

# Acton chorus members bound for Europe

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

Fourteen Acton kids are learning new songs, checking out maps of Europe and counting the days until they, as members of the Georgetown Children's Chorus, leave for their April 11 concert tour of Holland, Belgium and France.

"I hope that this trip is a major experience that will teach me about Canadians and people of the other countries that we will visit," explained Chorus member Kimberly Freeland, 13, of Acton in an interview Sunday.

"The tour is going to be a lot of work and we won't have time to have a lot of fun but it will be fun to be there. Some of my friends are jealous and it is a pretty big wow to be going."

The idea for the trip, called the Ambassadors of Peace tour, was first raised by a member of the Georgetown Choral Society, which went to Holland as part of the 50th ceremonies marking the D-Day invasion.

Children's Chorus spokesperson Lois Fraser said 75 children and 50

adults are booked on the trip which is designed as a cultural exchange with emphasis on giving recognition to the soldiers and veterans of WW I and WW 2.

"The main thrust of the tour is that we are going over there to be part of the Remembrance services that they have," Fraser explained in an interview on Friday.

"We'll sing at Vimy Ridge in France, we're having our own Canadian service and will sing patriotic songs and songs of peace. We will also sing at a memorial service in Holland and one of the highlights is a planned trip to the largest exclusively Canadian cemetery in Houlten, Holland."

Chorus members, some parent chaperones and helpers will be billeted at Dutch homes and will also stay one night on a boat and also at a youth hostel. Sightseeing trips will include a visit to Ann Frank's house, a monkey zoo and a tour of the trenches at Vimy Ridge.

Fraser said that even those Chorus members who are not making the trip to Europe have been learning the music that will be preformed by

what is being called the Holland choir.

"They've learned the Dutch national anthem and a number of traditional Dutch pieces along with songs that celebrate peace and some foot-stomping songs and one Latin piece. One of our 13-year-old choir members has written a piece that we will perform on the trip," Fraser said.

With 26 Acton members of the various choirs that the Georgetown Children's chorus has, Fraser said that Acton plays a large role in the chorus.

"There is an incredible group from Acton. The Acton kids are real go-getters and there is very strong involvement from Acton parents of Chorus members," Fraser said.

Chorus members have been raising funds to help pay for the trip for the past few months and have \$24,000 in the kitty so far with several more fundraising events scheduled, including five concerts in April, ending with a Sunday, April 26 concert at the Ford Centre for Performing Arts.



**SINGING TRAVELERS:** Fourteen Acton singers are preparing for an April trip to Europe with the Georgetown Children's Chorus on its Ambassador of Peace tour. Some of the excited girls include Jennifer Ellis and Catherine Hynds (kneeling left and right). Middle row: Lindsey Dunn, Jennifer Grierson, Heather Ellis. Back row: Kimberly Freeland, Rita Matton, Brittany Youngblut. Absent are Megan Detlor, Caitlin Lichty, Tracy McLaughlin and Shannon Tunney.

# Estate lots to proceed

The new owner of a proposed rural estate subdivision in the Crewson's Corners rural cluster on Acton's western boundary intends to begin construction on the development this year.

That news, after six years of inactivity on the planning file and several planning approval extensions, led Town planning staff to support the owner's request for another one-year extension of draft approval for the 14-lot development at the north-east corner of 32 Side Road and Highway 7.

The Town approved the development seven years ago; the draft approval extension expires March next year. Although the developer has fulfilled none of the conditions of draft approval, the new owner wants to register the plan as soon as possible and has hired consultants to complete the design work.

# Halton chairman calls for unity

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
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Halton's top politician made a plea for honest and open communication and for a unified front at the Halton Hills general committee meeting on Monday night.

Halton chairman Joyce Savoline had a fairly simple message for Town councillors - that they all provide services to one taxpayer and it pays to work together with as much trust and openness as possible and to be partners in providing services efficiently and cost-effectively.

"We are being asked by levels of government to find even more efficiencies and ways to provide services and

I think we have a responsibility to do that collectively and in a unified way," Savoline said, adding that the benefit would not just be financial, but would also help protect Halton against what Savoline sees as a "much bigger entity that looms to our east."

Savoline said that being the smallest region (in the Greater Toronto Area), Halton has a responsibility to band together to understand its common issues and to let the people know how important it is for Halton to remain a separate entity.

Savoline said that a "unified Halton" is the best defense against a situation

where the Region might find itself being an unwilling partner.

Savoline told councillors that she would like to see a "seamless administration" in Halton with accountability the at a political level, but also a system where taxpayers don't see a ripple in how services are delivered.

"Given the magnitude and the kinds of reductions in

spending that we're being asked to make I don't think that any service is sacred and everything ought to be up for discussion. We owe it to ourselves and to our communities to best protect the character of our communities and the investment that's been made by looking at the different ways of doing things," Savoline said.

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While we're still working some bugs out of our system, *The New Tanner* does have its deadlines established for our Thursday publications. They are:

- Editorial: Monday 5 p.m.
- Display ads: Tuesday 5 p.m.
- Classified ads: Tuesday 5 p.m.

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