

Prospect Park named one of the coolest playgrounds in Canada

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Acton's playground in Prospect Park has been named one of Canada's 150 coolest playgrounds by the Playground Writers of Canada as part of a playground ranking for Canada's sesquicentennial.

The Prospect Park playground officially opened last May and features a Spinmee roundabout, a zip line, a large play structure with a variety of unique climbers and slides, a rubber surfacing area, a variety of different swings including an inclusive swing, a group saucer swing and benches.

Local resident Annetrista Absalom published a children's book last year entitled *We Are More Alike Than We Are Different*, which promotes the independent spirit of special needs children while at play. With the book's proceeds, town staff worked

with Absalom to find playground equipment specifically designed for those in a wheelchair while still meeting all the necessary safety guidelines. The Spinmee unit is the first of its kind to be installed in Canada.

"A big part of what makes this project unique is how inclusive the play area is for children of all abilities," said Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette. "We're proud of the local community engagement in the design process, and the playground continues to be a big hit with visitors to the park."

Prospect Park is located at 30 Park Ave. in Acton and, in addition to the playground, is home to the Superior Glove Splash Pad and Dufferin Rural Heritage Centre.

Information on Canada's 150 Coolest Playgrounds can be found at: www.strollerparking.ca/canadas-150-coolest-playgrounds-coast-coast.



Eamonn Maher/Metroland

Last year, Acton's Prospect Park re-opened with some inclusive playground equipment. On hand were (from left) Matt Gibson, Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette, Annetrista Absalom, who proposed the idea for playground equipment designed for children in wheelchairs, Erin Gibson and her three-year-old daughter Piper, who is developmentally delayed and loves the new Spinmee Round-A-Bout, her big sister Kaeliegh and Ward 1 Councillor Mike Albano.

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