

Acton Hub presentations at AGM

By: Alex Hilson

The Our Kids Network (OKN), the parent organization of the Acton Hub, held their Annual General Meeting at the Milton Sports Centre last Thursday, November 23. Significant contributions were made to the meeting

by presentations regarding work being done at the Acton Hub.

Acton's contribution began with a student from Holy Rosary Catholic Elementary School. He told the story of how an Acton Hub Committee started a "Kindergarten Fun Fair" to improve Acton's Early

Development Instrument (EDI) scores.

The EDI measures the knowledge and skills required for a child to be successful in school. According to research shared at the meeting, Acton has the highest number of vulnerable children in Halton. There's hope the Kinder-

garten Fun Fair and other work being done at the Hub is bringing that vulnerability down.

The larger contribution though, came from Sloane Boorman, a student at Acton District High School, who was speaking about some workshops that were held at Mackenzie-Smith Bennett School last year. The workshops were designed to see if the stu-

dents knew where to go for support if they were dealing with a crisis in their lives.

"Our project was designed to help youth learn about mental health and wellness, important resources to access and to destroy the stigma [surrounding mental health]," said Sloane. "I felt very proud of our community and the work we did together."

Alison Hilborn, the Coordinator of the Acton Hub, added, "When working with youth, it's so important to provide them with the opportunity to have a voice and to speak for themselves. Having Sloane present at the AGM was such a great example of that. She's an amazing youth, who contributed to our workshops in such a helpful way."

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LOCAL MOTION

GROW YOUNGER

GROUP POWER

Mayor recognized for leadership in sustainability

Key leaders with shared interests, discussing best practices is the basis for an invitation from one head of Council to another. In early December, Mayor Rick Bonnette will be attending the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, and the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group at the invitation of Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel. The short visit will see Halton Hills represented on an international stage—an occurrence happening more frequently as the Town's reputation for sustainability practices grows.

"I'm delighted for the opportunity to participate," said Mayor Bonnette. "I think this is a real indicator that we are doing something very right in our little Town. The fight against climate change goes beyond geographical boundaries, and I am so proud of the work that staff has done and the support that Council has provided."

Reducing emissions and meeting the goals of the historic Paris Agreement are fundamental to the upcoming gathering. Mayors will have the opportunity to indicate participation and support for climate

change initiatives by signing a global covenant which outlines a number of commitments, among them:

- Emissions reductions as a percentage of their respective cities' communities emissions in line with or greater than their respective nations' national commitments to the Paris Agreement
- The quantification of emissions in their respective cities consistent with standards and best practices in measurement
- Implementation of local actions that are projected to lower carbon emissions by 2020
- Cooperation with other cities to advance state, provincial, and federal policies that enable cities to reach their commitments
- Partnership through existing city-focused climate organizations—Global Covenant, C40 Cities Leadership Group, Climate Mayors, Urban Sustainability Directors Network, ICLEI, etc.

Earlier this year, staff gave presentations on sustainable planning in Wenjiang, China—an event that was co-organized by Halton Hills and its sister city.

Next year's Grade 9 students welcomed at Open House



TOUR UPDATE: Grade nine Acton students Dakota Bodin (left) and Grace Furzer gave one of the cupboards in the art room a new look during the Acton High Open House.

By Vivien Fleisher

Designed to ease the transition for prospective students entering grade nine, Acton High School rolled out the red carpet last Thursday for them and their parents. With a total student population of 422—compared to Georgetown's 1,600—Acton is perfect for those who might get lost in a bigger school. With a capacity of 560 students, the catchment for grade nine is 145.

It's a big step for kids,

and the January deadline for choosing schools is fast approaching. After the initial welcome, a presentation covered course selection. The school is the only one in Halton to offer agriculture, one of two 'high skills' majors. Also unique to Acton is the fact that in grade nine, all students take one of four tech courses, except for French Immersion students who have a slightly different course load. E-learning, offered for the past five years in Halton, requires a lot of discipline, but paral-

els the world of work today. The Bearcat crew, a mentoring program, specifically watches out for students and assists them with any issues they're dealing with.

After the presentation, students toured the school, and every department offered demos by students, with teachers on hand to answer questions. Mackenzie-Smith Bennett's (MSB) Rachael Murphy said she's most excited by what the art department offered, having experienced it through the 8.5 Access Program.

MSB, Brookville and Stewarttown are the three feeder schools to Acton High School.

The open house is always evolving. Principle Lucy Marion, who came from Georgetown High, felt the format this year made it easier for parents and students to have direct exposure to programs and teachers. She also said, "It's a great family community in terms of the staff supporting the kids. We get to know them. You don't get lost at Acton."



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