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Twenty-month-old Christopher Vieira of Acton seems cool as a cucumber as he floats around the wading pool in Acton's Prospect Park. Christopher was taking advantage of the warm summertime temperatures to work on his tan.

Photo by Jamie Harrison

Georgetown seniors want Rec. Centre before 1999

by DIANNE CORNISH

The town's capital forecast for 1999 projects includes construction of a Seniors' Recreation Centre, but members of the Georgetown and District Seniors' Association would like to see a permanent facility in place within the next five years.

"From our point of view, there's no way we're going to wait until 1999," Les Mellish, the association's president, said last week.

Mellish acknowledged that Town Council and the seniors' group had, "for several years," accepted the idea that the Recreation Centre would be in the town's long-range plans for twinning the proposed facility with another arena building on the Alcott Arena site. However, local seniors see the need for the facility as something that cannot wait.

"Georgetown is way behind other communities, as far as (the provision) of a seniors' recreation centre is concerned," Mellish said.

While sensitive to the argument

that a new facility will likely require tax dollars from residents of the municipality, the association president said "there's a proven need" for the centre.

Four years ago, a survey conducted by Halton Hills Councillor Gerald Rennie concluded that seniors needed and wanted recreation centres in both Acton and Georgetown. Acton seniors are much closer to their goal than those in Georgetown, Mellish said. A new firehall will soon be built in Acton, leaving the old firehall available to the town's seniors as a recreation centre.

Mellish said there is a concerted effort by the town and the local association to find a home for the seniors' facility. About a month ago, a Main Street property was seriously looked at as a potential site for the centre. However, extensive renovation was required and "the town didn't have the money to buy or renovate the building," Mellish said.

The town and the seniors' group "mutually agreed" to reject the

Main Street site and look for a building that could serve as a temporary centre.

"If we find a satisfactory temporary facility, we can probably hang on for another five years" before a permanent centre is established, the association president said. Talks with the town will continue, as will the search for a local building that would be suitable for the proposed centre.

"We spent all of last summer looking at commercial properties and church halls throughout Georgetown," Mellish said. "We're still looking and there are possibilities," he added.

The town is eligible for up to 30 per cent of the permanent facility's capital costs in the form of a provincial government grant. The grant is available if the town agrees to provide at least 20 per cent of the capital expenses.

However, Mellish said research by the association indicates that local governments provide more than 20 per cent, "in just about all cases."

Citizens concerned over safety of walkway design

by Dianne Cornish

Emotions ran high at last Thursday's public information meeting on design concepts for a Mountainview Road walkway through Silver Creek Valley.

Mike King of Roane Rd. in Georgetown South flatly stating: "They'll probably end up burning down the valley if you (council) approve this."

King warned that possible vandalism in the Hungry Hollow area is just one of his concerns if Halton Hills Council goes ahead and approves a walkway through the valley area.

"What you're proposing to build here is a skateboard ramp, a snowmobile run...," he stated while responding to preliminary concepts for the walkway as outlined at the meeting by the town's manager of engineering services Peter Linn.

The town has asked its planning and engineering staff to come up with a walkway design which will provide safe access for pedestrians and bicyclists from the Georgetown South Area to the town's built-up area north of Silver Creek valley.

A crowd of about 30 residents gathered in the town's council chambers for an information meeting where public input was sought on two preliminary designs for the walkway.

Linn said staff will be reporting to council July 27 with a recommended design alternative as a basis for a final detailed design.

The proposals discussed last week included one walkway with stairs on each side of the valley and a pathway through the valley. The other walkway with no stairs had a longer pathway which winds deeper into the valley and, at its farthest point, is about 700 feet from Mountainview Roads. Both walkways are designed for the west side of the road and will be fully lit during night-time hours.

"Nobody is going to walk on that pathway," King warned after earlier telling the crowd that there had been a fire in the valley on Wednesday night and "gunshots were heard there two nights ago."

His concerns about pedestrian safety and vandalism in the area were echoed by an Argyll Rd. woman who said she would never give her daughter permission to use the proposed pathway.

"There are gangs in there now," she said.

However, Marilyn Bray of Nixon Cres. balked at dismissing the proposed designs out-of-hand, even though she suggested that the pathway should be closer to the main road.

"Is there a possibility for both (the staired and winding pathways) to be constructed; I see a need for both," she said.

Linn replied that "the developer is not totally opposed to it." Halton Hills Village Homes, the developer, will foot the bill for the design and

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Two cops take punches

A pair of Halton Regional Police officers suffered minor injuries while trying to arrest a man last Thursday.

According to Halton Regional Police in Georgetown, the officers were sent to a Todd Rd. address to assist a man who was repossessing a truck.

The man was sitting in the cab of the truck when the owner, a 23-year-old Emsdale resident, pulled the man making the repossession from the cab of the vehicle and took a swing at him. The man ducked and the blow missed.

But when a police officer grabbed the suspect to break-up the scuffle, he continued to throw punches. The first officer was struck in the chest three times, before a second officer stepped in.

As the struggle continued, the suspect broke free and struck the second officer on the side of the head "causing (the officer's) glasses to fly off." The pair also fell against a car causing damage to the front fender, a police report said.

Just as the officers thought the suspect was subdued, he once again broke free, struck the second officer in the left eye and tried to escape. The officers, along with a bystander, finally managed to subdue the suspect.

The suspect has been charged with assault, assaulting police, and assault to resist arrest. He is set to appear in court August 17 in Milton.

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