

LETTERS

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Re: Downtown Acton—Boom or Bust?

To the Editor,

P.T. Barnum is credited with saying, “There’s no such thing as bad publicity.” Along that same vein, we’d like to thank *The New Tanner* for their incredibly focussed coverage of our downtown. As your interviews with Mike Albano and Dianne Gowland outlined, Acton Downtown has been creating, developing and now executing on a strategic plan. This is a multifaceted plan which incorporates new branding, a streetscape plan and a new website.

The new branding will deliver a fresh start with a new look and feel that includes a new logo which incorporates a design that is representative of our past, present and future. Along with that we’ll be engaging new marketing initiatives that will foster a focus on health, wellness and community which are at the cornerstone of Acton’s Downtown. A new website will incorporate the new look and feel as well as provide additional functionality serving as a resource to our community, our businesses as well as those outside of our own town. Streetscaping is the

third and final activity that we’ll be executing on this year. We’ve received a resounding cheer from the public and businesses alike on the hanging flowers and planters. We’ve been working closely with a Town provided Landscape Architect to explore other beautification possibilities.

This brings up a very important point. There are limitations. Funding is almost always a consideration during a large undertaking such as this. Where does the money come from, how much is there for us to use toward a plan of this magnitude? Even within the funding model, there are limitations on meeting specific criteria in order to qualify for the funding, and of course meeting those associated deadlines. That’s been a very large part of what’s been going on behind the scenes...where seemingly, “nothing’s changed”. Another limitation, as with most community initiatives is people power. That is, people to execute on the plan, the plethora of volunteers it takes to organize and execute on projects. Whether these BIA initiated projects are associated

with a large strategic plan or community events such as the Winter Carnival, Open Street-movie events, Canada Day (along with the Firefighters), Leathertown Festival and Trick-or-Treat.

This leaves the ‘elephant in the room’...vacant store fronts. Yes, there are some empty store-fronts. What’s being done about that? The BIA and Economic Development team continue to work together in partnership with property owners, retailers and potential new business owners. The BIA will be helping several new retailers with their Grand Opening celebration in the coming months. Please stay tuned, but more importantly, please get downtown and check them out! While you’re here drop into our existing businesses who are still here and providing great small town customer service for you and your family.

In closing, regardless of printed word, whether it be newsprint or social media, Downtown Acton is open for business!

Downtown Acton...You Gotta Shop Here!

The Acton BIA Board of Directors

Dam repairs to start next year



By: Harry Rudolfs

Fairly Lake was created in 1830 when the Adams Brothers dammed up Black Creek to create a mill pond so they could operate a grist and sawmill. The present dam was built in 1957 when the lake was used as a primary source of water for the Beardmore Tannery until it closed in 1986.

After Beardmore, the dam was left in place and the highwater levels were maintained on the 26-hectare wetland. However, a study prepared for the Town by consultants Aquafor Beech Ltd., identified problems and improvements required to the existing dam’s log jam design.

Apparently, the dam is leaking water into the subsoils and the outflow into Black Creek is inconsistent throughout the year. Furthermore, high levels of phosphorous are being discharged into the creek, potentially causing prob-

lems for the brook trout that live downstream in the creek.

To mitigate the leakage and keep the water level high in the pond, a coffer dam will be constructed upstream of the current dam. Other repairs will include the replacement of stop logs, installation of a geosynthetic clay line and repairs to the south wingwall.

According to Halton Hills’ communications manager Alex Fuller, the Town will be initiating work on these issues this year by first obtaining the required permits. “But the actual construction likely won’t start till next year.” \$370,000 has been allocated for this project and will be paid for by Halton Region.

Wastewater plant upgrades and purification plant expansion on schedule

By: Harry Rudolfs

Site works, including excavation for the new Tertiary Treatment Building, is now underway at the Acton Wastewater Plant, according to Halton Region communication specialist Katherine Wood. She also reported that the construction of the digester tank and building is completed and

new equipment is ready for installation. As well, construction of the new sludge loading facility is finished and commissioning is underway. The projects should be fully completed by spring 2019.

Similarly, Wood said that delivery and installation of new equipment at the Prospect Park Purification Plant should be completed this

month. Commissioning of the equipment should be done by May.

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