills Challenge on April 5. Students rose to the occasion and solved problems related to Health and Safety, Construction, and Video technology. Our grade 8 students also went to St. James as part of their orientation to Grade 9 where they played interactive games with other future Lions. Our grade 5/6 class has welcomed visits from Officer Jen for the OPP Kids program. Our

grade 7/8 class has been running a small tuck shop to help raise funds towards their trip to Camp Olympia. Students looked forward to the Friday fun treats.

As well as all their regular curriculum studies, our classes were also involved in Lenten activities as we prepared for the great feast of Easter. Our intermediate students prepared a reflective and moving presentation of the Stations of the Cross for our school community.

Great learning has been happening both in and out of our classrooms. We have experienced fabulous hands-on lessons from the Scientists in Schools program, and from a series of incredible performances at the River Run Centre in Guelph, through the 'Linamar for the Performing Arts' school program.

This week we will celebrate and show our appreciation to our wonderful administrative assistant, Mrs. Hennick. Thank you for all you do for our school.



Stations of the Cross

WORD ON THE STREET

With Jane Dougan



Dianne De Maeyer: "The most critical need in Acton right now is for senior's housing. The Senior Living Centre is wonderful. The ladies that run it are amazing, with so many activities happening."



Nancy Gordon: "I can't think of anything. Acton does a good job of bringing seniors together. It's really good for senior citizens. We have Links2Care, we have the Activan, we have the Seniors Centre where seniors get together and do various activities. There are opportunities for seniors to volunteer and socialize, because when you have a purpose, you have a longer life. I'm a senior and I enjoy it. My years as a senior and retired are very active, busy and fulfilled, and it's because I live in Acton."

"How can your community serve seniors better?"



Edwina Hylton: "One big concern is if you're not close to public transit, then how can you get to doctors and dentists offices, the bank, the post office, as well as recreational facilities? Is there a good central hub in Acton where seniors can find out what facilities are available to them?"



Karina Kane: "I'm visiting Acton but I'm a senior, and in Hamilton I volunteer with a library program where seniors phone in and say what they would like in the way of books, and once a month we deliver them to their home from the library. If this isn't in Acton, it might be a good service to have."

Town funds youth centre extension

"It's part of a bigger strategy" said Halton Hills CAO, Brent Marshall. That's the response to questions about the Town's decision to fund the two youth centres in Georgetown and Acton to keep them operating until the end of December 2017.

The centres were slated for closure in February following an announcement by Links2Care that they were pulling out of the business. The decision was made on the basis that they no longer could operate the facilities as they were unable to change their business model to adapt and meet youths' increasingly complex needs. Bridge financing from Halton Region allowed the organization to continue operations until

the end of June.

Earlier this month Town Council approved \$75,000 to keep the two facilities open until the end of the year. "This decision allows staff to continue the work they began several years ago to address the full suite of youth needs in Halton Hills," said Marshall. "It's not about keeping the same facilities it's about maintaining stability while we look at more sustainable solutions." These solutions include the work of the Youth Services Network – a partnership-based committee of serving agencies co-chaired by Halton Region and the Town to identify, align and deliver required services. The inventory of needs being addressed by the network includes:

homelessness, drop-in recreation, life skills, harm reduction and food.

The continued operation of the youth centres and the ongoing work to address gaps and effectively align services for young people has not been lost on one of the centres' key advocates, a youth facility user and champion.

"It's been really interesting working with the Town and understanding how they deliver services," said Ivy-Lynne Hallis. "I became involved when I was concerned that the youth centres were closing. I'm really happy not only that the Town stepped up to support these facilities but also, that all of the needs of my peer group on so many different lev-

els are being considered. I am happy to be a voice on the Youth Services Network."

Mayor Rick Bonnette agreed. "I said it before and I will say it again, our job at Council is to build a healthy community for all residents and this includes ensuring that the necessary services are in place for our young people. I'm very proud that the Town stepped up. This was an investment in our young people – to provide them some stability while staff continues to work with community partners via the Youth Services Network. The goal of course, is to develop and implement supports to help youth navigate the system and secure the services they need."

Town launches new Sister City web page

The relationship between Wenjiang District (China) and the Town of Halton Hills was further cemented with the launch of a new sister city web page: www.haltonhills.ca/SisterCity

A twinning agreement was signed in 2016 to formally recognize a cooperative relationship on issues of economic development and investment, sustainable development, renewable energy, tourism, culture, education and agriculture. Since then, a number of projects have either already been completed or initiated, including the "Canadians in Chengdu" photo exhibit that was held at the Helson Gallery, forums on international trade and sustainable development, a cultural festival and educational exchanges between elementary schools.

"The Town's sister city relationship is opening up doors for our local businesses and provides a wonderful opportunity to explore lasting cultural, knowledge and economic exchanges," said Mayor Rick Bonnette. "The establishment of a dedicated web page will serve to foster dialogue, raise awareness of our historic sister city partnership and spur business investments to benefit both our municipality and the Wenjiang District."

Wenjiang, one of nine districts that make up the larger City of Chengdu, is a leader in sustainable development, high-tech manufacturing, education, agriculture and tourism.