

Helson 'gift' of art comes with a hefty price

Last December Fred Helson donated his \$800,000 art collection to the Town of Halton Hills.

Helson had previously shown his generosity with a \$1 million donation to the Georgetown Hospital Foundation.

As I covered the event, Mayor Rick Bonnette announced The Gallery at Halton Hills Cultural Centre would be renamed the Helson Gallery.

He then went on to say the Helson Gallery would exclusively display the Helson Collection.

Immediately, the ramifications of this decision came to my mind. Every arts group in town was being squeezed out of the Gallery.

Bonnette said that in place of the Gallery, local artists would be able to hang their work in various venues around town. He suggested the Gellert Centre, or the entrance of the new library. He said numerous smaller display areas could be created, like the Mayor's Art Showcase at the Civic Centre. (Personally, the Mayor's Showcase is a joke—there's space for two pieces, if they aren't too big.)

The Cultural Centre, more specifically 'The Gallery', has been the 'pulse' of the arts community for decades. Why would they change it and lock out the locals?

Was anyone with any artistic savvy consulted? They wouldn't design an arena, fire hall or a library without consultation, so why was the Gallery deal pushed through so quickly?

A gallery is not a place where people are bustling in and out, like the entrance to the new library, or the Civic Centre. It's not a tiny little display area outside the Mayor's office, or hung on one of the bare walls in the Gellert Centre.

A gallery is a room, a large room, where art is displayed, with the proper lighting to accent it.

It's a place where artists gather to see each other's work; a sanctuary to escape from the rest of the world and quietly appreciate the work that is hung on the walls.

It's an atmosphere; a private place where one contemplates the work, and in doing so, allows one's emotions to flow.

Since it opened, The Gallery has been the 'high-water mark' for local artists, photographers,

rug hookers, weavers, and sculptors. If one's work was displayed in The Gallery, you've created some outstanding art.

When local artists recently challenged the mayor and staff's decision, they were immediately told, 'Oh, no, we didn't mean that!' The mayor called it a 'miscommunication'.

I don't buy it—I was at the announcement and I heard it myself. I even privately expressed my concern to the mayor at the time. Now the mayor and staffers from the Town and Cultural Centre appear to be backpedaling, suggesting local groups can 'share' the space with the Helson Collection—using portable display stands set up in the centre of the gallery.

They just can't use the walls. Now ain't that classy? The 'real art' (aka Helson collection) stays on the walls, but the 'other' art is relegated to a temporary stand, like school work pinned up at a fall fair.

Art is not simply 'hung'—it's ar-

ranged. It needs room to breath, to be viewed without being crowded or influenced by a piece beside it. It shouldn't be slapped on a moveable stand, without any dedicated lighting to enhance it.

Local artists suggested the Helson Collection could be displayed exclusively, but asked the Town to reserve 12 weeks for annual established shows, like Photo Art, Pallet and Pencil, the Rug Hooking Guild and many others, so they can still exhibit in a proper venue on all four walls, not on temporary stands with wheels.

In his responses to the artists, Bonnette keeps maintaining the local art scene is not restricted from the Gallery. (But during a tour, Halton Hills Cultural Centre manager Jamie Smith told them they can't use the walls.)

The more I see how immovable the Town is about making the Gallery available for 12 weeks, the more it appears to me the collection was donated with specific restrictions—exclusivity perhaps? The Town probably can't do a thing to change it—for want of a better phrase, I think the Gallery has essentially been 'negotiated' away.

See TOWN, pg. 10

Beat the temptation.
CALL THE CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY'S TOLL-FREE **SMOKERS' HELPLINE** 1-877-513-5333

FUTURE SHOP CORRECTION NOTICE
NEWSPAPER RETRACTION FOR THE FUTURE SHOP JANUARY 25 CORPORATE FLYER We regret to inform customers that the following products, advertised on the January 25 flyer, page 11, show incorrect pricing. Please be advised that the Linksys N300/300 Wireless Router (WebCode: 10198846) is in fact priced at \$79.99, and the Linksys N300/450 Wireless Router (WebCode: 10198841) price is \$119.99.
We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our valued customers.

in NUENDO
HAIR STUDIO & SPA

Please welcome our newest Senior Stylist *Lily Galan!*
Come in and get the latest look!
10% off
New Clients Only!

~~~~  
**\$35 Biogel Set**  
with Jodie!  
~~~~  
Book a Facial and Get a FREE Spa Pedicure (\$50 value)

374 Guelph St. Unit 4
Georgetown
905-873-6999
in.nuendo.ca



Ted Brown

HALTON HILLS MINOR LACROSSE ASSOCIATION

WELCOME TO THE DOG POUND!

2013 REGISTRATION

NEW Girl's Field Lacrosse - Free stick provided when registered with the Girl's Field Program
(Box, Field and House League, open to boys and girls).

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday January 30th	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Georgetown Mall (outside the Independent Offices)
Saturday February 2nd	11:00 am - 3:00 pm	Acton Arena
Saturday February 9th	10:00 am - 3:00 pm	MoldMasters Arena
Wednesday February 13th	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Georgetown Mall (outside the Independent Offices)
Saturday February 16th	11:00 am - 3:00 pm	Acton Arena
Saturday February 23rd	10:00 am - 3:00 pm	MoldMasters Arena

Box Divisions:
Peanut (2010-2009)
Paperweight to Intermediate (2008-1993)

Field Divisions:
Tyke to Midget (2005-1997)

Our Field season runs for five weeks during April and May with pre-season clinics beginning in February and March.

Our houseleague season runs for ten weeks start April 13th and finishing the June 21st-23rd weekend. The program is open to players as young as 3 years old (birth year 2010). The first two weeks of the program are clinics, which teach first time players the fundamentals of the game and reinforce previously learned skills to returning players.

Our Rep program begins in April with tryouts. Please note that there is a \$20 non-refundable tryout fee. The program concludes in August.

Come out and play Canada's National summer sport and the fastest game on 2 feet!

New Website: bulldogslacrosse.ca

GEORGETOWN LIONS CLUB
is seeking
GEORGETOWN CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The Lions Club is accepting applications for the Georgetown Citizen of the Year for the year 2012. Please forward an application or resume to the selection committee before February 18, 2013.

Send to Georgetown Lions Club
P.O. Box 73
Georgetown, ON L7G 4T1
or email to dpenrice@sympatico.ca

For information or sample application please contact
Lion Doug Penrice 905-873-8469

Don't let that special volunteer go unrecognized.

Award dinner to be held March 26, 2013.
A community project of the Georgetown Lions Club.