

Acton to get 25 acres of new parkland

By BERNADETTE WARD

There will be a little more room for recreation in Acton with the town's acquisition of 25 acres of land in a deal between the town and Rinada Limited that was announced May 17 by Mayor Rick Bonnette.

"This is a great addition to our system of parks and open space and something that the Town has been working on for a good number of years," said Bonnette.

The parcel, just shy of 10 hectares or 25 acres, is located just outside the eastern Acton urban boundary and next to the Acton Arena and Community Centre, was secured by staff at the direction of Council.

According to Warren Harris, manager of Parks and Cemeteries for the Town of Halton Hills, the town had considered whether to look at one centralized site or two. They chose two, the first of which is the Trafalgar site at Maple Ave. and 17th Sideroad. The first phase of development at this site has already taken place with the creation of four soccer fields.

"It's not a large parcel, but together with the remaining lands at the community centre it would work together to be a sizable area," said Harris of the new lands.

The lands, which are near the Town owned lands that were acquired as part of the arena land purchase will also act as an extension to the open space and parkland dedicated through Honeyfields subdivision process. The land will also provide linkages to town-owned open space and Acton High School land.

Of the newly acquired lands, about 8.5 acres will be used for sportsfields and the remaining 16.5 acres will retain its Provincially Significant Wetlands designation.

"Although significant wetland, there still may be some passive use," said Warren Harris, of the property. "But we still need definite direction through the planning process."

According to Terry Alyman, director of Recreation and Parks with Halton Hills, the town will be completing background and technical studies to ensure property planning and development and the public consultation process will begin shortly.

HDSB Director of Education resigns

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for instance in psychology or pedagogy, to hold their positions.

She is concerned that the change in direction could see trustees affecting changes to staff such as school principals and other areas where parents are vocal and have the best interest of their own particular school at heart.

"We have (as trustees) a responsibility to the board, not just for our own school, but for the whole region," said Chapin.

For example, she wonders what will happen when parents don't want to let go of their principal who may have a special skill set that is needed elsewhere in the region.

"This really opens the door for the vocal interest group to sway the decision that is not in the best interest of the majority," she says.

Most of the time, staff knows more about what they're doing than do the trustees, said Chapin and the policy governance model has allowed a one degree of

separation effect that in a sense protected trustees from vocal minorities.

Papke also thinks that policy governance worked for the Halton board. He says he took a "wait and see" approach when the model was first suggested, but he believes it's had a positive effect.

"I think that it's had tremendous benefits over the last four years," he said.

He thinks that one of the most positive aspects is that it allowed this board real leadership and accomplishment in terms of capacity building, not only in communicating those outcomes but also in measuring and plotting next steps.

"It's my hope that this will continue," he said.

Asked what his own next steps will be, Papke laughed and said he plans to relax, probably for the summer.

"Then we'll see. I've got a number of interesting possibilities out there; I'm not in any hurry," he said.

Deadline extended for Milton Chamber Scholarship applications

The Milton Chamber of Commerce has extended its deadline for applications to its Chamber Scholarship Program to May 31. Since 1990, the Chamber has offered scholarships to each of the local high schools in Milton. The Chamber funds its Chamber Scholarship Fund from the Scholarship Café at the Milton Farmers' Market and from the Annual Sports Celebrity Dinner & Auction.

The Chamber is awarding the following:

- Four (4) \$1000 Chamber Scholarships (one for each area high school)
- One (1) \$1000 Chamber Apprenticeship Scholarship
- One (1) \$1000 Chamber Scholarship for a son or daughter of a Chamber member in good standing

Application forms are available at Bishop Reding Secondary School, Milton District High School, E.C. Drury High School and E.C. Drury High School for the Deaf, at the Milton Chamber of Commerce, or at the Chamber Scholarship Café at the Milton Farmers' Market. Forms can also be downloaded from the Chamber website at www.chamber.milton.on.ca. Please contact:

Sandy Martin, Executive Director, Tel: 905 878 0581 Fax: 905 878 4972.

Secondary Plan Amendment unveiled for Oakville

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from a quiet backwater into a busy thoroughfare and would necessitate the destruction of some 55 acres of Carolinian forest. The regional councillors in attendance reas-

sured the audience that such a decision had yet to be made by the Region.

Councillor Lansdowne said that it was inappropriate for him to comment on the quality of the NOMI presentation, but "NOMI has very competent consultants, who have done a great deal of work".



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Rural Halton residents - You can make a difference:

Do you have a concern about your neighbourhood? Are you interested in helping police officers and other community partners that work in your neighbourhood to improve the community? Consider attending an upcoming meeting of your local Community Policing or Consultation Committee. The committees work together with the Police Service to creatively identify and solve issues relating to safety and quality of life.

Halton Hills Rural	May 31 at 7:00 pm	11 Division, 217 Guelph Street, Georgetown
Acton	June 2 at 7:30 pm	10 Division, 38 Mill Street East, Acton
Derry	June 29 at 7:00 pm	12 Division, 490 Childs Drive, Milton

These public meetings are open to everyone. No need to RSVP. For more information, log on to www.hrps.on.ca, and click on the *Community Policing* folder.

Halton Regional Police Service "Progress through Participation"