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REGIONAL NEWS, NOTES AND NEIGHBOURS

A living memorial

Acton Skateboard Park now close to reality

A tits successful fundraising dinner last Saturday, the Acton Sports Action Park Committee (ASAP) announced that they were now close to raising the funds needed for the future skateboard park in Acton and that it would be named the "3 Musketears Skateboard Park". The park is named in memory of three Acton teenagers, Mark Everson, Rory Dick, and Travis Toth, tragically taken five years ago. Gayle McIntosh, chair of the 3 Musketears Committee stated, "the name 3 Musketears and its unique spelling symbolizes the bond these young men had for each other and the memory held by their families and community". The 3 Musketears Committee annually holds a golf tournament to raise money in the memory of the three boys. Through funds raised from the tourney the group has pledged \$30,000 to the construction of the skateboard park. Says McIntosh, "the 3 Musketears Committee thought the pledge to the park was a great fit since skateboarding was an activity loved by the boys and we thought it appropriate that their interest in the sport be recognized this way while at the same time preserving their memory".

Founded by interested community members in 2001, the ASAP group has been working in partnership with the Town to develop a skateboard park and Council has approved a location in the northwest corner of the Arena & Community Centre site. The group is committed to raising funds to support the construction of this project, and to date has received donations from citizens, local business and community groups totaling some \$80,000. It was announced at the dinner that Dufferin Aggregates alone has

committed \$15,000 to the project.

Country Heritage Park threatened with financial devastation

BY BERNADETTE WARD

he fracas between the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) and Country Heritage Park (CHP) reminds us that one beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

The organizations, both of whom ironically follow mandates to preserve, are currently at odds over CHP's use of the property located on Tremaine Road south of the 401 as a parking lot for Toronto Auto Auctions during the off season.

"Good planning dictates that this should be done in industrial areas," said Ken Whitbread, Manager for the Niagara Escarpment Commission. "Visually and environmentally it's not something that we want to see there."

The NEC was responding to a rally cry from both Country Heritage Park (CHP) and the Town of Milton, who believe that CHP's deal with Toronto Auto Auctions is the solution to fiscal solvency and is worthy of a deferral from the NEC.

"Without it, it is very financially devastating for us," said Cressman.

Cressman presented the not-for-profit organization's views at a special council meeting held November 7 in which Milton councilors unanimously passed a motion to support CHP's request for a deferral.

This would take the organization through the current transition phase that includes government funding to a model based on endowments and would allow CHP to prepare an Open Space Master/Management Plan.

"The NEC has a chance to plant a shade tree under which none of them may sit," said CHP spokesperson Reg Cressman.

Continued on page 3

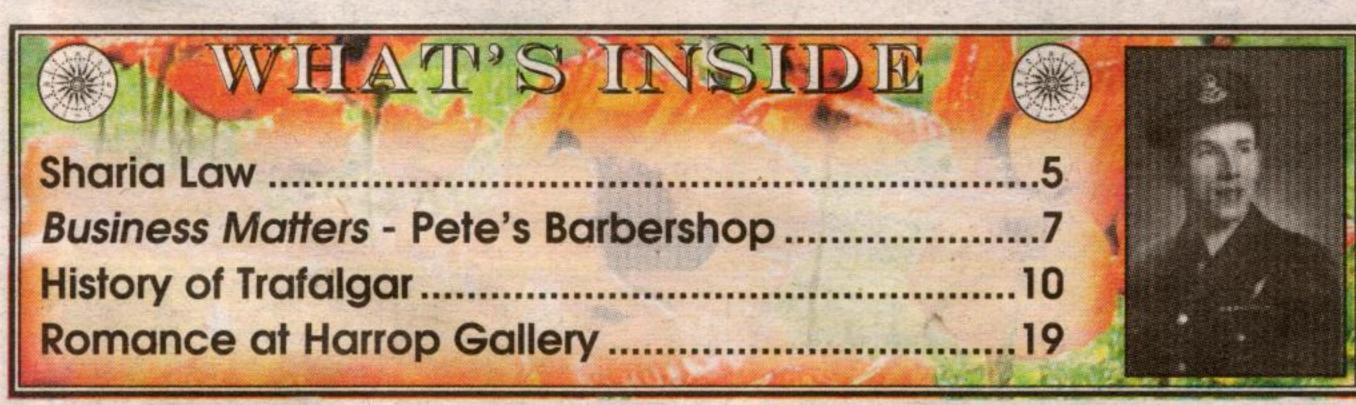




PHOTO BY PETER MCCUSKER

Veteran Hugh Beatty reflects on the war years during the Haltonville Remembrance

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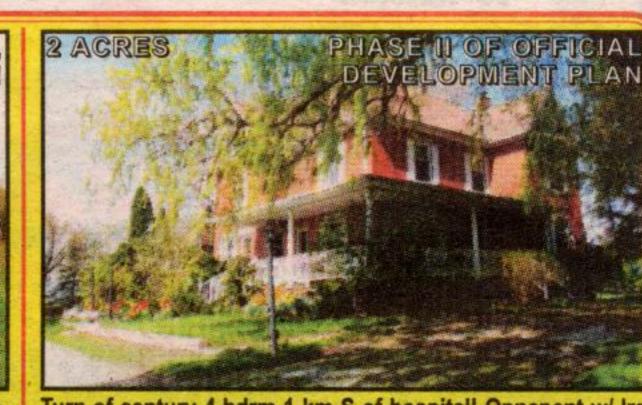
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Parade. See stories and photos on pages 11-14



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