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Hungry Hollow gets a bridge
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Beware
of lyme
disease

Acton man dies in float plane crash

By **LISA TALLYN**
Staff Writer

A 77-year-old Acton man drowned after his amphibious plane crashed on a lake near Parry Sound Saturday morning.

Frederick Laverne "Vern" Near was flying his plane into Taylor Lake to get together with his son Greg and several friends for an annual fishing trip when the accident occurred.

Greg, who was down at the shore waiting for the plane to land so he could help tie it off, watched in horror when it flipped over.

He and some friends jumped into a boat and rushed to the scene to try to rescue his dad. The floats kept the capsized plane from sinking.

"I tried to get him out," said Greg. "I dove down three times but I couldn't get the door of the plane opened."

"I was yelling for him to see if he was conscious," said Greg, adding that he doesn't believe he was, as he didn't respond.

He said it took two to three hours before OPP divers arrived and got his father out of the plane.

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Halton Hills Council members took part in the ceremonial ground-breaking for the expansion and renovations to the Acton Arena and Community Centre Wednesday. On hand were from left: Councillors Ann Lawlor, Jane Fogal, Bob Inglis, and Joan Robson, Mayor Rick Bonnette, Councillors Dave Kentner, Bryan Lewis, Mike O'Leary, Jon Hurst and Clark Somerville (front).

Photo by Jon

Acton Arena set to receive a facelift

The expansion and renovations to Acton Arena and Community Centre have begun following the ceremonial ground-breaking last week.

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette and several Councillors were on hand for the event.

"This ground-breaking event launches an exciting time for this facility and our community," said Mayor Rick Bonnette.

"This project is meeting the expressed

needs of our community and encourages an active lifestyle."

The project will see the construction of an additional ice pad, new viewing area and another community room.

The expansion has already begun with the Acton Seniors' Centre renovations already underway to update their existing space, which should be ready for this summer.

See PROJECT, pg. 3

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