

## Activan to transition with no disruption to service

By Alex Hilson

On March 26, Halton Hills Council put forward recommendations to maintain the ActiVan service following a recent announcement from Tyler Transport Ltd. that they will be ceasing all vehicle operations effective June 30. According to a release, Town staff are working with Tyler Transport Ltd. to convert operations and ensure service levels remain in place, and that the change will not impact ActiVan clients.

All existing ActiVan operations will transition to an in-house service offered on a contractual basis.

"Meeting the needs of our residents is always a priority. I am very proud of our staff and pleased that we are able to accommodate ActiVan clients with little to no disruption to what they are used to," said Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette.

Councillor Jon Hurst added, "As Chair of the Halton Hills Accessibility Advisory Committee, I am pleased with the actions being undertaken to continue our well established and successful ActiVan services. Our committee

mandate is to assist those in need, and ActiVan is fundamental to that philosophy."

The ActiVan is a specialized transportation service for seniors aged 65 and older and persons with disabilities residing within Halton Hills. Tyler Transport has provided the contracted driver services for the ActiVan program since it began in 1981. Back then, the fleet was only capable of moving three wheelchair passengers at a time. Now, they are able to transport up to seven wheelchairs and 33 ambulatory passengers.

"Although I'm pleased with the collaboration that has occurred at the local level, I'm extremely disappointed with the Province's procurement process," said the Mayor. "Surely there should be consideration given to local employers who have demonstrated high performance and accountability. Tyler Transport has been a long-standing, valued business in our community."

The transition will take place on July 1. Any questions regarding the service should be directed to the ActiVan office at 905-702-6435.

## HILLSVIEW REPORT - GEORGETOWN

By: Florence Riehl

Greg will be back to share his expertise in another series of Computer Workshops. These are held on Wednesday's from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The first session begins on April 11. A different topic is covered each week. There is a sign-up sheet at reception outlining the weekly topic. You can take one or all of them depending on where you need help.

What a way to spend a Friday evening! Come and join us at the Ballinafad Community Centre for the "Spring Night Live Music Series" to enjoy a wide variety of music, friendship and dancing. Up first on April 13 is Jake Chisholm, then on April 27 The Pepper Shakers, John Pebble on May 11, Hawk's Nest Trio on May 25, Monty Guy—crooner—on June

8, and The Gordon Lightfoot Tribute Band on June 22. Doors open at 7 p.m. and music begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are for sale at the Centre office.

Can you smell the pancakes and syrup? No? Then you must make plans to come to our Annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 7. Bring your friends and neighbours. We will be holding a 50/50 draw as well. Tickets are available at Centre reception or at the door the day of the breakfast.

I have left instructions for the Easter Bunny not to come to the Centre to leave his delicious chocolate treats on the weekend as we will be closed Good Friday, March 30 and also Easter Monday, April 2.

To all a happy and safe Easter.

## Acton High School students take home hardware from Technical Olympics



Submitted photo

By: Harry Rudolfs

Acton District High School's Technical Skills Competition produced a new group of champions on March 1. The 23rd annual "Technical Olympics" included over 50 entrants in 10 separate disciplines.

Competitors worked in teams or individually to demonstrate their prowess in categories that included digital photography, fashion, cabinet making and small engine repair. The students were given five hours to work on a project from design phase to end product. Those in the transportation division were given a test and then had to complete an automotive repair, while CADD competitors were given a design project to complete.

Gold, Silver and Bronze medals were awarded to outstanding competitors. Communications technology teacher Wade Stark oversaw the digital photography and video production divisions. "The kids have only five hours to do a number of tasks. It really showcases

the talent at this school. 50 entrants in a population of 470 is quite high participation."

"In terms of the digital photography competition, the photos that they took were exceptional," said Stark. "There was only one point difference between the first and second place winners. The winners for the video competition really made some fantastic transitions but the editing was amazing."

Winners in Digital Photography included: Ruth Vyuk – gold, Alyssa Madio – silver, and Nicolas Swinton – bronze. In Video Production: Mark Hutchison and Liam Kovich – gold, Ryann Lewis and Kieran Roberts – silver. In Fashion: Azlynn Russell and Ashtin Del Fabbro – gold, Alexis Brown – silver.

Gold medal winners went on to participate in the Halton Skills Competition at Georgetown District High School on March 28. This is a bigger regional competition with more categories that included things like culinary arts and hair-dressing.

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## HILLSVIEW REPORT - ACTON

By: Julie Conroy

It's great to see our "Snow Birds" returning from warmer places. We look forward to seeing them at many of the planned upcoming events.

The Centre will be closed on Good Friday (March 30), and Easter Monday (April 2).

The latest copies of Hillsview will be at the reception desk shortly. Be sure to pick yours up to see what exciting programs and events we are planning over the next few months.

Members attended the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, March 27. President Sylvia Mitchell welcomed Mayor Rick Bonnette, Halton Hills Councillors Jon Hurst, Mike Albano and Bob Inglis, Warren Harris Commissioner of Recreation and Parks, Samantha Howard, Manager of Recreation Services, Aaron Matthews, Facility Supervisor – Acton Arena, Wendy Krever, Coordinator H.A.L.C., Michelle Durham, Admin Assistant H.A.L.C., Heather Beaumont Town of Halton Hills Volunteer Coordinator, Rick Chambers President of Hillsview Georgetown Board of Directors and the Acton Board of Directors.

Pat English, Bev Jones, Linda Fischer and Joyce Farmer were elected to the board for the next two years.

A copy of the A.G.M.

report is available at the reception desk.

The Wine and Cheese evening on Friday, March 23 was very enjoyable. Local teacher and author Ken Flynn talked about his 28-year-old grandfather Jose, leaving Portugal and his wife of three days behind when he emigrated to Canada in the 1950's. It was three years before he could bring her to Canada to make a new life together. His book "The Average Joe" was illustrated with great pictures of his grandfather and his family. Everyone enjoyed the evening.

The very popular Spring Fashion Show presented by Alia of Georgetown is on Tuesday, April 10 at 1 p.m. It's always well attended and enjoyed by everyone. As usual 10 of our members will be modeling the clothes. They may be nervous but always do a great job of showcasing the fashions and accessories. Tickets are available at the reception desk.

Elly Holtman had the only mooner while playing bid euchre on March 22.

The winner of the weekly 50/50 draw on Friday, March 23 was Bill Lang. He won \$117.

Friday lunch on April 6 will be ham and scalloped potatoes plus salad and dessert followed by Bingo at 1:15 p.m.

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