

# Acton Citizens' Band is kept busy during festive holiday season

By: Harry Rudolfs

This is the most active time of the year for the members of the Acton Citizens' Band (ACB). Their calendars are chock full of appearances that continue through December.

The Christmas season kicked off with the annual Acton Santa Claus parade on November 18. The marching band has been a regular feature of the parade since as long as anyone can remember. Next came the annual seniors' Christmas Dinner hosted by the Acton Legion on November 28. The ACB serenaded a full complement of seniors with carols and seasonal tunes while they ate. The band played "Here Comes Santa Claus" on repeat while the jolly man visited with the guests.

The ACB was front and centre during the "Light up the Hills" tree lighting ceremony at the Acton Arena. They followed the St. Joseph's Children's Choir who also gave an inspired performance. Santa arrived in the Acton Firefighter's 1927 Studebaker truck, while the band played through a variety of Christmas carols and popular songs.

Their next stop was the Halton County Railway Museum in Eden Mills on Saturday, where they per-

formed their Christmas repertoire on the train platform as visitors were getting on and off the electric trams. This is their fourth appearance at the Rail Museum and it looks like this has become an annual event as well.

Assistant band leader George Elliott commented on playing outdoors in colder weather. "It's important to keep you mouthpiece warm," he said. "It's a lot warmer this year than previous years, so instruments freezing is not so much of a problem." Elliot keeps a bottle of pure ethyl alcohol in his pocket in case his cornet's valves seize up. "After all, I'm a chemist," added the retired professor.

Bandleader Jeff Carr is enthusiastic about the turn out at these performances. "The band members like doing it, and it sounded pretty good," he added.

The Acton Citizen's Band has two more major events this year. Their Christmas Concert at Bethel Church at 2 p.m. on December 10 will be their last sit-down performance of the year. But you also might see them on their "Carols around Town" tour on the evening of Wednesday, December 13, where the ensemble piles into a school bus and takes their music directly to different locations around Acton.

# Community Improvement Program at work

By: Alex Hilson

Geo-Foundations Contractors Inc. in Acton had a visit from Town of Halton Hills staff and Mayor Rick Bonnette on Friday where they were presented with a cheque from the Community Improvement Program for work they'd done to their facilities.

While the Town's Community Improvement Program aids in revitalization and redevelopment, and has been utilized by both Downtown Acton and Downtown Georgetown businesses to improve their fronts, Geo-Foundations used their grant money differently. The funds contributed to buying much needed land

to grow operations, build a shop expansion and re-landscape.

Todd Edmunds is the President of the company. "When I first bought the business in 2000, about two months before the deal closed, I realized I wasn't really buying a company. I was adopting a family. And at the time I was responsible for 25 people. So now I'm responsible, out of this office alone, for 130 people and their families and to me, to see that now, and for the business to have that ability to continue whether I'm around here or not, I think that means the most to me."

Theresa Kingsbury was the Project Manager for



Theresa Kingsbury - Project Manager, Mayor Rick Bonnette; and Todd Edmunds, President, Geo-Foundations

the expansion, and it was her first time dealing with this sort of project. Relieved it's now all over, she has advice for others looking into similar tasks.

"Don't be afraid with a project that you're not familiar with. Use your resources, know your resources and move forward."

# Lots of opportunities to give locally

By: Alex Hilson

There are a number of local drives happening in and around Acton this holiday season. For anyone looking to give back this Christmas here are just a few ways you can:

The Acton Christmas Hamper Committee provides food hampers for local families in need. Cash or food donations can be dropped off at Acton Optical at 80 Mill St. E. No. 1 by December 15—Hampers will be distributed on December 16. For more information email: stjoseph.church@bellnet.ca

Active Choice Rehabilitation Centre is collecting toys and food for the Sal-

vation Army Church and the Acton Food Share. Active Choice's Toy/Food Drive has been running for six years. Donations can be dropped off at their clinic in Downtown Acton. Donors are reminded that Active Choice has a split shift from Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., then 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Leathertown Lumber continues their annual Toy Drive for its 15th year. A new, unwrapped toy can be dropped off at Leathertown Lumber at 264 Main St. N. between now and Monday, December 11 when the Salvation Army will be making a pick-up. Over the years, Leathertown Lumber has had anywhere from 100 to 150

toys donated annually.

Links2Care's Holiday Giving Program is providing gifts of warm pajamas, socks, underwear and toiletries to children 16 years and younger from eligible lower income families in Acton and Georgetown. You can join Links2Care in making the holidays special for these deserving families and make a donation. Individuals, schools, church groups, community organizations are welcome. For more information visit, links2care.ca or call 519-853-3310.

The Halton Hills Fire Department continues their toy drive. Between now and 12 on Friday, December 15, people can drop off new, unwrapped toys at the District One Station at 21 Churchill Road South. Toys will

be taken to the Salvation Army in Acton.

The Halton Regional Police in Milton are now collecting gifts for the second annual Stockings for Senior's event. Stocking sized items like body wash (unscented), body lotion (unscented), deodorant, non-slip socks/slippers, night gown/pajamas, diabetic candies, nail polish, chocolates, word books, small puzzles, and small games can be dropped off at Halton Regional Police Milton station located at 490 Childs Drive by December 21, and will be given to seniors staying in long term care facilities on Christmas morning. For more information contact, Detective Constable Sarah McCullagh at 905-825-4747 extension 2419.

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