

Hope wins Rotary's Honda raffle

Barry Edington, Past President of the Rotary Club of Georgetown, handed the keys to a 2014 Honda Civic EX to Michael Hope at the Dominion Gardens Playground recently. Hope was the winner of this year's Rotary raffle, in support of the Universally Accessible Children's Playground

The Rotary Club of Georgetown realized that it is essential for all children to play together, regardless of the level of ability. That is why they decided to make the Dominion Gardens Children's Playground accessible to all. The first phase, which included specialized equipment and partial resurfacing of the play surface, was completed in 2012. It was funded by an Ontario Trillium Grant and two local car raffles.

In 2014, the Club decided to resurface the rest of the play area, so it can be truly universally accessible. With a price tag of over \$80,000, the Club held a raffle on a 2014 Honda Civic EX, to raise part of the money. Over the past five months, the club sold 640 tickets, and raised over \$39,000. Hope's name was drawn at a draw at Georgetown Honda on Oct. 18

"I am genuinely impressed by how much the Rotary Club has contributed to community over the years," said Hope.

"When I decided to buy a ticket, I saw it as an opportunity to be part of that, and felt I had already won something. Winning the car was really an added bonus... a really nice added bonus. To the Rotary Club - Thanks for the shiny new car!"

Mayor Rick Bonnette was on hand to receive a cheque for \$39,961.18 to be used for resurfacing the playground.

"Rotary Georgetown has undertaken to complete the Accessible Playground with energy and has gained tremendous community support for this initiative," he said. "This project will truly unite children, families and community as they all learn to play together. Congratulations, Rotary!"

Barry Edington said, "This project not only allows the kids and their families to play together, but also gives an opportunity for the community to come together. This is great way to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Club. Thank you to all, especially those who donated or bought a ticket.

"Our task now is to raise the other half of the money needed for the resurfacing...and for this we are turning to Georgetown businesses to step up and match the community contribution. We know that every business in town can spare a few



Georgetown Honda General Sales Manager Bill William (left) and Barry Edington of the Georgetown Rotary Club (right) congratulate raffle winner Michael Hope (centre).

Photo by Jon Borgstrom

dollars to make this happen," he added.

The Rotary Georgetown has been an active contributor to the community for the last 59 years.

The Club meets at 7:15 a.m. most Fridays, at Ares Restaurant. Everyone is invited. Info: <http://rotarygeorgetown-on.ca>

Needed most this month

- Canned Juice • Instant Coffee
- Canned Meat • Cookies

Thank you for the generous food and cash donations to the Scout/ Guide Food Drive held on Nov 1st, as well as the volunteers who came out to help set up, sort and box the food.

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How to Improve Life for Rural Canadians

Canada Post became a Crown Corporation to improve network services. **The Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association (CPAA)** wants to ensure this multi-billion dollar public network remains viable and able to serve the public. We have found a way to make this sustainable.

A recent study shows that nearly half of post offices outside of Canada's big cities are in communities with no bank or credit union. In those communities that still have a bank or a credit union, many residents have to contend with limited, part-time banking hours. Our survey of Canada's 3,300 rural post offices: "Why Post Offices should offer banking services" is available for free download at: <http://bit.ly/1r8U3fj>.

Offering financial services in post offices would create a new revenue stream for Canada Post. Equally important, it would benefit numerous communities in Canada whose residents, in order to get to a bank or credit union, are forced to travel long distances. That costs time and money and stifles economic development. Many other countries similar to Canada, such as the United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, Japan, Italy and New Zealand, have very successful banking services right in their post offices.

We, at CPAA, believe that our study is significant because of the value of this public asset. Canada Post is uniquely positioned to offer financial services throughout rural Canada. When Canada Post can make more money and offer more services to Canadians who need them, we have a perfect opportunity. Let's not lose it.

Please Support Rural Canada. Write to Lisa Raitt, the Minister in charge of Canada Post, and ask her to make this happen. Her letter of suggestion can be found at: <http://bit.ly/1pxhMVZ>.

CPAA represents over 8,700 employees of Canada Post who work in over 3,300 rural post offices across Canada. These offices make up over 50% of all postal outlets. Our membership, consisting of 95% women, serves communities in every province.