

Mayor Bonnette and Councillors thank youth volunteers

By: Harry Rudolfs

Mayor Rick Bonnette and several councillors dropped by the Acton Community Centre last Thursday to thank the summer camp and aquatic volunteers.

The volunteers are high school students ranging in age from 14 to 17 years of age. There are 91 of them volunteering across Halton Hills, together contributing 5,000 hours of service towards the Town's summer programs.

"These young people are dedicating their summer. They're helping kids learn new skills, but they're also learning about themselves and developing lifelong skills,"

said Mayor Bonnette.

Athena Gennatos, Owen Mattan and Sloane Boorman were presented with certificates by Mayor Bonnette. "I know Sloane has been volunteering since she was a kid," said Bonnette. "I've heard that if a parent volunteers, the kids grow up to volunteer."

Bonnette added that many of the Town programs would not be possible without volunteers. "We probably have, per capita, the highest rate of volunteerism anywhere in Ontario, or Canada for that matter. It's nice to see the young people stepping up."

Also in attendance were councillors Mike Albano, Ted Brown and Jon Hurst.



Ted Brown, Mike Albano, Sloane Boorman, Mayor Bonnette and Jon Hurst

The group was next on its way to Gellert Community Centre to thank the volunteers there. "It's

kind of a fun thing we do," said Bonnette. "Going around recognizing these young people."

The volunteers and campers received freebies after the presentations. The youth

volunteers also earn a community service credit towards their high school diploma.

Regional Council advocated for regional priorities at AMO

Along with more than 1,900 delegates, Halton's Regional Chair and Councillors participated in the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference, which took place in Ottawa from August 13 to 16. The Conference brought together municipal, provincial and federal officials to work collectively to overcome municipal challenges and plan for the future.

Key session topics included the need for new and modern approaches to funding municipal government, changes to the Ontario Municipal Board

(OMB), infrastructure and transit, climate change, new waste legislation, the digital and sharing economy, affordable housing, and more. These province-wide issues have important local implications for our community.

The AMO Conference was an opportunity to bring Halton's priority advocacy issues to the attention of Provincial Cabinet Ministers. Halton Region has been advocating for legislative and funding changes on issues that are important to Halton residents.

"The meetings we had

with the Ministers were very successful," said Halton Regional Chair, Gary Carr. "We were able to bring forward issues and concerns related to growth funding and co-ordination, public health funding shortfalls, and needed transportation enhancements, among others. We will continue to follow up with the Ministers to advance our positions and find solutions to our issues."

Together with AMO, Halton Region has been advocating to the provincial government on issues that Halton residents have identified as important. For more information on Halton's advocacy issues, visit halton.ca/advocacy.

Town receives funding for Foreign Direct Investment attraction

The Town of Halton Hills continues with the successful implementation of its historic Sister-City Action Plan, signed between Halton Hills and Wenjiang (Chengdu, China) in June 2016. Implementation of this Action Plan will pave the way for greater international trade, improved economic prosperity and an enhanced quality of life for people in both communities.

A key objective of the Action Plan is strengthening the local economy by attracting, retaining and expanding investment in Halton Hills. In support of this effort, the Town is pleased to announce the receipt of \$10,000 in

funding from the Government of Canada to assist with attracting, retaining and expanding foreign direct investment.

Thanks to funding from the Government of Canada, the Town will be able to develop and launch a highly informative, visually appealing and interactive website to encourage Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flow between Halton Hills and Wenjiang (China), and other international markets. This initiative supports local economic development, Halton Hills's competitiveness in the global economy and facilitates the implementation of the Halton Hills-Wenjiang Sister-City Action Plan. Content will be published in Eng-

lish and Mandarin.

According to Mayor Bonnette, "We are very pleased to have been successful in receiving funding from the Government of Canada. This investment allows the Town to reinforce its partnership with Wenjiang. The new website will strengthen our economy by offering key investment information, and links to potential international investors, businesses and organizations. The website will target leading edge environmental technologies and is consistent with Council's Strategic Plan, Community Sustainability Strategy, Mayor's Community Energy Plan, as well as provincial and federal objectives."

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