

ASSIC celebrates two full decades of community service

ASSIC – Acton's one-stop shop for help and information – celebrates its 20th anniversary next Wednesday (June 12) at its annual general meeting.

The evening, starting at 7 pm at St. Alban's parish hall, will be an informal reunion of past and present ASSIC staff and Board members, a formal "good-bye" to recently-retired executive director Peggy Balkind, and a welcome for Rosslyn Leath-erdale Dowell, who steps in as ASSIC's new boss Sept. 3.

From a public health nurse's concern about the lack of social services in Acton, to an agency that is now used as a role model and standard by the province and ASSIC chair Anna Spiteri said many more changes are coming.

"Provincial funding cut-backs and demands for new services are some of the challenges we face," Spiteri explained on Monday, noting that ASSIC received \$40,000 less in provincial funding this year on a budget of \$400,000.

"We feel positive that ASSIC will continue to maintain the quality of our programs and services because we aren't afraid of change and we aren't afraid to

change," Spiteri said.

Former long-time ASSIC member and now an ASSIC driver, Lorne Doberthien said ASSIC is a success because it has become the "911" of Acton.

"ASSIC can help or knows where to get help for wide range of people with many varied questions and concerns," he said. "Twenty years ago Acton solved its problems of isolation and a lack of services by developing this organization, and now we have an information centre that is well-respected."

More LETTERS

Support makes dinner a success

To the Editor,

On behalf of Trinity United Church, I would like to thank the people of Acton for their assistance in making our Ham Dinner such a success.

It is wonderful to see the support and involvement of the entire community.

Town in no rush to restructure

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

Halton Hills councillors will not be rushed into re-drawing the Town's ward boundaries as requested by Halton Region following a controversial vote to reduce the size of Halton Council.

That down-sizing is the first step in a proposed Regional government restructuring plan and will result in Halton Hills losing two of its five Regional councillors.

A question from Ward 2 Councillor Kelvin Kuiack about the impact the down-sizing will have on the Town's rural areas, prompted Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson to suggest that things were moving too fast and maybe

the status quo should prevail.

Serjeantson, who noted the Province may force municipalities to down-size by 25 per cent, said it was too soon to be re-drawing ward boundaries to look at representation at Halton Council when the whole format of the Region may change.

"Something will have to happen in the south [Oakville and Burlington] if we need to down-size even further or this whole restructuring thing will fall apart," Serjeantson said at a recent General Committee meeting. "We can't have our boundary plans to Halton by mid June as requested because there are a lot of unanswered questions."

In a letter to councillors,

Tanner for the newspaper coverage.

Acton Foodland provided an excellent contract for the food and their donation of coffee was very much appreciated. Thanks also to the Tuitman family for the flowers and shrubs, the use of the signs from Jon Hurst, and the Acton IGA, Halton Cable, and all the behind-the-scenes help of the members of Trinity.

I know we all enjoyed the evening; let's hope we can do it again.

Pat Kentner, Chair
Trinity United Church

Serjeantson said that before any changes can be made, issues such as how the Regional chair will be selected and re-defining regional services must be answered.

Serjeantson's reluctance to be rushed was echoed by Councillor Rick Bonnette.


"We can't do a damn thing

until it's all decided at the Region, so there's no sense getting all excited about boundaries until we know what's going to happen."

Halton Hills agreed to be equal partners in the restructuring, but Serjeantson said there must be flexibility and fairness in the process.

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